



Organisation Mondiale des Personnes Handicapées
Organización Mundial de Personas con Discapacidad
Disabled Peoples' International
Région E.OMPH – Región E.OMPD
DPI Europe

President Office
45, rue Riquet, A. 664
75019 Paris France
+33(0)140 375 700
chairperson@dpi-europe.org

Identify and train key change agents

Action plan for the development of peer counsellor training in Europe

All countries that have signed and ratified the CRPD must implement pragmatic solutions, and the first step in doing so is to train motivated persons with disabilities to become peer counsellors and application experts. The current project is modelled on the training course run by the French DPI Assembly¹ for the last five years in close collaboration with a training school for medical and social professionals, the ARIFTS. The initial findings from the fourth session showed that 59% of trainees were employed as Peer Counsellors, with 44% of these individuals being either employed or self-employed. These figures are indicative of the inspiring dynamism of the movement and the growing importance of Peer Counselling in the social and medico-social sector.

Following a review of their previous experience, the German and Italian DPI Assemblies are invited to collaborate with the French DPI Assembly on the ongoing project. The project will be initiated as amended and adopted by the DPI Europe Assembly at the Global Disability Summit.

The draft commitment is the following:

Objectives: DPI Europe is going to disseminate a comprehensive training programme for peer counsellors across Europe. The programme will concentrate on skills development and support for individuals, as well as training for social and medical workers, and all stakeholders.

Create a group to manage the project. This group should include representatives from DPI National Assemblies, as well as experts in peer counselling and training institutes of professionals from the medical and social sectors.

Identify Resources: Compile a list of DPI National Assemblies that already have training programmes and experts with disabilities, so that their knowledge and experience can be utilised.

Formalise Partnerships: Draft and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Network for Independent Living (ENIL) and other relevant international NGOs to ensure collaboration and resource sharing.

Develop Experience Exchanges: Organise exchanges with similar training programmes around the world to learn best practices and innovative approaches.

Initiate Lobbying Campaigns: Advocate for national development agencies to require partnerships between disabled people's organisations in both recipient and donor countries as a condition for funding.

Monitor and Evaluate: Track progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the training programmes, making adjustments as needed to improve outcomes.