Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia

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NSIOS
Nacionalni svet invalidskih organizacij Slovenije

www.nsios.si

National Council of Disabled People`s Organisations of Slovenia

EMSP, Prague, 26.11.2010
The IDENTITY
of Slovene Disabled People`s Organisations

Establishment, development and existence
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Lobbying:

A lobbyist is defined as any person who is employed, appointed, or retained, with or without compensation, by another person to influence by direct communication with public officials or public employees.

Advocacy

by an individual or by an advocacy group normally aim to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions; it may be motivated from moral, ethical or faith principles or simply to protect an asset of interest.

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Common denominator:

Influence of public policy

NSIOS – both

Lobbyist - Secretary General

Advocacy – member organizations with its voluntairs

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TOOLS

- Identity
- Structure (HR, Organisation, Finances)

Methodology

- lobbying, advocacy, networking, media campaign, capacity building, etc.
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IDENTITY

- VISION
- MISSION
- GOALS
- TARGETS
- TASKS

Who are we?

Why are we?

How are we operating?

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Chapters:

Introduction
I. Establishment
II. Theoretical backgrounds
III. Legal base

IV. Members of NSIOS
V. Successes of NSIOS
VI. Possible threats
VII. Guaranteed future

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Introduction

Practise

Civil Society groups

Society

Opportunities of DPO`s
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Various functions of DPO`s:

• Society impact
• Social impact
• Economical impact

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I. The start of the Slovene Disability movement

- Austrian/Hungarian monarchy – “Invaliden Soldaten”

- Organised Social care for people with disabilities has a tradition of over 110 years (war veterans, blind, deaf)

- Example – Braill writing introduced in Slovenia back in 1889
II. Theoretical principals for the practical work of Slovene DPO`s

Founding principal

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US**

Organisations **OF** People with disabilities. Not **FOR** People with disabilities.

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II. Theoretical principals for the practical work of Slovene DPO`s

Three basic starting points:

• SELFSUFFICIENCY – selfempowerment and capability

• SOVEREIGNTY OF THE USERS - people with disabilities themselves are the best evaluators of their needs

• SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL RIGHTS – people with disabilities have the same right as other members of the Society to the freedom of implementing their interests

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A. Specific needs:

A) **Interlinking of people with disabilities with same interest/disability** – socializing motive

B) **Activity** – active implementation of their own needs

C) **Co-management** – people with disabilities co-manage the decisions in a wider environment considering their lives

D) **Equal social and economic opportunities** – equal social role

E) **Specific services/help** – the state is not able to provide services for expressed needs of people with disabilities, therefore DPO`s have to conduct special social services

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B. Principals of organising:

A) **Expression of free will** – decision for membership is entirely depending on the freedom of choice by the individual person with disability

B) **Linkage of same interest** – minimal evident common interests

C) **Evident level of disability** – certain type (diagnosis), legal status (war disabled people, etc) or societal status (disabled students)

D) **Openness** – everone who wants and fullfills the criteria of a DPO may become member
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B. **Principals of organising:**

E) **Inclusion** – DPO`s are an inclusive part of the civil society and also broader.

F) **Public activities** – DPO`s are open for discussion to expressed interests of various disability stakeholders in Society as well as to individuals.

G) **Non – for profit** – DPO`s are not functioning to create profit for its members.

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C. Principals for practical work

A) Humanitarism – solving problems of included people with disabilities

B) Activisation – motivating and activation of included people with disabilities

C) Normalization – establishment of such living conditions, which actually represent equal opportunities for people with disabilities

D) Integration – inclusion of people with disabilities in society and in public life

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III. Legal ground for the organised work of DPO`s

Before 1991

• Community of social care

• Economical reliefs in the past
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• Possibility for legal solutions:

Conceptional strategy for disability care

„Concept of Developing Disability Care strategy in a modern Society” – 1990

• Legislation:

• 1992 – Social care act, article 64, definition of DPO`s
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- Establishment of the public Fundation for financing disability and Humanitarian organisations - FIHO 1998

- DPO`s primary law is the Civil Society act „LEX GENERALIS“

- 2002 – The Slovenian Parliament passed a special law for DPO`s - DPO act “LEX SPECIALIS”

- Up to today:
  27 National wide DPO`s
  18 of them representative for a certain group of disabled people

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DPO`s Act

1. Introductory articles
2. Activities of DPO`s
3. DPO Status
4. Representative status of DPO`s
5. Financing and ownership of DPO`s
6. Penal provisions
7. Transitional and final provisions

available in English on request by mail!

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IV. DPO`s – members of NSIOS

• “Rehabilitation Conference at Socialistic Union of the working class people” State Institution in the early sixties.

