



## Overview of the purpose and work of the Taskforce “Developing the Support Services of Tomorrow”

The “[Joint Declaration: Developing the Support Services of Tomorrow](#)” has been ratified by the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), the European Disability Forum (EDF), the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE Families-Europe), the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), Inclusion Europe and Mental Health Europe (MHE-SME).

This Joint Declaration aims at providing a common understanding between signatories on the direction support services should take to enable full inclusion and implement the UN CRPD, on the model of co-production.

Co-production 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 policy, service or activity.

The signatory organisations have agreed to focus their work for a minimum of two years on four key articles: article 12 on equal recognition before the law; article 19 on living independently and being included in the community; article 24 on education; and article 27 on work and employment.

The objectives of this cooperation is to improve trust between stakeholders and understanding of each other’s position; find common solutions on how to strengthen a human rights-based approach in European policies and processes; develop guidelines and exchange promising practices on support models in line with the CRPD and; strengthen cooperation with mainstream stakeholders and involve them in discussions and processes.

A Taskforce on Support Services of Tomorrow was set up to implement these objectives at international, European and national/regional/local level.

International level	- Side event promoting the Joint Declaration and co-production at the UN CRPD Conference of States Parties in New-York, June 2017
European level	- Promoting the Joint Declaration through signatories’ events such as COFACE Families Europe conference ‘Families on the Move’ - Organisation of an international conference on support services of tomorrow in Brussels, October 2016 - Promotion of the Joint Declaration and co-production in the European Parliament’s Disability Intergroup and at the European Disability High Level Group - Organisation of an event in the European Parliament focusing co-production in the employment for persons with disabilities, November 2017 - Development of a campaign for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in work and employment in collaboration with the European Commission, January 2018

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National/regional/local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of guidelines for implementing co-production at national/regional/local level</li> <li>- Development of pilot co-production models among the members of the signatory organisations in the field of independent living and living in the community</li> </ul>
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## 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 coproduction all stakeholders are empowered and are empowering as they are continuously involved in the design, development and delivery of the service, policy or activity. Coproduction 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 coproduction 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 coproduction 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.

Agreed on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

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