

Report: Summary of the National Coordination Protocol for the Forum for Human Rights, ENABLE project “Enabling inclusion and access to justice for defendants with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities” (ENABLE - 101056701 - JUST-2021-JACC)

Introduction

The Forum for Human Rights recently concluded efforts to enhance collaboration with key stakeholders in Slovakia through a National Coordination Protocol to continue the cooperation the Forum started or deepened in the ENABLE project. This initiative aimed to establish a structured framework for cooperation with various national entities, including governmental bodies, legal organizations, and human rights offices. The following report summarizes the key elements of the protocol and the outcomes of our outreach.

Key Contacts and Engagement Outcomes

1. **Commissioner for People with Disabilities (Komisárka pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím):** The Commissioner’s office expressed interest in the proposed collaboration, particularly in the context of disability rights advocacy. They appreciated the offer of legal expertise and joint initiatives but preferred to maintain an informal partnership rather than committing to the memorandum officially.
2. **Director of the Department at the Ministry of Labour:** The Ministry of Labour recognized the mutual benefits of the proposed collaboration, especially in the areas of policy development and public awareness campaigns. While they were willing to cooperate on relevant projects, they decided against formalizing this cooperation through the signing of the memorandum.

Key Elements of the Memorandum of Cooperation

The following points were included in the proposed memorandum and discussed with potential partners:

1. **Promotion of Events:** The protocol envisioned reciprocal promotion of human rights-related events and activities. Partners agreed on the benefits of this approach and were willing to engage in mutual promotion.
2. **Legal Expertise:** The Forum offered to provide legal expertise and consultations on projects and initiatives related to human rights. Partners were interested in this support and agreed to consult the Forum as needed.
3. **Sharing of Resources and Information:** The exchange of specialized knowledge, information, and resources was a key point of interest for all parties. They agreed to continue sharing these resources.
4. **Publication of Materials:** The partners were open to the idea of mutually publishing and disseminating human rights-related materials.
5. **Educational Activities:** There was a consensus on the importance of collaborative educational and awareness-raising activities. The partners expressed a willingness to support such initiatives.
6. **Litigation Activities:** Joint litigation efforts were recognized as valuable for advocating human rights standards. Partners were interested in potential cooperation in this area.

Conclusion

The National Coordination Protocol initiative was successful in generating interest and support from key stakeholders in Slovakia. While the partners were enthusiastic about the proposed areas of

collaboration, they uniformly preferred to engage on an informal basis without signing the memorandum officially. This outcome reflects a common preference among the stakeholders to maintain flexibility in their collaborative efforts while still working towards shared human rights objectives. The Forum for Human Rights will continue to build on these informal partnerships, leveraging the interest and willingness expressed by these organizations to advance human rights initiatives across both countries.



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