

1. Theme of the Conference Stream:

Post- Socialist Welfare Systems

Democratization and consolidation of democratic institutions in CEE-CIS Region.

2. Summary of the paper theme.

Are people with disability included in the social welfare system?

Before years 90ies, policies affecting lives of people with disability in Albania have been static. Until then, disability policies were solely responsibility of Ministry of Health and disability was considered only as a health issue. Years 1993, mark the beginning of a crucial reform in the sector of social protection/social welfare in Albania, and people with disability were amongst this reform's beneficiaries. The article focuses in the welfare system in Albania and most specifically on the level of inclusion of people with disability in this system, from the prospective of human rights and social inclusion.

The article is an analysis of political and legal framework in the area of social protection in the last 20 years with special consideration on inclusion of people with disability. The article is focused also on the place occupied by social services for people with disability in the system of social services offered for vulnerable groups in Albania and the influence of empowerment of responsible institutions in orienting the system towards deinstitutionalization and decentralization.

The methodology followed is mainly qualitative, through analyzes of different legal and strategic documents in the area of benefits, pensions and services, from prospective of inclusion as part of them benefits, payments and services for people with disability. Semi structured interviews will be conducted with representatives of responsible institutions to implement reforms in the social welfare system as well as centers that offer services in Tirana and the other four regions in the country.

3. Full contact details of the author.

Name: Blerta Drenofci

Working for: Albanian Disability Rights Foundation, Executive Director, last year of PhD on social work.

Postal Address: Street "Bogdani", No.15, Tirana, Albania, postal code 1001.

Phone number:0035542269426 or 00355682049160

Email: adrf@albmail.com
bcani009@gmail.com