• Cooperation of DPO`s on the base of the “Contract of establishment and functioning of NSIOS”; 10 DPO`s from 1991 and up to today 10 more. All together 20.
Members of NSIOS, nr of individual members and the year of establishment

Federation of Blind and Partially sighted Associations of SI

3,881
Year 1920

Federation of Deaf and hard of hearing Associations of SI

5,808
Year 1909

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## Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federation of Mental Handicapped Persons Association of SI</td>
<td>35,518</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of the Paraplegics of SI</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscular Dystrophy Association of SI</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenian Multiple Sclerosis Society</td>
<td>2,250</td>
<td>1973</td>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federation of the Disabled workers Association of SI</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>64,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation of the disabled of war Associations of SI</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>1,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Deafblind Slovenija - DLAN</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation of Disabled war veterans Associations of SI</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>6,045</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia</td>
<td>1955</td>
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<tr>
<td>POC</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenian Ostomy Association ILCO</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laryngectomees Association of SI</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Rheumatics</td>
<td>1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Društvo revmatikov Slovenije</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association VITA</td>
<td>Help to people with brain injury</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society VISION PZS</td>
<td>Disabled women</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenian association inflammatory bowel disease</td>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of people with disabilities - Forum SI</td>
<td></td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association of Disabled students of SI</th>
<th>Association of Paralysed people of SI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>260</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1996</td>
<td>Year 2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Representatives of DPO`s are only

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WHO REPRESENT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES UNABLE TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

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NSIOS includes DPO`s who represent more than 98.5% of all organised People with disabilities in Slovenia. The nr of individual People with disabilities is higher then 106,000 Disabled People who are members in more then 220 local DPO`s

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V. Some of the achieved successes of NSIOS:

• “Concept of Developing Disability Care strategy in a modern Society” – 1990

• Public Foundation for financing DPO`s and Humanitarian organisations in Slovenia (FIHO) www.fiho.si
  - Privatisation act of the National Lottery - 1996
  - Decree of the establishment of FIHO - 1998
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- Slovene sign language act for deaf and hard of hearing - 2002
- DPO`s act - 2002
- Act on Building Construction and subact regulations - 2002
- Amendment to article 14th of the Slovene Constitution which included the word “disability” as one of the non-discrimination reasons - 2004
- Occupational rehabilitation and employment of People with disabilities act and subact regulations - 2005
- Realization of the principle of equal opportunities - 2007

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• National Radio and TV act - 2005, undergoing changes, referendum 2010

• Personal income tax - 2006

• Road safety Act – regulation on parking card for disabled people - 2004

• Parliamentary elections act - 2006

• Act on changes to the privatisation act of the National Lottery - 2007

• Signature and ratification of the UN Convention on rights of Persons with disabilities - 2008
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Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

- FIHO – Foundation for financing DPO`s and Humanitarian Organisations; 16 representatives out of 30 members of the board

- Govermental Council on people with disabilities, 5 representatives out of 15

- National health insurance Institution, 8 representatives: 1 member of the board, 2 members of the General Assembly

- Pension and Disability Insurance Institute; 1 representative: member of the board

- National Radio and TV; 9 representatives, members of a special disability committee
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Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

- On the base of NSIOS-es proposal Boris Šuštaršič was elected as member of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia for the term 2007 – 2012 in the field of social protection

- Monitoring Committee for EU structural funds – 2 representatives and 2 proxy

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Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

- Council for realization of the principle of equal opportunities; 1 representative

- Social Chamber of Slovenia – vicepresident, 2 representatives out of 9 in the executive committee, 2 representatives in the council of experts out of 11, 1 representative in the Honorary Tribunal out of 5, 1 representative in the monitoring committee

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Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

Working bodies of the Ministry for labour, family and social affairs:

a) National guidelines to improve built environment, information and communications accessibility for disabled people – 3 representatives

b) Disability action plan – 5 representatives

c) Working group for drafting the proposal of the act for equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities – 4 representative out of 7

d) Working group for drafting the proposal of the act for personal assistance for people with disabilities – 7 representative out of 9)
VI. Possible threats to DPO`s and their qualified representatives

• Financial reductions

• Questionable terminology – (lessability, handicappism, etc)

• Planned editorial selective censorship in mass-media

• Activation of disabled individuals against DPO`s and the Slovene disability movement
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VII. Guaranteed future for slovene DPO`s, NSIOS and EDF

The completion of article 14th of the Slovene Constitution with the word “disability” provides:

• Equality for people with disabilities by law

• Such statement in the Slovene Constitution is in accordance with EU policies and documents

• Social rights for people with disabilities as they are mentioned in article 52 of the Slovene Constitution are actually now coming into power

• Identity in Society for people with disabilities and their DPO`s

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- NSIOS since 2004 (after the EU accession) full member of EDF
- EU directive proposal on prohibition of discrimination – proposal published in July 2008
- UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities – ratified in April 2008
- Lizbon treaty – did not include provisions from the proposed Constitutional treaty, especially the whole Charter on Human and Social rights

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Extraordinary challenge for Slovene Disabled People, NSIOS and slovene DPO`s

- Act on equalisation of opportunities for disabled people – adopted this month at the Slovene Parliament
- Act on Personal assistance for Disabled People – public debate
- Act on longterm care and the insurance for longterm care – public debate
- Act on pension and disability insurance – procedure in Slovenian Parliament
- Act on health insurance – public
- Other proposed acts in the field of social protection

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Thank you for your attention!

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