

*Annual report of the Slovak
Disability Council for the year
2010*



SDC – who we are and what we do



The Slovak Disability Council (SDC) is an association of organizations of disabled people in Slovakia, which fulfill the conditions for entering the organization and agree with its statute. SDC was created within a project of the European disability forum (EDF) in connection with the admission of 10 new member states to the European Union (EU). National organizations, which represent people with disability like SDC, exist in all countries of EU. EDF was created in 1996. Its member states became national organizations from so-called old countries of the EU and European organizations associated according to the particular types of disability. Gradually such organizations are created also in countries, which are candidates to EU, but also there, where they only stand for the accession. They have already been created in all countries of former Yugoslavia, Albania. They have a possibility to take part in EDF annual meetings, so far, as observers.

SDC is seated at **Vajnorská 1, 831 04 Bratislava**, statutory representatives are **president Branislav Mamojka and director Anna Reháková**.

Mission and goals

Mission of SDC is advocacy of common interests of disabled people (DP) and promotion of integration of disability issues into society's development policies at all levels of management, creation of platforms for discussion and realization of joint action against discriminations, creation of conditions for equal opportunities and equal treatment, support of capacity development of member organizations, informing and raising awareness of public, institutions, business sector, public administration and municipality about problems and capabilities of people with disability and about possibilities of prevention, elimination and overcoming of barriers associated with disability.

SDC fulfills its missions with the participation and cooperation of **twenty member organizations representing people with various types of disability** (mental, physical, sight, hearing, psychic, chronic disability and organizations of parents of deaf-blind children). **Membership of organizations in SDC is based on mutual cooperation** in promotion of better living conditions of people with disability at national, regional and international level.

Member organizations

Member organizations of SDC are:

Association of Marfan's syndrome (AMS)
Slovak Association of deaf people (SADP)
Association of organizations of hearing disabled people in Slovak Republic (AOHDP)
Association of organizations of Slovak disabled people (AOSDP)
League against rheumatics in Slovakia (LAR)
Organization of people with muscular dystrophy in SR (OPMD)
Open door, open hearts (ODOH)
Slovak hemophilic association (SHA)
Slovak union of sclerosis multiplex (SUSM)
Slovak union of physically disabled people (SUPDP)
Slovak union of disabled people (SUDP)
Society of psoriatic and atopic patients (SPAP)
Slovak union of blind and purblind people (SUBPP)
Association for help to people with mental disability in SR (AHPMD in SR)
Slovak union of diabetics (SUD)
Union of people disabled with civilization diseases in SR (UPDCD)
Association of blind and purblind youth
Association of parents and friends of deaf-blind children
Slovak association of people with stoma (SLOVILCO)
Association for help to patients with leukemia and lymphoma (AHL)

Observer in SDC is:

League for mental health

Organization structure

Member organizations of SDC + observers (21)

General assembly of SDC

Presidency of SDC

Revision commission of SDC

Executive committee of SDC

President of SDC

Members of Executive committee of SDC:

RNDr. Branislav Mamojka, CSc - president
Ing. Monika Vrábľová - vice-president
Mgr. Iveta Mišová - vice-president
Ing. Jaroslav Janovec
Viliam Franko
Mária Benková, from March 2010 Bc. Anna Bartalová
Tibor Köböl

Members of the presidency are presidents of member organizations of Slovak national disability council.

In year 2010 there were two meetings of presidency, executive committee of SDC, in March and November 2010. Main topics were important articles of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, implementation of the convention at national level, negotiations in Brussels concerning the state of implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and creation of Strategy of disability for years 2010 – 2020. The attention was also paid to the issue of multiple discrimination of people with disability, upcoming changes in legislation, situation of organizations of people with disability in Slovakia and current project of SDC.

Secretary of SDC

Director : Anna Reháková
Project manager : Mgr. Michaela Hirčková
Project coordinator : Mgr. Katarína Šelestíaková

Beginning of the year is very difficult for each organization in non-profit sector. To ensure the financial stability is big challenge for each organization. Operating costs, salaries of employees, expenses associated with the running of office need to be paid regularly. Rules of project financing are usually set in a way that they do not allow to cover the mentioned expenses. Due to the unfavorable situation **the director Anna Reháková worked** for SDC during the period **from April till October 2010 as a volunteer** and **in May 2010 there was only one employee working part-time** in SDC in SR. Second employee worked for SDC during the period from January until April and from June until the end of the year 2010.

