

AUTONOMY, VOICE AND PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) IN SERBIA

PROFILE

Donor: UN Partnership to promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Donor Trust Fund (UN PRPD)

Budget: \$399,462

Main Partners: Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, National Employment Service

Participating UN Organizations: UN RC Office Human Rights Team, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO

Duration: 2018 –2020

GOAL

To assist persons with disabilities in Serbia to gain autonomy, give them stonger voice and ensure their participation in all segments of society.

CONTEXT

Looking at the current situation in the labour market in Serbia, the position of PWDs has improved throughout the transitional years. Nevertheless, some overarching barriers for their better inclusion are still present. For employers, PWDs still form largely untapped and for the most part unrecognized labour pool. Sometimes, employers do not have enough knowledge and competencies to employ and successfully manage PWDs, but more often they are not aware of their qualities as potential employees.

In Serbia, out of 571,780 persons with disabilities, 330,000 persons are in working age, of which 168,227 are economically active (employed or in search of work), while only 9% are employed.

FOCUS

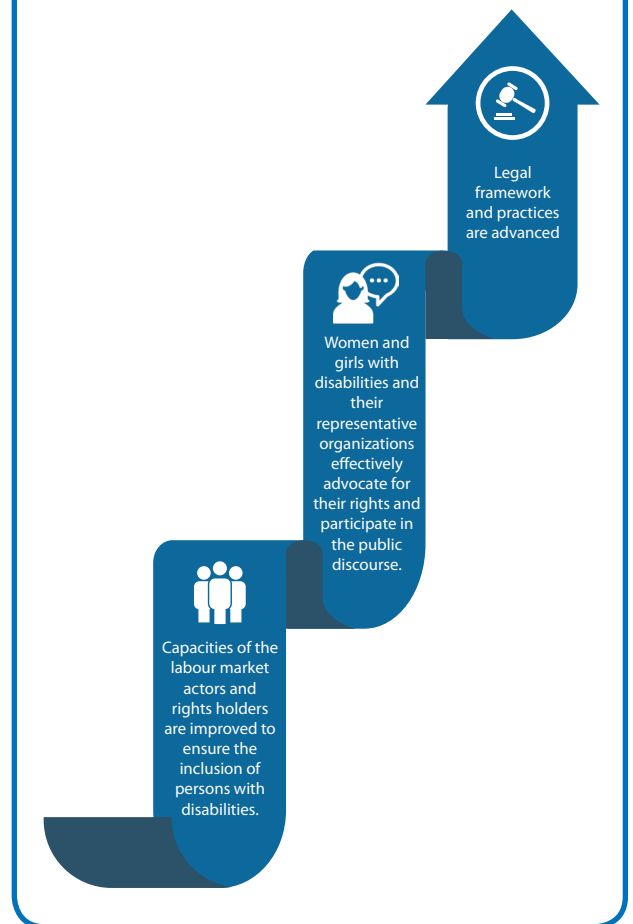
- Policy changes in the area of legal capacity of person with disabilities;
- Building partnerships among government institutions and organizations of persons with disabilities;
- Awareness raising on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Trainings for representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, duty bearers and rights holders on reform of legal capacities, self-advocacy and employment;
- Empowerment of persons with disabilities and their full inclusion in the decision-making processes through capacity building, advocacy actions and development of partnerships;
- Special attention is paid to women with disabilities and persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities;
- UNDP focus is to improve conditions for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the open labor market.

 **AUTONOMY**
 **VOICE**
 **PARTICIPATION**
of persons with disabilities in Serbia

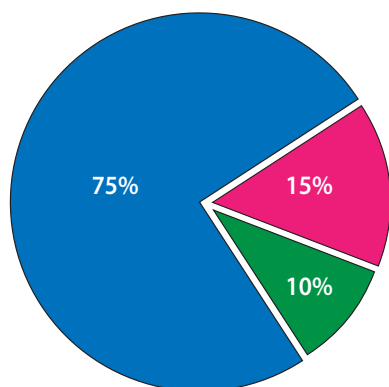
RESULTS TO DATE

- ✓ Public advocacy campaign on the legal capacity reform carried out;
- ✓ The research of sexual and reproductive rights of women with disabilities in Serbia completed, to serve as a basis for the policy recommendations in this area;
- ✓ The baseline mapping of participation of women with disabilities in leadership positions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's organizations conducted, and set of recommendations provided, to enhance participation of women with disabilities;
- ✓ A mentoring scheme for women with disabilities established;
- ✓ Local CSOs working with PWDs, disability activists, persons with disabilities and their parents - increased their knowledge and skills in the use of self-advocacy in the field of employment;
- ✓ The training program for job coaches designed and started with 15 job coaches trained;
- ✓ The pilot program for developing and testing supported employment service launched.

AUTONOMY, VOICE AND PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SERBIA ARE ADVANCED



Employment of PWDs by sector



■ Civil sector ■ Public sector ■ Private sector

Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals:



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