

GERMANY

a) Legislation framework

In 2006, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted and entered into effect in 2008. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities contains - in addition to the affirmation of general human rights also for disabled people - a large number of special regulations adapted to the life situation of disabled people. The majority of EU member states signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30 March 2007. In addition, the European Community also signed the Convention on the basis of a resolution of the Council of the European Union of 20 March 2007 (7404/07), thus signing a human rights treaty for the first time. The term "people with disabilities" is defined in Article 1 sentence 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Accordingly, the term "persons with disabilities" refers to persons who have long-term physical, mental, spiritual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may prevent them from participating fully, effectively and equally in society.

Article 1 sentence 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities thus describes the group of persons covered by the protection of the Convention.

Already in the preamble of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, letter e, reference is made to the term "disability". It describes that the understanding of disability is constantly evolving and that disability arises from the interaction between people with disabilities and attitudinal and environmental barriers that prevent them from participating fully, effectively and equally in society. This explanation makes it clear that an understanding of "disability" is not understood as a firmly defined concept, but is dependent on social developments. This is also supported by the fact that the explanation of "persons with disabilities" has not been included as a technical definition in Article 2. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities no longer deals with the integration of "excluded persons", but with



making it possible from the outset for all people to participate fully in all activities (inclusion).

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was also implemented in Germany in the "National Action Plan of the Federal Government for the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Our Way to an inclusive Society".

The Federal Government would like to promote the access of people with disabilities to popular sports. They should not only participate in prevention and rehabilitation courses.

"Sport overcomes boundaries, promotes personal development, strengthens self-confidence and conveys values such as respect and tolerance in dealing with others. For people with disabilities, sport is therefore equally important for rehabilitation and social inclusion." (National Action Plan, point 3.9)

The Federal Government also promotes the expansion of Olympic and competition teams whose members have a disability.

b) Identify main social actors

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

The main player in this field is the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which has been dealing with the issue since 2008. In the area of inclusion, the Ministry is primarily concerned with equal opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in the labour market and social life. This also includes participation in sports events.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has commissioned a study which, since 2016, has been researching how the state of affairs and perspectives in inclusive sport are. The aim is to create a network to provide sufficient sports opportunities for people with disabilities.



Sports inclusion managers

In order to promote the implementation of inclusion in and through sport and to increase the proportion of people working full-time in non-profit sport in the long term, a project is being promoted by ministry of labour and social affairs in which sports inclusion managers are trained part-time and initially employed in clubs and associations for a period of two years. In clubs and associations, they can contribute, among other things, to the development of inclusive offers and to the advertising of disabled club members.

Federal commissioner for the interests of people with disabilities

There is also a federal commissioner for the interests of people with disabilities. His or her task is to promote the interests of people with disabilities and to ensure the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

An interesting offer from the Federal Commissioner is the "Inclusive Map". Here, offers can be entered that have been designed for people with disabilities. In doing so, 10 points were established which the offers must fulfil in order to appear on the map.

The map can be viewed here:

https://www.inklusionslandkarte.de/IKL/Startseite/Startseite_node.html

Forum Article 30 of CRPD

The implementation and further development of Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires new forms of cooperation between the associations that organise sport for people with disabilities. Against this background, the three disabled sports associations of Lower Saxony, the Disabled Sports Association of Lower Saxony (BSN), the Deaf Sports Association of Lower Saxony



(GSN) and Special Olympics Germany in Lower Saxony (SO NDS), have founded the initiative "Forum Article 30 UN-BRK/Inclusion in Culture, Leisure and Sport".

German Olympic Sports Federation (GOSF):

The German Olympic Sports Confederation has also addressed the issue of inclusion in its strategy paper "Inclusion in and through sport". It has not only established the "Paralympics", but has also set itself other goals, such as lobbying for the interests of people with disabilities in the sports sector, support and advice as well as public relations work.

National Paralympics Committee Germany

The National Paralympics Committee Germany (NPCG) is the responsible professional association in the German Olympic Sports Association (GOSF) for the sport of people with disabilities. At the same time, the DBS is the national Paralympic Committee for Germany and in this function a member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The DBS has a self-governing youth organisation, the Deutsche Behindertensportjugend (DBSJ), within the framework of its statutes.

"Aktion Mensch"

"Aktion Mensch" is an important national stakeholder in Germany. Together with top sports associations, Aktion Mensch aims to promote inclusion and accessibility in sport. Gymnasiums, basketball and football fields are to become meeting places for people with and without disabilities. In order to achieve this goal, barriers must be dismantled. When a new sports field is built, accessibility should be planned from the outset. This is the only way for everyone to play sport together. A survey by Aktion Mensch has shown that more than two thirds of sportsmen and women like sports facilities.

Local sports clubs:

There are also many offers in local sports clubs for people with disabilities. They can participate in team sports or swimming courses.

c) Training opportunities

Participation

Participation in sports, trainers are specially trained to deal with people with mental or physical disabilities

Special sports

In groups for people with disabilities who play sports designed for their handicap (e.g. wheelchair basketball)

Integrative offers in competitive sports

Beside the offer for Olympia, there are also training offers, teams and federations for the Paralympics.

d) Best practices

The Center for University Sports Hannover offers various sports courses, including sports courses. Of course, people with disabilities are not excluded from the general sports programme and can participate in it as well, if necessary with the help of the Buddy Project.



Title	"Buddy-Projekt"
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Target Group/Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - students and employees of the university, other Hannover locals who are interested in the project - the participants do sports in tandems, i.e. the method requires two people. Both of them benefit from the method - the tandems choose to participate in one sports course out of a wide range of courses for students and employees offered by the university - the target groups are students and employees (and potentially other locals who are not affiliated with the university) - the target group consists of people with disabilities/ need for support who would not be able to do sports without assistance, and of people who want to assist them



<p>Content/Learning Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the content of the activities is the type of sport the partners choose to do together - the participants develop different physical skills, depending on the type of sport - by learning how to do sports in a tandem of two partners with different conditions, the participants develop communicative and social skills - the partners gain confidence by improving their abilities in different areas - after they have completed the methodology, the participants are supposed to know how to do sports in a team of differently abled people
<p>Description of the Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interested students and employees who want to support the project or who are in need of support fill out a form on the website in which they also state what kind of sport they would like to do - prior to every semester, the coordinator creates an excel table and tries to find suitable matches - after the matching process, the tandems are invited to meet in person with the coordinator - they attend a workshop to get to know each other even better - the tandems start doing sports together - occasionally, the coordinator also offers a workshop on communication and how to do sports in a tandem. These workshops are voluntary. Apart from the content the participants engage with, these workshops are also an opportunity for the different tandems to get together and exchange their experiences



Resources needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - most of the resources are already provided by the university's sports center (facilities, equipment, trainers) - the time required depends on the student who is in need of support (e.g. some tandem partners have to be picked up from home, while some only need assistance during the course) - the tandem partner who supports the other student has the role of an additional trainer and gets paid for the time he or she spends on the project
Evaluation of the Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - so far, only one workshop has been evaluated. It received an overall positive feedback. - at the end of next semester, an official, barrier-free evaluation of the project will be conducted - observations of the project show that the tandems enjoy doing sports together and that they improve their physical skills. The first tandem, which initiated the project, even successfully attended the Berlin Relay Marathon. The tandems are quickly accepted among the other participants of the courses. If the person who assists has to miss a training session, other participants readily step in.