

Lucca, 18.10.2013

THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS THE EU AND IN ITALY

- **Umbrella organisation**
 - **full members from 30 European countries**
 - **43 European organisations from all main disabilities and chronic illnesses**
- **Leaded by persons with disabilities & parents representing persons with disabilities and intense support needs**

approach to disability

- **The ratification of the UNCRPD calls for:**
 - **a rights-based approach to disability**
 - **the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities**
 - **inclusiveness of society**

Impact of austerity measures on persons with disabilities

Budget cuts to social policies hinder persons with disabilities rights to leave independently and participate in society

- **Reducing quantity and quality of support and services to persons with disabilities**
- **at the moment when they need them most**
- **Increasing**
 - **Poverty**
 - **Illiteracy**
 - **Social exclusion**
 - **Discrimination**

Economic crisis: the way forward

- Investing in the value of EU citizens, starting from the most vulnerable ones
- Recognising Social Justice as the pre-condition of future prosperity
- Undertaking all the necessary policies and actions to protect persons with disabilities from exclusion, poverty and discrimination that the crisis brings about
- Promoting labour market participation, accessibility, mobility and participation
- Developing innovative sustainable services promoting independent living in the community for all persons with disabilities
- Collecting reliable, comprehensive and consistent data on persons with disabilities

Impact of the economic crisis on persons with disabilities in Italy

- **Expenditure** for services to persons with **disabilities** 2008 = **23 Euro / Year / person**, (EU mean = 125 euro)
- **Budget cuts to social policy budgets since 2008 = - 63%**
- Reducing quantity and quality of support and services to persons with disabilities
- **National fund for persons in need of intense support cancelled in 2011, and only partially restored in 2013 (- 31%)**
- **Further cuts decided in 2013**
- **Negative attitudes: persons with disabilities perceived as generators of costs rather than as equal citizen**

High Level Meeting on Disability 12.2011



**The crisis shouldn't
Prevent us from
advancing in the
implementation of the
UNCRPD**

José Manuel Barroso
President of the EU Commission