

JOINT UNDERSTANDING OF CO-PRODUCTION

In the disability field, co-production is an inclusive working practice between experts by experience (users), organisations being of support, public authorities and, if relevant, families and other stakeholders. The ultimate goal is the delivery of a service, policy or activity that is responsive to the individual's needs and preferences in line with the 'nothing about us, without us' principle and principles of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Through co-production all stakeholders are empowered and are empowering as they are continuously involved in the design, development and delivery of the service, policy or activity. Co-production allows users to be in control of their lives, while taking ownership and expressing choice through active and meaningful partnerships.

EASPD proposes three main elements for co-production in the disability field:

1. Co-production promotes shifting the balance of power and responsibility solely from professional support services and authorities. It also establishes that all stakeholders are integral to the policy, service or activity, developed in equal partnership with persons with support needs as the drivers. Co-production goes beyond consultation, all partners in a co-production process collectively seek to identify and overcome barriers towards full implementation of the co-

production principal.

2. Coproduction recognises that every individual with support needs should be fully, structurally, meaningfully and in an ongoing manner involved at all stages in the design, development and delivery of the relevant service, policy or activity. It requires all stakeholders to acknowledge and recognise the expertise, desires, will and preferences of the person with support needs. Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that people are provided with the right level of independent support, which empowers persons with disabilities to make fully informed decisions on how to engage in a co-productive process.
3. Co-production is an innovative working practice ensuring that all stakeholders actively rethink and reassess how they are currently operating. Shared dialogue, jointly agreed outcomes, fully inclusive environments and reasonable accommodations must become an essential part of their work structures.

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