

# Larisa Scherbachevich: We will develop steadily

Valozhyn submitted a draft Local Agenda summed up the implementation of mini-projects within the framework of the campaign "Agenda 50".

[The campaign "Agenda 50"](#) was intended to ensure that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by Belarus in 2015, were not only on paper, but realized in real life. The campaign involved five pilot cities Belarus, in each of the local team, which includes people with disabilities, representatives of public organizations and local activists, as well as all stakeholders, defining their local problems in the field of disability and write local agenda. In addition to the campaign in each city implemented the project (and sometimes more than one). Information Service ["EuroBelarus"](#) visited Volozhin - the city, which can be called a successful example of participation in the campaign. There have already completed their [mini-project](#) and presented a draft of the local agenda.

## Foto 1

*Presentation. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

## Foto 2

*Sergey Drozdowski. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

Volozhin was not only a hospitable city, there are active people who have picked up our idea. We work in many parts of the country, and as a kindly offer Valozhyn as a progressive example they have already been visited by more than one delegation; this to exchange experience, - said the director of the [Office on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) Sergey Drozdowski , welcoming local participants at the grand summing up of participation in the campaign.

The draft agenda for local Volozhin is an important milestone in the implementation stage of the Convention in the region. The initiative group and its creation included people with disabilities, and members of the local TTSSON (social services). The Office helped them in this process, as well as experts from Poland. Specialist from Volozhin TTSSON Elena Zhdanyuk told that they all had several working group meetings with the participation of both experts and without them, as they did the work in subgroups.

## Foto 3

*Elena Zhdanyuk. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

The main result of the work was to identify local problems, these were: social prejudice against children with disabilities in the city's educational institutions, lack of barrier-free environment, low level of awareness of people with disabilities about their rights and responsibilities, the fears of employers, as well as the lack of repair and maintenance of rehabilitation funds. And the directions of Acts to address these issues: for example, work with children, parents and teachers in educational institutions, to inform area residents about the legal aspects of disability. Incidentally, it was dedicated to informing the mini-project "Dissemination and application of the ideas of the Convention", which was realized in the Volozhin district within the campaign. Its coordinator, chairman of the department of Volozhin BelAPDIIMI Larisa Scherbachevich said that all participated in the project in total 790 people - people with disabilities and their families, representatives of public organizations, government agencies, and volunteers.

## Foto 4

*Larisa Scherbachevich. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

The initiative in seven villages' councils of Volozhin district held visiting consultations, during which the local people talked about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its principles.

– Thanks to the advice we have been able to convey to the public information on the programs implemented in Belarus, and at the same time discovered the problems that exist among the local population. In addition, we conducted training workshops on personal growth of young people with disabilities, including Ivenets orphanage, eight lessons, and seminars "peer to peer" - said Larissa Scherbachevich.

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## Foto 5

*The presentation was attended by students and Ivenets orphanage. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

According to her, through consultations we identified problems on the local scale, which will become one of the main agenda items: improved interaction with the local district administration. Educational events allowed to engage in the activities of the project young people with disabilities who are in everyday life have almost no opportunities for an active

social life. But the local authorities, due to the implementation of the project, once again actualized the need for the implementation of the Convention.

The project was achieved and informal purposes: boarding met and became friends with the volunteers now and maintain relationships in social networks.

## Foto 6

*With the presentation of Volozhin mini-project. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

We managed to bring the project all categories of people with disabilities - as children, young people and people of working age and adults. I think that we will go to sustainable development and will continue to pursue our workshops, so those questions and many more. Office on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has provided us with an excellent information base, and thanks a lot to the European Union, which has supported us in this project - in Volozhin this was not happened yet! - shared with the Information "EuroBelarus" Larissa Scherbachevich.

As a bonus, she announced holding another workshop "Peer-to-peer", which will be held July 16 in Nesvizh, after which the participants and volunteers will visit Nesvizh palace and park complex.

## Foto 7

*At the presentation. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

Volozhin project is good because it covered one of the components of the "Agenda 50" - the inclusion of people with disabilities in decision-making, - says Sergey Drozdowski. - The project team successfully chose the aspect with which they were able to work – such as information. Much of the success was determined by the fact that an inclusive team was created - the project was of interest to all. Participants were able to find common point with the local authorities. Of course, we can say that the results of the project can not "touch hands" - meetings, information ... On the other hand, the change in attitudes towards people with disabilities - the most difficult component of the Convention, and that this attempt has been made, is a strong motivational reasons.

## Foto 8

*Office on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities received the award for helping to implement the campaign "Agenda 50". Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

Now that the draft agenda for local Volozhin is ready, and it will improve and bring to a state a real and substantial document. It is unknown how it will be adopted. The decision is of the executive committee, or the gentleman's agreement of urban entities, but the work and the competence of those who received the members of the team, will be used later in other projects.

## Foto 9

*Volozhinski activists. Photo Information Service "EuroBelarus"*

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