Fulfillment of SDC mission and goals

SDC fulfills its goals and mission through realization of activities which influence various areas of life of people with disability. Great attention is paid to the promotion of legitimate interests and requests of people with disability. **In year 2010 the Action plan on implementation of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities**, which was approved by the presidency of SDC in June 2007, **was fulfilled. Main goal of the action plan was ratification of the convention and its optional protocol by SR, which happened in June 2010. Journey to the achievement of this goal was not easy at all. There is a great amount of work, activities, obtaining arguments, lobbying, consultations and persuading behind it. Ratification of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and Optional protocol is one of the biggest successes of SDC in its short history.** For comparison with other countries of Visegrad Four: Hungary was the first to ratify the convention and optional protocol. It already has experience also with submitting the report to the UN Committee for the rights of people with disability. Czech Republic ratified the convention, but did not ratify the optional protocol. Poland has not ratified the convention yet. However, it does not even belong to the countries, which decided to ratify the convention, only after the fulfillment of the conditions under the convention. Among these is, for example, Finland where we really cannot doubt the fulfillment of the rights of people with disability. In accordance with the convention each country, which ratified the convention, has an obligation to submit evaluation report to the UN Committee on the rights of people with disability two years after the ratification. Slovak Republic is expected to do so in June 2012. **Since ratification the SDC has been drawing the attention of the Slovak government to the obligation to fulfill the conditions set by the convention regarding the engagement of people with disability and civil society to the implementation and monitoring of the convention, obligation to cooperate with organizations of people with disability and human rights organizations. Practice of separate countries of EU is watched by the High Level Group created next to the directorate of EU for employment and social affairs. European institutions do not turn only to the governments of separate countries, but require information also from national organizations associated in EDF.**

Election period of parliament in year 2010 ended for us, disabled people, with ratification of the convention by the Slovak parliament in June 2010.

After the elections there was decreased the number of advisory organs to the government, which also touched the Council of Slovak government for issues of people with disability. From autumn 2010 the constitution of new organs was in preparation despite the strong opposition, not only of organization of disabled people. The interest to "simplify and rationalize big number of advisory organs to government" has overridden. Long time devoted to constituting the advisory organs of government in human rights area was probably the reason why the government, despite the great effort of SDC, did not create any structures required in the article 33 of the convention until the end of the year.

In negotiations directed towards the fulfillment of the article 33 of the convention SDC has to continue intensively also in year 2011.

(We write about the work in the area of commenting the legislation in separate chapter of annual report.)

Important role in fulfillment of one of the goals of SDC – **promoting the inclusion of the disability issues into the policies of society development at all levels of its management SDC realizes mainly through active cooperation with European disability forum and cooperation with members of European Parliament for Slovakia.** President of SDC is member of the EDF Presidency which has 31 members (from these 7 are from the new member states, including Bulgaria). Consequently, there is a lot of work associated with commenting the materials which EDF submitted at the negotiations with European Commission, members of European Parliament, got support of its requests through lobbying and mainly cooperation with Disability Intergroup. Slovakia has had its representative – Miroslav Mikolášik, member of Parliament – in it since the beginning. SDC had good cooperation also with other members of EP for Slovakia – Monika Beňová and Zita Pleštinská, who is not in the European Parliament any more.

SDC as a member of European structures of DP – or why are we in EDF?



Creation of EDF was motivated by the need to create representative advisory organ which would actively deal with issues of disabled people in whole European Union. **Goal of EDF is to ensure the adherence of human rights of people with disability in European Union in accordance with the prohibition of discrimination.**

EDF work covers all areas of EU competences and big number of various initiatives. Though it might look that European institutions are far from many citizens, EU decisions which are result of negotiations among all member states, have direct effect on life of people with disability in member countries. This is the reason why the role of EDF is so important in monitoring all EU initiatives regarding the disability.

EDF has carved its good position in relation to the European Parliament, European Union structures, Council of Europe, but also other international organizations and institutions since its creation in year 1996. This is definitely connected with the support of its capacity development by European Commission, number of professional consultants and experts not only among people with disability.

Cooperation within EDF helps us in a professional way with promoting the integration of disability issues into the policies of society development at all levels of management in Slovakia. Representatives of SDC member organizations actively participated in drafting the proposal of Program of living conditions development of people with disability as members of the Council of Slovak government for issues of people with disability.

Most important EU documents in area of disability approved in year 2010:

- Ratification of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
- The Disability Strategy until year 2020
- EU Directive in the area of bus and ship transport

(By adoption of the directive at European level it becomes part of the law of each community state, so also SR, and does not require approve or any other transformation into national law. This means they have so-called direct effect.)

