

Design of National Strategy on People with Disability

ADRF mission is the promotion of equal opportunities and the constant protection of the rights of people with disability targeting the improvement of the quality of life for them and their families.

Given the advocacy program objective to influence upon the field of legal improvements and lobbying for the rights of the disabled people, **ADRF** through creating a network with all disability organizations, in 2003 invested and promoted the advocacy program to a higher level.

The advocacy program created a strong network to promote a comprehensive (wide-ranging) movement. Among the challenges of 2003, the European and International Year of disability, the main challenge of ADRF advocacy program was the drafting of the National Strategy of People with Disability.

This process that started two years ago, close to ADRF by the advocacy group, marked through 2003 the further intensification of the efforts and work done by the foundation and concluded with the launching of the draft Strategy, on the 3d of December 2003, the International Day of Disability.

During this year, the efforts of the advocacy program focused on the establishment of infrastructure, the setting up and functioning of the Inter-ministerial work group (team). The start of work was made possible through a decision of the Council of Ministers.

The role of the Advocacy Program in all this process consisted on the support and facilities' creation for the members of the group, preparing and providing the necessary materials.

It took many meetings of the Inter-ministerial Group (with the attendance of the representatives of ADRF), disability organizations, member of the network of the advocacy program, and their joint meetings, to achieve the preparation of the draft and its launching in the National Conference on the 3rd of December 2003.

Thanks to ADRF efforts, the process had even the support of OSCE Presence in Albania, Democratization Department, which enabled also the organization of the Conference to discuss the Draft of the NSPD. The recommendations of this conference were reflected in the draft, elaborated after the conference with the assistance also of the German expert, suggested by OSCE, Mrs. Ulrike Geith, MA and Special Representative of the State Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Germany for Disability Issues, who contributed with numerous experiences in this field.

The achieved level of the advocacy group representation and involvement created further conditions for the continuation of the process on implementation and monitoring level.