

Convention - against the fears, barriers and stigma (PHOTO)

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Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

From awareness depends on the quality of life, experts decided in Volozhin, and organized outreach consultation on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the village council district.

March 22 such consultation took place in Rakov, Here the provisions of the Convention, set out in its rights and freedoms, mechanisms of protection of rights of people with disabilities, as well as on social services that provides Volozhinsky TTSSON were presented.

In general, Volozhin, perhaps, a leader in Belarus in the number of completed projects related to solving the problems of people with disabilities. One of the most ambitious of them - "[Volozhin without barriers](#)", in which the built hostel for people with disabilities from around the world, which will contain the tourist zone, hostel, conference hall, a hall for food. In addition to this at the

present time in the regional center has been operating for 14 minutes (!) Social project for growing oyster mushrooms. On completion of 4 people who work in it and have a disability, will receive royalties.

With such activity Valozhyn could not escape the campaign, "[Agenda 50](#)", running for the most successful consolidation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Belarusian regions. And local activists won a mini-grant from the European Union on the implementation of the project "Dissemination and application of the ideas of the Convention."



From consultation in Rakovsky . Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

- This project is planned for a 7-site consultations in the largest village council district - told the information service of "[EuroBelarus](#)" head of the initiative Larisa Scherbachevich . - If we manage to save money, we will have another one, because they are in demand among people, especially in remote villages.
"Do not keep the kids at home"

According to Larisa Scherbachevich, people know little about the ratification of the Convention. Lack of awareness - one of the main problems, which put forward the project. Therefore, during the consultation residents of Volozhin district villages get acquainted with the legal framework, and ensuring safety of life, which says a representative of Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Interior that are connected to this exit celebrations, and with services department TTSSON day stay. In the latter for young people with disabilities to help develop work skills, teach self-care for independent living, conduct social adaptation and employment in various creative fields already in 12 circles.

- I faced some saying: 'Do not come to us', 'I can understand the parents of children with disabilities - I myself has a son with cerebral palsy - they were afraid, - says Larisa Scherbachevich. - But a mother and her child at home, where elsewhere – we need adult independent persons. That's how it is manifested in the department. It can work to help take care of the weak, self-realization.



Larisa Scherbachevich. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

The department provides a service and "social relief," which can be used twice a month on Saturdays. Parents can bring from the morning in the center of children of 14 years and older, and for dinner to solve the case. However, a paid service: 3 rubles 68 kopecks per hour.

- Gone are the days when we kept the children around him, wanting to give them the best. Now there are many services available for people with disabilities. Our children can and should live a full life - and I say this from personal experience. Hostel - not an option, - convinced the project manager.

It is supported and the head of the primary compartment receiving information Volozhinski TTSSON Elena Rai.

- In my 16-year-old daughter's disability, and had not been where to go with the child, all point the finger, and only the family could have something to give him. Now I can go to work, I know that my child is well maintained, it may develop some ability to fulfill your potential and be in demand in society. Therefore, if possible, keep children at home. They should be able to work and receive a salary, length of service. This is a great incentive.



Elena Ray. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

Elena Ray told about other services of the center, among them - social care home, legal counseling, humanitarian aid, paid sawing firewood and abkos farmsteads, material assistance, provision of technical means of rehabilitation and free rental, free rental of baby accessories, free and paid services nurse, nurses, a psychologist, employment. Changes "in the minds and souls"

TTSSON psychologist Elena Zhdanyuk also travels to the information activities of the project. It is their moderator and motivator at the same time telling that disability - not a hindrance to success, and the main barriers are contained in our head. Specially for this purpose it has prepared a presentation that gives examples of great people with disabilities: writers, athletes (among them - and the Belarusian Paralympic), pilots, models, entrepreneurs, speakers, Nobel Prize winners ...

- There is a habit of saying "we" of "healthy" people and "them" - on people with disabilities. But disability can happen with everyone, and with it - the transition from "we" to "they." With the adoption of the Convention, we arrive at the conclusion that the stigma and discrimination based on disability symptoms disappear, - says the psychologist.



Elena Zhdanyuk. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

But now a lot has changed for the better. This applies not only to services but also attitudes towards people with disabilities in society, as well as the changes "in our heads and hearts" , as noted by local resident Ivan . His family faced child with a disability is not immediately, the disease began to show when the daughter was in the 4th grade. First they tried to cope on their own and did not know much about the possibility of rehabilitation in the region. Now the girl is 17 years old, she graduated from high school, and about a year visiting the office in TTSSON Volozhin, where he studies everyday things and even performing on stage.

She grew up, and should start to work, so we decided to contact the TTSSON. It is not afraid to make this world, because society is changing, - says Ivan. - But all the legislation, which people still have to exist to be followed, and I hope that the Convention has the interaction of society and state will improve.



Villagers Rakovski village council during consultations. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

The project is already producing results

The local authorities also have a hope for cooperation and how can support the project for the dissemination of the ideas of the Convention. Chairman of the Executive Committee of Rakovski rural Alexander Mekinko recognizes that in the area there are also disadvantages of traffic, which are not easy to solve, and the lack of infrastructure, and a number of other issues. But he believes that the adoption of the Convention over time can make a difference when gradually implement prescribed therein contained.

- The Convention - a stage specifically defined plan of what you need to accomplish, - he says.

Larisa Scherbachevich notes that the project is not immediately be able to close all the questions in the area, but he will lay the foundation of information on which to perform certain tasks and get results. Already, thanks to the initiative of the professionals in the field center is possible to better understand the difficulties and needs of people with disabilities. Indeed, in rural areas, they are slightly different than in the city, where people are more informed and less acute question of the possibility of access to a particular institution.

- After consultation, we concluded that in Ilyanets and perhaps in the form of Rakov organize work where Volozhinski TTSSON experts will travel to the settlements and carry clubs for people with disabilities to enable them to social projects. After all, people from the area difficult to get to our center in Volozhin, so if you are willing, we will create its branch - promises Larisa Scherbachevich.

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Work, made by hands of people with disabilities in the Volozhin TTSSON. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"

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