5 campaigns of European DP movement in year 2010:

- Freedom of movement
- European legislation regarding disability
- European binding legal acts regarding internet accessibility
- UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Rights of people with disability in bus transport

In year 2010 European disability forum had 54 full members, from these 29 national councils of people with disability, 25 European disability organizations – according to the types of disability, 15 full members, 3 observers (newly created national councils of Serbia, Albania and former Yugoslav country Macedonia) and also 38 associated members.

Nearly all SDC member countries are also members of European, resp. world, organizations of disabled people. They have possibility to influence actions in European disability movement (25 non-governmental organizations created according to the types of disability).

Ratification of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities by Slovak Republic

On 9th March 2010 Slovak National Council expressed consent **with proposal of Slovak government on ratification of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and Optional protocol to the Convention on the rights of people with disability.**

SDC welcomed decision of Slovak government and Slovak National Council to ratify the **United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities** and particularly appreciated decision to ratify also the Optional protocol to the Convention. Through this decision Slovakia recognizes competence of the UN Committee for rights of people with disability to receive and consider communications submitted by people who state that they are victims of violation of Convention provisions and they have already exhausted all available domestic legal remedies.

SDC considers the convention to be unique and the most influential document of international law in the area of disability whose purpose is to promote, protect and ensure equality and complete use of all human rights and fundamental freedoms also by people with disability and promote respect for their natural dignity.

Convention does not contain new rights for people with disability. It is based on existing human rights conventions. These rights and forms of their application, however, it collects and interprets in relation to people with disability. Concurrently it contains obligations of States which guarantee effective protection of rights of people with disability and ensure for them possibilities to use all generally acknowledged human rights. Convention prohibits discrimination of people with disability in all areas of living and addresses the access to whole spectrum of human rights - civil, political, economic, social, cultural and right to positive actions used to overcome the disadvantage of these people. Thus it presents a very necessary tool for promoting the human rights of people with disability and for unifying and complexity of access to their human rights. Though majority of rights declared in the convention is already transposed in our legislation, SDC considers the convention to be extremely important document, which will help to solve problems of people with disability also in Slovakia in more complex and systematic ways and will contribute to their faster and more effective inclusion into society.

SDC already participated in the drafting of Convention proposal, before its approval by UN General Assembly on 13th December 2006, through European disability forum (EDF). It intensively participated in preparation of its ratification. In this process it concentrated mainly on the quality of the convention translation into Slovak language. Aim of this effort was to minimize possibility of disunited interpretation of the convention provisions, which might lead to misunderstandings and conflicts particularly because it is international treaty that prevails over legal acts of the Slovak Republic.



Legislation in year 2010

LIST of legal acts and other documents proposals to which SDC submitted comments within inter-ministerial comment procedures in year 2010

SDC seeks to influence the creation of legislation through submission of written proposals within inter-ministerial procedures and negotiations with representatives of respective ministries and organs of public administration, so that it satisfies people with disability in the very best way and helps to solve their problems and prevents creation of new problems.

In year 2010, with regards to the fact that it was election year, the ministries did not prepare many proposals for amendments of legal acts which would directly relate to people with disability and to which it would be necessary to present the position of SDC as the covering organization of people with disability.

It was mostly a package of legal acts which enable to provide subsidies from state budget among others also to civic associations. They were proposed but not approved, changes in payment of contributions to social and health insurance by personal assistants and change in mechanism of indexation of granted pensions.

SDC comments were applied to following upcoming legislative norms:

1. Comments on proposal of legal act, which amends and complements act no. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance
2. Comments on proposal of legal act, which amends and complements act no. 580/2004 Coll. on health insurance
3. Comments on proposal of legal act, which amends and complements act no. 581/2004 Coll. on health insurance companies, healthcare supervision
4. Comments on proposal of legal act on providing subsidies in competence of Slovak government office
5. Comments on proposal of legal act on providing subsidies in competence of the Ministry of labor, social affairs and family of SR
6. Comments on proposal of legal act on providing subsidies of the Ministry of health of SR
7. Comments on proposal of legal act on providing subsidies of the Ministry of culture of SR
8. Comments on proposal of legal act, which amends and complements act no. 300/2008 Coll. on organization and support of sport

We also followed the preparation process and approval, among others, of following legislative norms:

1. legal act, which amends and complements act no. 448/2008 Coll. on social services
2. legal act, which amends and complements act no. 595/2003 Coll. on income tax
3. legal act, which amends and complements act no. 5/2004 Coll. on employment services
4. legal act, which amends and complements act no. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (School Act)
5. legal act, which amends and complements act no. 597/2003 Coll. on financing of elementary schools, high schools and school facilities

SDC and its member organization do not have sufficient number of experts who would participate more in commenting on the legislation. Due to the fact that during the submission of comments the arguments are necessary, we are not successful in obtaining these for more types of disability. For several years we have tried to obtain financial resources for education in this area so that SDC and its member organizations could train their experts in legislation area. So far we have not been successful.

