



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

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Regional Committee for Europe
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Resolution

WHO European Declaration and Action Plan on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families

The Regional Committee,

Recognizing that children and young people with intellectual disabilities are equal citizens, with the same rights to health and social care, education, vocational training, protection and support as other children and young people;

Also recognizing that these children should have equal opportunities to live stimulating and fulfilling lives in the community with their families, alongside their peers;

Acknowledging the remaining challenges as illustrated by the deprivation of rights and incidents of neglect and abuse in both long-stay residential institutions and local communities;

Recognizing that people with intellectual disabilities are often disadvantaged in their health care from childhood onwards, and that stigma and discrimination due to intellectual disabilities lead to even greater inequalities in their health and development;

Reaffirming its support for the relevant United Nations instruments, particularly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

Welcoming recent European initiatives on further action to secure the rights of people with disabilities, drawing upon the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006–2015, the

European Union Disability Strategy 2010–2020 and the WHO Disability and Rehabilitation Action Plan 2006–2011;

1. COMMENDS the WHO Regional Office for Europe on organizing the high-level Conference on Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their families, in successful partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
2. WELCOMES with great satisfaction the strong and fruitful collaboration with nongovernmental organizations, self advocates and family members, experts, health professionals and other partners;
3. WISHES to express its gratitude to the government of Romania for hosting the Ministerial Conference;
4. THANKS the government of Serbia for hosting the meeting to negotiate the Declaration and the Action Plan in advance of the Ministerial Conference, which made a significant contribution to the successful preparation of the Conference;
5. ENDORSES the European Declaration on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families¹ adopted at the WHO European High-Level Conference held in Bucharest in November 2010;
6. NOTES the ten priority areas which need to be addressed to enable young people with intellectual disabilities and their families to live healthy and full lives:
 - (a) Protect children and young people with intellectual disabilities from harm and abuse;
 - (b) Enable children and young people to grow up in a family environment;
 - (c) Transfer care from institutions to the community;
 - (d) Identify the needs of each child and young person;
 - (e) Ensure that good quality mental and physical health care is coordinated and sustained;
 - (f) Safeguard the health and well-being of family carers;
 - (g) Empower children and young people with intellectual disabilities to contribute to decision-making about their lives;

¹ *European Declaration on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2011 (document EUR/51298/17/6, http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/121263/e94506.pdf, accessed 18 April 2011).

- (h) Build workforce capacity and commitment;
 - (i) Collect essential information about needs and services and assure service quality;
 - (j) Invest to provide equal opportunities and achieve the best outcomes;
7. URGES Member States to progressively realize these priorities by planning, adopting and implementing policies according to their responsibilities as stated in the Declaration;
8. REQUESTS the WHO Regional Director for Europe to ensure that adequate priority and resources are given to activities and programmes to fulfil the requirements of the Declaration and the Action Plan, according to WHO's mandate, by:
- (a) exercising leadership concerning the role and functioning of health systems in accordance with all relevant European and global standards and policies, in order to meet the needs of children and young people with intellectual disabilities and their families;
 - (b) providing technical support to Member States in order to promote quality in service provision and to establish sustainable capacity;
 - (c) supporting research initiatives that will result in ethical and evidence-based policy and practice;
 - (d) monitoring the health status of children and young people with intellectual disabilities and their families and assessing progress towards the implementation of this Declaration and Action Plan;
 - (e) engaging in partnership with UNICEF, the European Commission and the Council of Europe and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations where joint action can facilitate implementation;
9. SUPPORTS the Action Plan that is endorsed by the Declaration, providing a framework for policies and activities towards achieving the aims of the Declaration by 2020;
10. REQUESTS the Regional Director to report to the Regional Committee on progress made in 2016.