



Statement

on a draft National Disability Strategy 2021 – 2030

The draft National Disability Strategy 2021 - 2030 represents 50-pages with common findings and intentions. The need for a Disability Strategy is indisputable, as disability policies need to be transformed radically - from understanding what disability is to building a public environment for all.

The proposed strategic document does not contain any indications of political will and competence to design and introduce a new approach to disability. The claim from the outset, - *“the national strategy will be guided by international and European human rights standards addressing the fight against poverty and social exclusion, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals 2030, The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the European Social Charter (revised), the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and other relevant documents to which the Republic of Bulgaria is a party”* - **is not confirmed in the further content of the project.**

The main goal of Bulgaria is to create conditions and opportunities for social inclusion of Bulgarian citizens with disabilities, which in the dynamic macroeconomic situation and regional disparities has a preventive effect on the negative impact on the quality of life and social exclusion is one of those vague and meaningless sentences that fill the 50-pages document without specifics. Another example of a free set of words without specifics is as follows: *The basic principle of disability health policy is that medical activities related to primary and secondary disability prevention are essential to ensure equal access to quality medical care for people with disabilities.*

Another disadvantage of the draft Strategy is the apparent lack of reasons based on an analysis of the existing situation. There is an indisputable need for a change in the assessment of disability,

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the individual approach to each person, and the status of this document. The decision of the MLEC (Medical-Labor Expert Committee) should not be a leader for receiving support to participate in activities. Technical aids and personal assistance are the other key elements for people with disabilities and their inclusion in education, employment, and social life. Last but not least is the institutional framework and the removal of disabilities from the activities of the Social Assistance Agency.

None of these issues - without claiming to be exhaustive – does not addressed in the Strategy, which is why I find it appropriate to vote AGAINST.

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