Community social capital towards support of persons with disabilities

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Everyone is involved...

- Persons with disabilities as a world’s largest minority (UN, 2006)
- High relevance of disability domain within public health domains (NIDRR, 2001)
- Disability domain as a common interest

How to make people having the common interests / mutual recognition of usefulness involved in the best way?
Objective of presentation

- To disseminate information about a SK´s - good practice in how to keep people involved
Structure of presentation

- Some contextual points (community, social capital, community social capital)

- ReHis – Slovakia: a good practice (current experience)

- Questions, future challenges
1. Some contextual points

- **Community** as an organism based on the sharing of common environment and common interests; keeps people „in touch“

- **Social capital** as an advantage /benefit created through people belonging to a network, in mutually beneficial exchanges/reciprocity (e.g. Winter, 2000, Productivity Commision, 2003, Matějů, Vitásková, 2006)

- **Community social capital** as a benefit based on sharing of information and communication among people with common interests
Starting points for practice

- **Premise** — people having common interests need and want to be informed, to communicate – to be „in touch“ (antropological approach to social capital – Productivity, 2003; Bednárik, 2006, Repková, 2006, Hanzelová a kol., 2007a, 2007b)

- **Social capital** is not naturally or socially given; must be worked for on an ongoing basis (Bourdieu, 1986, in Winter, 2000)

- **Key question** — tools, channels for sharing information, communication
2. ReHis – Slovakia: Informational system for rehabilitation - good practice on bridging SC –

- preparatory phase (1997-2001)
- open for public as a webpage (since 2002)
- financed by state social administration
- administrated by The Slovak Humanitarian Council (ongoing updating)

- mission:
  - providing of various types of disability-related informations for various stakeholders in users-friendly patterns
  - creating of disability-related community support
Structure of ReHis-webpage
Evaluation – design

- Survey 2006 (carried out by ILFR; Bednárik, 2006)

- **Questionnaire for respondents:**
  - persons with disabilities, NGO
  - local state government institutions
  - municipalities
  - health care institutions
  - educational institutions
  - courts, advocacy

- **Blocks of questions**
  - frequency of webpage utilizing
  - reasons of webpage utilizing
  - usefulness
  - satisfaction

special community

social capital
Evaluation – selected findings from the survey

- By 80% of respondents from NGOs, local state administration, municipalities
- Mostly occasional website visits
- The most favourite databases: technical devices, useful addresses and legislation
- Usefulness: counselling for clients; to be informed; getting new contacts
- Satisfaction: + by cca 40% LSA, cca 27% NGO, cca 26% municipalities; only cca 3% have been dissatisfied
- Shape of website: mostly + evaluation
- Generally higher criticism of website by NGOs
Challenges

- Changing nature of environment’s shape for contacts
- Sustainability of the webpage: „contribution-benefit balance“ (necessity of mutually beneficial exchanges)
- On-going promotion of the product
- Feed-back
- Refreshment / attractiveness
- Access to internet for potential users
Thanks for your attention
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