Support of capacity development of organizations of people with disability

Conditions for activity of organization of people with disability are still getting worse. Tendency of decrease in financial support through projects still has declining trend.

At the end of 2010 the ministries processed proposals of legal acts which enable to continue in financial support of projects realization. Consequently they were approved by Slovak National Council. More detailed information is available on the ministries web-pages.



Information for disabled people and about disabled people

Magazine Bridges of inclusion

Internet magazine Bridges of inclusion (www.nrozp-mosty.sk) has been issued by The Slovak Disability Council already for three years. Goal of the magazine is to bring information from various areas of life of people with various type of disability, bring examples of good practice, spread awareness. Magazine is intended not only to citizens with disability and their family members and acquaintances, but also to professional and general public.

In year 2010 there were published 11 issues of the magazine. Complete reconstruction of articles system took place and new component was installed which enables to view and comment articles in magazine in easier way. Functionality of webpage was enlarged also by the creation of photo gallery.

Each issue of magazine was devoted to another topic which matched the needs of readers and actual situation in the area of disability. People from among citizens with disability, who are experts in particular issues based on own experience, were contributing to the magazine. Also articles from experts, researchers, social workers, social counselors, experts from public administration were published. Many useful advices were published, examples of good practice in Slovakia and also abroad from the area of education, employment, free-time activities, cooperation of public administration and non-governmental sector. We informed about actions and activities of European Parliament, European Commission, European networks in area of disability, about changes in national and international legislation.

European year for combating poverty and social exclusion – SDC contribution – conference on disability and risk of poverty.

Year 2010 was the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion. During this year there were organized many events and activities, from which a part was financed also by the Ministry of labor, social affairs and family. However, during the evaluation of project we were not successful. Despite this we managed to prepare discussion forum, through which we wanted to point out to the risk of poverty in families with disabled child. Our project was chosen by the Information office of European Parliament in Slovakia and with its support the discussion forum **“Does disability bring the risk of poverty into the families with a disabled child?”** took part.

Main goal was to identify problems, which families with disabled child encounter, discussion on possibilities to overcome the risk of poverty in these cases and search on possibilities of improvement of life of these families.

We managed to bring closer the situation of families with disabled children under Slovak conditions. But we also discussed possibilities of improvement of quality of their life. Two mothers and one grandmother told their stories and experiences concerning the care for disabled member of family.

Common characteristic of all stories was fact that all families, which happened to be in situation when they needed help, were not provided automatically with this help. They had to fight for it. They had to search for information, ways and processes which could help them to cope with arisen situation in the very best way.

Also members of European Parliament Miroslav Mikolášik and Monika Beňová participated in the discussion forum. They gave information about national and international legislation and about possibilities of exercising the rights for better living conditions of families with disabled child. **Ambassador of the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion, Viera Dubačová,** informed about her international experiences with help systems for disabled people. **Also experts, who deal with the issues of families with disabled member,** took part at the discussion forum. 70 participants took part in the discussion forum.

Choice of the topic for discussion forum and engagement of families, experts, were evaluated in very positive way in Brussels at the meeting of information representation of European Parliament from the EU countries.

International research project Life quality of non-formal caregivers of dependant people who suffer from incontinence in Europe

SDC has already participated in several researches and had representation in number of working groups created by the Institute for the research on work and family (IRWF). In year 2010 the Institute invited us to cooperation in international research project Life quality of non-formal caregivers of dependant people who suffer from incontinence in Europe.

Research took place in four countries, whilst each country represented different macro-area of European continent: Southern Europe (Italy), Eastern Europe (Slovak Republic), Scandinavia (Sweden) and Western Europe (Netherlands).

Research aim was to observe the life quality of non-formal caregivers – spouses/partners and children as a result of the fact that they take care of spouses/partners and parents at age 65 and above who suffer from leakage of urine and/or stool and at the same time have cognitive and physical problems, live in home environment at urban settlements. Research was focused on the identification of effects, derived from this care, in emotional (eg. psychological stress) and physical area (eg. heavy lifting), as well as better understanding of measures and help which could improve the current situation.

