

Europe in Action 2007

Citizens' Rights for all

Conclusions

Respect - Solidarity - Inclusion

Introduction

1. **Why is legal capacity important?
What are the problems in people's lives?**
2. **Our vision for a better future**
 - A. What legal capacity should look like in the law
 - B. What do we mean by supported decision-making
3. **Achieving a better future**

1. Why is it important? What are the problems?

- Lack of legal capacity means that your human rights are violated
- Without legal capacity comes discrimination
- The existing guardianship system has very negative consequences for the persons
- The power of decision is in the hands of the guardians
- Incapacitation gives a negative image of people with intellectual disabilities

2. Our vision for a better future



Respect - Solidarity - Inclusion

2.A. What legal capacity should look like in the law

- Laws that are meant to protect us must not take our rights away
- Legal capacity means not only having rights and duties, but also the right to exercise legal capacity.

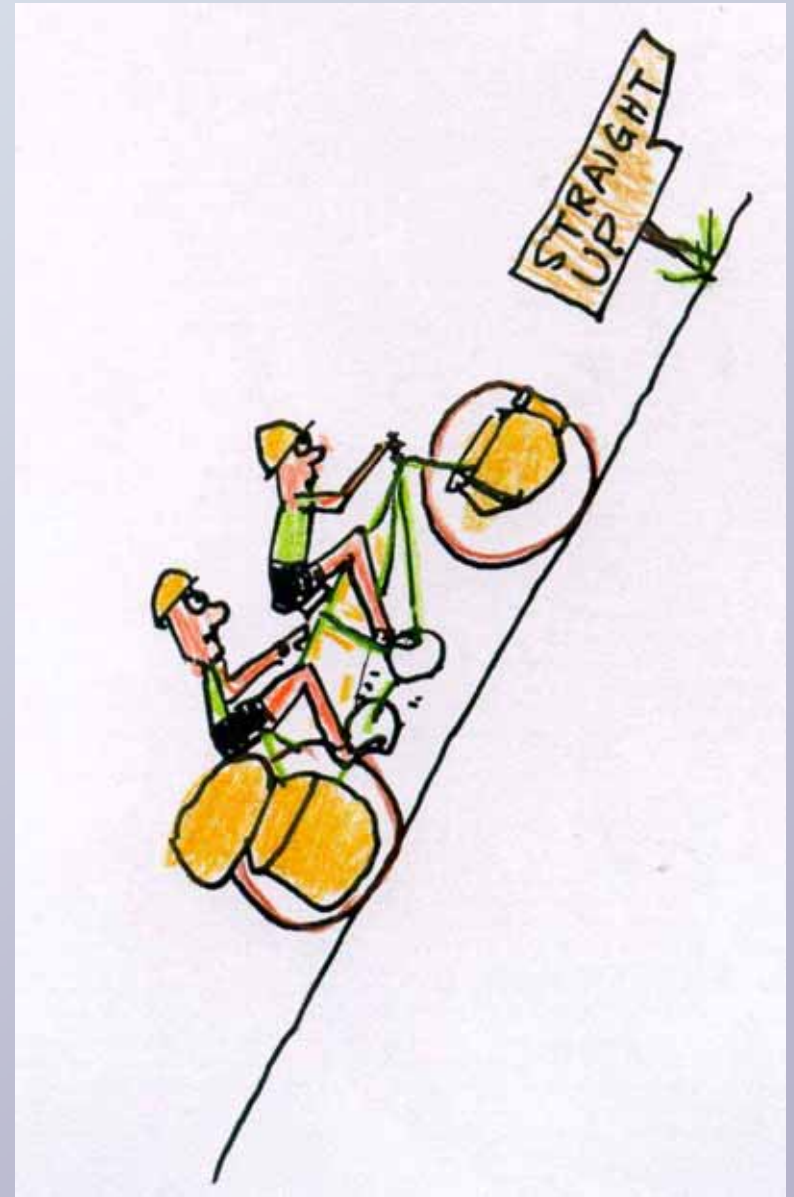
2.A. What legal capacity should look like in the law

- Abolish the contradictions between old fashioned restrictive laws and the National or International legal instruments which guarantee equal human rights for all
- Ratify and implement the UN Disability Convention

2.A. What legal capacity should look like in the law

- Revise national laws to comply with Article 12 of the UN Disability Convention
- Make sure that supported decision-making is based on Article 12: « States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity »

**2.B.
What do we
mean by
supported
decision-
making?**



2.B. What do we mean by supported decision-making?

- All individuals have a will which can be expressed by the individual and interpreted by others
- Establish a clear legal framework to facilitate supported decision-making to help disabled people exercise their rights

2.B. What do we mean by supported decision-making?

- Implementing supported decision-making especially requires
 - Sufficient structures to provide personal assistance
 - Monitoring of the system, including legal safeguards
 - Evaluation of quality
- Create new protection laws for adults to avoid abuse and exploitation

3. Achieving a better future

It is not enough to describe our vision
of a better future,
based on the goal of equal citizenship.

Our goal is to achieve this
everywhere in Europe!

3. Achieving a better future

10 Keys To Success

- Nationally
 1. Build a strong alliance for change
 2. Ensure disabled people and families are campaigning together
 3. Work to raise public awareness of what is wrong

3. Achieving a better future

4. Ensure self-advocacy organisations play a key role
5. Sustain our efforts for a long campaign
6. Scrutinise government proposals and ensure that the effects of change are monitored

3. Achieving a better future

- Across Europe
- 7. Make use of all relevant European Institutions
- 8. Support the EDF in its campaign for a non-discrimination directive
- 9. Campaign for effective ratification of the UN Disability Convention
- 10. Use Inclusion Europe to help us learn from each other on how best to implement Article 12

