



ENABLE: Enabling inclusion and access to justice for defendants
with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities (101056701)

COOPERATION PROTOCOL

2024

Cooperation Agreement Concerning the Rights of Persons with Mental Health Conditions and Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System in Lithuania

We are a non-governmental organisation called "[Mental Health Perspectives](#)" established in 2000. We are actively involved in the field of disability, mental health, and human rights. Our work includes [research, analyses, training](#), legislative proposals, human rights monitoring, policy development, and public education. We focus on biopsychosocial, person-centred, and human rights-based approaches to mental health and disability. For over a decade, we have been striving to **ensure and foster the human rights of all persons with mental health conditions or disabilities involved in legal proceedings**. Whether they are crime victims, witnesses, or defendants, they are often subjected to human rights violations during their pursuit of justice.

We are seeking to unite stakeholders, professionals, institutions, and organisations dedicated to enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities in the criminal justice system. **We urge criminal justice professionals and law enforcement authorities in Lithuania, as well as organisations representing individuals with mental health conditions or disabilities, and representatives from the mental health, social care and related sectors, to collaborate with us in our shared endeavours** to guarantee the right to access to justice and a fair trial for persons with mental health conditions, psychosocial, intellectual or other disabilities.

Your involvement is not limited to specific commitments or actions. **It is about advocating for human rights within your sector and being open to collaborating with other professionals involved in legal processes concerning persons with mental health conditions or disabilities**. This includes sharing valuable and relevant information, informal consultations, and exchanging professional experiences.

We commit to keeping you regularly informed of relevant news and information, organising training sessions and events for professionals, and developing practical guidelines and tools to ease your work and enhance your practices.

We invite you to subscribe to our newsletter, share and disseminate the content we develop as widely as possible, participate in our training sessions and events whenever possible, and make a concerted effort to improve and ensure the rights of persons with mental health conditions or disabilities in your daily work.



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What needs to be done:

Based on our recent [research study](#), to ensure the dignity and human rights of persons with mental health conditions and/or disabilities and improve the responses by the Lithuanian criminal justice system to their needs, several actions need to be initiated and implemented:

- ✓ For criminal justice professionals to undergo sufficient and **regular quality training**, especially police officers, working in courts and detention centres, on **how to identify and appropriately communicate** with persons with mental health conditions, psychosocial, intellectual or other disabilities;
- ✓ To update the **Letter of Rights** (Lt. *teisų išaiškinimo protokolai*) so that the information is presented in a simplified, comprehensible, easy-to-understand manner, also in an Easy-to-Read format;
- ✓ To improve the current process for **exchanging medical and other relevant case records** to establish a clear system for passing on information as individuals move through the criminal justice system, which is essential to minimise errors and **guarantee appropriate care and access to medication and other needed support**;
- ✓ To amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to **include provisions on procedural accommodations** for vulnerable individuals and to provide persons who have undergone compulsory medical measures with the **right to seek a review of the decision or revocation of the measures**;
- ✓ To **establish a comprehensive procedure for recognising, assessing, and providing individual support** for vulnerable individuals who are accused, detained, or sentenced for a crime;
- ✓ To **enhance cooperation among various institutions** within the criminal justice system to establish a more uniform and efficient framework for providing appropriate procedural accommodations for vulnerable persons;
- ✓ To **systematically collect disaggregated data** on individuals with disabilities involved in the criminal justice system.

We, on behalf of our organisation, are committed to ensuring the confidentiality of your Personal Data in accordance with the defined rules. Your support will be recorded in the internal records of the organisation, and will be included in the project report submitted to the European Commission but will not be made public. The internal records will only be used for direct communication and joint activities with you. You have the full right to withdraw your support for our initiative at any time. To do so, please contact ugne.grigaite@perspektyvos.org.

We invite you to **show your support** for our initiative **by signing this cooperation protocol – our call to action** at a personal or institutional/organisational level. To do so, kindly contact ugne.grigaite@perspektyvos.org. We appreciate your time and thank you in advance for caring about this topic!

Respectfully,

The team at the NGO “Mental Health Perspectives”



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INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING THE COOPERATION PROTOCOL

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