There have been interviews with non-formal caregivers in 7 towns in Slovakia. Based on the analysis of data obtained from qualitative case studies the national report for Slovakia was drafted. Comparative report was prepared at the end based on the national reports prepared by separate national teams.

We approach the elections in free and qualified way

In year 2010 SDC offered to all political parties which stood in parliamentary elections a space on its webpage, where they could publish parts of their election program which directly related to citizens with disability and opinions of political parties on actual questions concerning these citizens, especially to following questions:

- UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, its implementation under Slovak conditions, participation of organizations of people with disability in monitoring its application and spreading awareness among citizens with disability, as well as public;
- prevention and removing of architectonic, transport and information barriers;
- support of protected and integrated employment;
- social services (free choice of provider of social service by its claimant);
- financial contributions for compensation of severe disability (stop of payment of regularly provided financial contributions due to the exceed over set limit of income of citizen with SD – especially in case of financial contribution on personal assistance);
- social and health insurance;
- poverty caused and multiplied by disability (financial supplement for medicines and medical devices, accommodation costs, low pensions, low incomes of families which take care of its severely disabled member for long time, conditions for entitlement to disability pension of young people, ...).

Aim of this activity was to help citizens with disability to approach to elections in free and qualified way also based on information given by the political parties themselves. Three political parties have used the offered possibility: Slovak democratic and Christian union – Democratic party (SDCU – DP), Most-Híd and Freedom and solidarity (FaS).

Non-discrimination, equality of opportunities, employment



Uč sa a získaj prácu v IBM
Learn and get a job in IBM

The Slovak Disability Council in cooperation with company IBM in Slovakia has already for third year been helping citizens with disability to increase chances to succeed in the labour market through joint project Learn and get job in IBM.

Education program *Education of people with disability for better success on the labour market*, whose aim was to increase chances of success in labour market for people with disability, consisted of an English language course and training of computer skills.

Every citizen with disability, who had at least a communicative level of English language knowledge and basic computer skills, could join the education program. 37 citizens of various types of disability showed interest in education. Based on interview, company IBM chose 14 applicants who were divided according to the level of English in two groups.

Language education took place once a week in 2 lessons for each group from the beginning of October till the end of February. Thus the education participants had the possibility to acquire communicative skills of business English. Besides that they passed computer training in programs Microsoft Excel and Lotus Symphony.

Besides the certificates on completing the course, the successful participants got a chance to apply for one of the many employment positions which company IBM creates for citizens with disability, too.

Above mentioned project is an example of good practice of cooperation between non-profit and business sector.

Participation of SDC in the Job fair – Profesia days

Company Profesia, provider of the same named job portal, organized in days of 16. – 17. February 2010 in the premises of National tennis centre in Bratislava the biggest international job fair in Slovakia under name Profesia days. Job fair Profesia days was intended for all unemployed, students, graduates of high schools and universities, as well as working people from all over Slovakia.

The Slovak Disability Council offered to company Profesia counselling and presentation of the activities focused on the increasing of employment possibilities of people with disability. **Experts with long-term experience in the area of employment of people with disability (from member organizations of SDC and organizations of young disabled people) informed about employment possibilities of people with disability and activities of organizations of disabled in this area. Interest in information was also from the side of employers.**

During the job fair we presented information flyers and booklets which were created during the realization of successful projects of member organizations of SDC. Also information panels about successful examples of employment of people with disability, but also about individual projects, were prepared. Their goal was to increase the abilities of people with disability and thus also possibilities of their success in labour market. We arranged a presentation of protected workroom Manna which provided refreshment throughout the job fair, too.

Social rehabilitation

The Slovak Disability Council arranged in year 2010 the providing of social rehabilitation programs for citizens with severe disability.

Target group were people of various types of disability. Social rehabilitation took place in the premises of SDC. Provider of social rehabilitation was an employee of SDC. SDC has been cooperating with people with disability for a very long time. It helps to integrate them into everyday life through professional activities, such as social rehabilitation. It is mainly a training of social skills, support of self-sufficiency in deciding and acting in solving everyday basic needs.

In year 2010 there were provided individual programs of social rehabilitation for 8 stable clients with disability. Short-term consultations of social rehabilitation, mostly single meetings, were provided to 23 clients.

Problems with which clients of social rehabilitation encountered utmost were lack of communication skills, insecurity in solving ordinary social activities. As a result of that there are problems in family relations, problems with search for employment and other interpersonal conflicts.

