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## Report on the local project

### Local project (title and city):

Analysis and Practical Recommendations "Civil Rights of People with Learning Disabilities",  
Barcelona

### Co-ordinator of the local project:

Xabier Ballesteros

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### Background of the local project (problem addressed):

Respect of civil rights of people with learning disabilities in daily life.

### Objectives of the Project:

During the first year a qualitative research has been carried out in order to analyse the actual situation of civil rights in relation to people with learning disabilities.

We have especially focused on the views and perceptions of the main actors: people with learning disabilities, their families and the staff.

During the second year the network will focus in the analysis of the results, and will disseminate the results.

### Methodology and Strategy:

Development of a research both quantitative and qualitative based on questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, observations and life histories, addressed to get deeper knowledge of how civil rights are perceived, understood, taken into account or respected.

### Description of the activities of the project:

The team (partnership group) has acted as a think tank on civil rights and people with disabilities.



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We have met on regular basis once a month, developing the following activities:

- Definition of the topic of the research, the goals, the usefulness for the STEPS project, the research methods, etc
- Analysis of the backgrounds of discrimination in our society and in the different contexts (family, community, work, etc.) starting from to basic rights: self-determination and intimacy of the persons at home, at work, everywhere
- Discussion about the way of approaching learning disability persons to the project and the importance of working on “Life Histories” as a research method to analyse their realities
- Focused analysis on two main causes of discrimination: family overprotection and services convenience.
- Review of the aims and goals of the research and how to do it?: Hypothesis and causes
- Examination in small groups of the different contexts of analysis: the own person with learning disability, families, society, professionals from the administration and institutions.
- Adaptation of the CERMI's (Comité Español de Representantes de los Minusvalidos) questionnaire to persons with learning disabilities.
- Planning the survey, the contexts, etc.
- Implementation of the research activities: A total of 58 questionnaires have been fulfilled by people w.l.d., staff and families, and more than 13 hours of interview have been carried in order to elaborate two life stories.
- A report with the outcomes is being elaborated at the moment and it will be finished before the Conference in Barcelona.

**Achievements/Outcomes (Please give specific examples when possible):**

We are writing a report with the results of the questionnaires. With the analysis of its results and a second phase study through life stories, we will elaborate a document with practical recommendations, addressed to the different actors related with people with learning disabilities, in order to grant that civil rights are effectively taken into account.

A publication and special training courses would be the result of this second year.

**Information on co-operation between the partners involved and other interest groups:**

The research strategy has meant a greater involvement first inner to the partnership, but also of other services providers like some residential care centres or the Municipal Institute for People with Disabilities of Barcelona.



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**Involvement of people with learning disabilities:**

People with learning disabilities have been involved through the two foundations in the project, and their views and voices have been specially collected and taken into account both through the questionnaire and the life stories. Besides, a member of our team is personally related with p.w.l.d.

**Information on obstacles encountered and how they were resolved:**

No obstacles have been found, though we have had to face some difficulties related with the complexity of a large partner network. Nevertheless this complexity is understood as positive for the project. In fact, two of the partners have increased the staff directly involved in the team, and the other ones have had several internal meetings focused on STEPS and the research.

**Products developed and available (minutes, documents, papers ...)**

At the moment the products are inner to the research we are developing. The questionnaire and the first stage research document have been sent or will be sent very soon as the team finally approves it.

**Forthcoming events (What will be the future of your local project?) / Activities to diffuse the results of the local project:**

The Barcelona Conference and the STEPS project as a whole is understood as part of the participation of the City in the European Year of People with Disabilities, and they will be mentioned or explained in the context of a commemorative event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. As it has been set in the project for the second year, we will elaborate a document with practical recommendations, addressed to the different actors related with people with learning disabilities, in order to grant that civil rights are effectively taken into account. A publication and especial training courses will probably be the result of this second year.

**Recommendations to the project management:**

Project management has solved the different questions raised in relation with partnership. Anyway, we would recommend for future projects a more decentralized management of the project.