



Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland e.V.
Die ISL ist eine menschenrechtsorientierte Selbstvertretungsorganisation
und der Dachverband der Zentren für selbstbestimmtes Leben



(Independent Living Germany (ISL), ISL is a Human Rights oriented Disabled People's Organisation and the governing body of the Independent Living Centres in Germany)

Workshop
Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response
22 October - 23 October
Council of Europe Office Paris

Independent Living Approach for an Inclusive Disaster Management

Dagmar Greskamp

Twin-Track Approach

People with disabilities

- Initiating and supporting DPO's work, support by empowerment and encouragement, bring people out of discrimination/isolation into an active role, focusing on capabilities not on deficits.

Society:

- Removing physical (rebuilding after disasters but even before) and social barriers
- Improve the social position of PWD in communities by involving them in all processes at local level
- Nothing about us without us!

In the situation of a disaster:

- Awareness of many different disabilities and the accumulation of disabilities as well as invisible disabilities and chronic diseases (multiple sclerosis is hidden in the beginning, can even be invisible for a long time, people seem to be healthy but already have problems e.g. standing a long time).
- Emergency accommodations have to be accessible. (Seems simple but is not naturally!)

Workshop Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness and Response
Presentation Dagmar Greskamp, DPO ISL Germany

- Providing medical treatment and medical services available to all, be sensitive to PWDs needs in medical treatment (e.g. people with epilepsy, spasticity, mental or psychological illnesses.)
- Provision with devices in case of disasters: Wheelchairs, brackets, implants, glasses, hearing aids...
- Provide medicine needed in order not to aggravate the situation of PWD
- Protect and support particularly women and children with disabilities in disaster situations. Especially in emergency accommodations.
- Be aware of using easy language and sign language (be aware that there is a different sign language in every language!)

Prevention:

- Initiating and supporting DPO's work in disaster control and civil protection organisations
- Civil protection plans need to include sensitive buildings e.g. special schools for people with disabilities and contact persons (Remark: Special schools are not in conformity with the CRPD, but in many countries they are still a part of the education system and in some countries they give disabled children access to education for the first time.)
- Encourage organisations in disaster management and development cooperation to employ people with disabilities.
- Awareness of different cultural backgrounds that may enforce and result in discrimination (e.g. in some countries disability is regarded as an "imposition of god").

Regarding disaster management in Germany: Until today people with disabilities are not included!

Further Information on our organisation: <http://www.isl-ev.de/>