In the project 2 meetings were organized on the topic of social rehabilitation. First meeting organized SDC in cooperation with SUDP under supervision of Mr. PhDr. Slavomír Krúpa, PhD. Topic of open discussion was the increasing of quality in providing social rehabilitation for citizens with disability. Another meeting took place in Institute of work rehabilitation where representatives of organizations of disabled had chance to get information on possibilities of work rehabilitation, inevitable part of complex rehabilitation.

Participation in project Progress/cooperation with Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Economic Institution of Slovak Academy of Science and other partners.

„Equality of chances is worth (Series of activities supporting the identification of good practice examples in preventing discrimination and promoting equality)”

The Slovak Disability Council realized in cooperation with Slovak national centre for human rights (SNCHR) project “Equality of chances is worth”. As one of the project partners SDC was engaged in 3 project activities:

It participated in preparation of expert studies focused on good practice examples and experience in promoting diversity in work relations, education of civic associations’ representatives, trade unions and employers on topics of creating equality of chances of people with disability in labour market. Last project activity was dissemination of experience from creating equality of chances at final conference.

Main project aim was motto equality of chances is worth. SDC was engaged in project as an expert partner in the area of legislation and rights of people with disability and participated in project preparation already from its beginning. One of the conditions of participation in project was also financial participation in the amount of 2,000.- €. Project output was a series of 2-days trainings in 5 towns in Slovakia on topic of advantages of employment of people with disability and 2 expert studies. Also people with disability joined the project.

Project „Equality of chances is worth” was supported within the program PROGRESS (Call VP/2009/004) of European Commission.

Equality of chances and equal treatment

Project aim was to help in creating conditions and tools for increase of advocacy level and application of rights of people with disability secured by the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and thus also progressive elimination of discrimination.

Long-term project aim was to ensure effective participation of SDC – representative organization of people with disability – in promotion, protection and monitoring of application of the convention with respect to article 33. Project will continue also in first quarter of year 2011.

During the project SDC conducted an analysis of the needs of people with disability in terms of the rights secured by the convention.

Analysis were elaborated according to the needs of people with following types of disability:

- **Rights of people with disability secured by particular article of the Convention**
- **Needs of people:**
 - a) with sight disability in area of rights secured by particular article of the convention
 - b) with physical disability
 - c) with hearing disability
 - d) with mental disability
 - e) with psychic disability
 - f) with chronic disability
- **Possibilities of solving the needs of people with disability based on rights secured by particular article of the convention (existing solutions, requirements and proposals).**

Structure of analysis, which was processed by a leading group, proved to be very difficult. Also due to the difference in professional background of SDC member organizations. Therefore we do not consider the analysis to be final, but as a material with which we will work on and finalize in long-term. However, analysis became very important materials also during the realization of other project activities.

Comparing to the original aim a separate analysis of needs of people with severe disability was not elaborated, however, it is part of the analysis of needs of people with disability. Original aim derived from our experience of very different views on solving of situation of people with disability. However, project leading group agreed that elaborating separate analysis is not a guarantee of convergence of different views and opinions on situation of this group of citizens.

Methodology on monitoring of the application of the convention was elaborated by organizations of people with disability. Its elaboration was based on requirements of the UN Committee on the rights of people with disability for complex reports submitted by state parties and preparation of materials for monitoring related to the first complex report. Aim of this activity was to create tools and mechanisms so that relevant non-governmental organization would be able to effectively monitor the application of particular articles of the convention into practice under conditions in Slovakia.

Both materials were issued in smaller number also in printed version. They are also on SDC webpage, because the analysis on needs of people with disability is a material which is necessary to be further added and discussed. Discussion will open on webpage from year 2011.

During the work on analysis and methodology several work meetings at level of EU member states and national organizations of disabled helped us. And this was, especially, during the Belgian presidency, during which a two-day conference on article 33 – Implementation of the convention at national level and monitoring - took place.

We have organized Day of people with disability for the third time at the premises of Slovak national council and for the third time it took place on 25th November with support of the president of SNC.

Topic of the conference organized with respect to the Day of people with disability was the implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (especially article 33) and participation of representative organizations of people with disability in this process; non-discrimination based on disability; related EU directives and regulations, their implementation; and other measures for the support of improvement of living conditions of people with disability. Also representatives of state organs, which have competences on the most important articles of the convention, participated in the conference. Also some members of Slovak national council took place in parts of the conference.

Also colleagues from Czech national council of disabled people accepted the invitation to conference. They informed the participants about upcoming changes in Czech legislation related to people with disability.

Participants at the conference adopted two memoranda addressed to members of SNC:

- **MEMORANDUM of participants in the conference in respect to the World day of people with disability organized on 25th November on the proposal to reduce state contributions for state-insured people.**
- **MEMORANDUM of participants at the conference in respect to the World day of people with disability organized on 25th November on the proposed amendment of indexation mechanism of pensions paid.**

Non handicap

In September 2010 the 8th year of specialized exhibition Non Handicap 2010 has already been organized in the premises of Incheba Expo.

In this year SDC did not prepare traditional seminar for people with disability, representatives of public administration and municipality at regional level. Reason was the participation in other events concerning the issues of disability and insufficient personal capacities of SDC.

More knowledge – more possibilities, in Slovak way

SDC submitted already in year 2009 a project More knowledge – more possibilities which was approved. In December 2009 Agency of the Ministry of Education of SR for EU structural funds and SDC concluded an agreement for its realization. Project aim was to create capacities in area of education of people with health disadvantage and thus strengthen their chances for successful integration in the labour market. However, the project has proved to be unmanageable due to the badly adjusted financial conditions from the side of the ME SR and very demanding administration. Therefore in the beginning of year 2010 SDC ended the cooperation with Agency of the ME SR for EU structural funds based on the Agreement on termination of contract relation.

Unattainable European social fund

In year 2010 SDC organized a survey among its member organizations concerning the benefit of the European social fund for people with disability in program period 2007 – 2013. Survey, whose part consisted also of the ideas of future possibilities for use of the European social fund resources, was carried out based on the initiative of the European social fund in Slovakia. SDC submitted the material to the European social fund based on the experience of its member organizations.

Based on the findings SDC states in the material that **the access to the ESF resources in monitored period considers to be complicated. Most of the not supported projects were unsuccessful due to the lack of financial resources allocated for concrete calls, not due to the poor elaboration. Material includes, besides the evaluation of existing situation, also the proposals for future possibilities of use of the European social fund resources.**

*How culture joins public and people regardless of disability
How photos help to eliminate barriers, not only physical... and
show another view on world*



Festival People need people

SDC has already organized for the third time a cultural event called People need people which took place in Piešťany. It was a two-day cultural event during which performers with various types of disability showed their skills and talent to audience together with commercial artists. Artists with disability from all over Slovakia (Prešov, Levoča, Košice, Bratislava, Piešťany) performed at the festival.

On the first day also professionals performed with artists with disability from theatre group DIKO (deaf people), Temperament from CS Barlička (performers with physical disability and healthy people) and ART EST from Košice (mentally disabled) as well as professionals. Next day continued with performances of pupils from elementary school for blind people from Levoča, artistic school Piešťany, integrated dance group Just that and professionals. Also short discussion was organized, within the program, about discrimination of people with disability in the area of employment. There was experience of people with disability, also good practice examples. It was led by the workers of Slovak national centre for human rights.

Part of the festival program was also integrating discotheque during which there was prepared rich program for performers with disability with competition disciplines.

Festival was an occasion for organizations of people with disability to present their activities. It also provided an opportunity for people with disability to show their skills and abilities, to meet people with other type of disability. Thus it helps in creation of new social networks. Around 600 participants took part in the cultural event People need people.

Photo competition Barriers through eyes of those who overcome them

Barriers 2010 was the third year of photo competition in row. Project aim was to engage to competition not only people with disability, but also public. All together 84 photos were registered to competition which show physical, psychical and social barriers concerning the access of environment, but also prejudices, which public has against people with disability.

Third year of the competition brought new dimension comparing to previous years. Photos were better from the technical point of view than in previous years. Barriers through the eyes of people with disability became an interesting topic of social photography also for professional photographers and public. Also students from artistic high school joined the competition. Competition photos were exposed at the exhibition in Bratislava in the premises under Michalská gate.

New dimension of the competition is also a decision that photo exhibition will be travelling and so the competition photos can also be seen by people in other towns in Slovakia.



We are not alone...

Volunteers cooperate with us

In year 2010 SDC continued in cooperation with students and volunteers. Students of various field of study, mainly of humanity focus (special pedagogy, social work, etc.) turn to SDC. SDC welcomes such cooperation, enables the students to accomplish obligatory practice and thus creates space for application of acquired knowledge in practice and for getting practical skills which can be acquired only in environment where particular cases are dealt and particular activities carried out. SDC also welcomes cooperation with volunteers who are people with disability themselves, their family members, friends and acquaintances, but also people who feel a need to use part of their free time and skills meaningfully.

Intern from Brazil.....

In year 2010 we established cooperation with company AIESEC Slovakia and thus enabled a student of last year of international relations in Brazil to take part in internship with SDC. Brazil student **Erika Midori Yamamoto** during her internship worked on SDC activities, took part in activities of SDC member organizations, acquired knowledge concerning situation of people with disability in Slovakia. SDC intern helped mainly in collecting the information on development of implementation process and monitoring of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in states which ratified the convention. Besides this Erika elaborated a report regarding the situation of people with disability in Brazil.

During the internship Erika had a chance to get to know the functioning of non-profit sector in Slovakia, national and international legislation regarding disability, activities of SDC as well as its member organizations. It was a mutually advantageous cooperation.

We take knowledge and experience further.....

SDC representatives are members of various working groups which activity can influence quality of living of people with disability in future. Next year we have a representation in working group INTERLINKS which is part of an international project focused on care for older people. We represent third sector in Monitoring committee of the Ministry of health for Operation program Healthcare. SDC worker is member of commission of project scheme of the Governmental office of the Slovak Republic. We regularly have chance to apply for a participation in expert groups of European disability forum. Combination of experience and knowledge of English language is, however, still problem.

Membership in working groups is voluntary.

And in the end, we hope, not finally.....

SDC uses various forms and forms of work: through cultural events creates space for self-realization of people with disability in area of art, enables wide public to get to know abilities, talent, enthusiasm of people with disability, but also their problems and possibilities of solution. It contributes to "sensitization" of public opinion and raising awareness about life of people with disability. **Through education activities, counselling activity, issuing publications** it increases the possibility of people with disability to become active participants in process that leads to improvement of quality of life, whether in area of employment, active civic participation and etc. Target group of SDC education activities (workshops, seminars, discussion forums, conferences, lectures) are citizens with disability themselves, but also potential employers, employees of state institutions, private businesses and etc. **Through commenting the legislation** it tries to improve living conditions of people with disability regardless the age, disability and sex. **Through cooperation with representatives of public administration and municipalities** it fights for improvement of conditions at regional and national level, securing of the principle of equal treatment and for creation of conditions for active participation of people with disability in society. Through realization of research projects it collects information on actual situation of people with disability and thus creates potential for arguments and discussions in cooperation with representatives of public administration, municipalities, foreign co-workers, in preparation of projects and etc. It realizes the activities **with participation of member organizations, so it fulfils another of its goals which is support of member organizations.**

We thank all colleagues among the citizens with disability, experts from cooperating institutions and organizations, volunteers for help and support in year 2010. We thank all who helped us financially ensure realization of activities and projects.

We call for cooperation with us future colleagues, volunteers, students, experts, employers, schools, municipalities, institutions, media. Join us and help to improve our activities directed towards the improvement of living conditions of people with disability and their families. Help us to “rasp” the relations of public and citizens with disability. Help us to fulfil the slogan of the world disability movement

Nothing about us, without us.



SDC 2010 in numbers:

- 3 internet pages: www.nrozp.sk, www.nrozp-mosty.sk, www.nrozp-bariery.sk
- 6 published information materials
- 5 training in: Komárno, Bratislava, Žilina, Teplý Vrch, Tatranská Lomnica
- 11 successful participants of education course in company IBM
- 20 member organizations
- 54 individual consultations of social rehabilitation
- 30 external co-workers
- 40 volunteers
- 75 competitors in photography competition Barriers
- 80 performers at festival in Piešťany
- 600 visitors of culture festival.....

... and 2,5 workers at the SDC secretariat.

Financing of SDC activities

Economic stability of SDC results from the overall position of non-governmental organizations of disabled people in Slovakia. Our activity is financed mostly from projects, member contributions of organizations associated in SDC, incomes from 2% tax and voluntary gifts. In year 2010 the workers of SDC secretariat elaborated 22 projects from which 9 were approved. Financial situation of SDC is still getting worse. Similar situation is in several member organizations.

Projects supported in year 2010

Project name	Supported	Amount of money
Member contribution to EDF and participation in activities	decree of MLSAF	EUR 7,700
Financing of part of operation costs of representative civic associations	decree of MLSAF	EUR 4,895
Providing of social rehabilitation for citizens with severe disability	decree of MLSAF	EUR 10,000
Creation and issuing of internet magazine Bridges of inclusion	decree of MLSAF	EUR 15,400
Equality of chances and equal treatment	APGO	EUR 13,000
Barriers 2010	MC SR	EUR 3,000
Concert People need people	MC SR	EUR 8,000
Batory – support of activities of representative organizations	Batory Foundation	EUR 15,000
Learn and get job in IBM	IBM	EUR 4,700