



Module 3 – Tipsheet

Disability Inclusion – Basics

Disability – what does it mean?

According to Article 1 of the “UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (CRPD) people with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which **in interaction with various barriers** may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis.



People are being disabled by barriers in the environment and the society (e.g., through prejudices, stairs, missing subtitles, etc.), **not by their impairment or difference**. Disability is therefore not an individual but a social problem. Removing these barriers creates equality and offers people with disability more independence.



Accessibility enables all people – with and without disabilities – to make unrestricted use of services, facilities and objects in daily life. More than **one billion people worldwide**, which means **15%** of the world population, have a disability.



Broad spectrum of disabilities

At 88%, **illnesses** are the **most common reason** for disability. In addition, it should be noted that **70% of disabilities are not visible**. Many people live with chronic diseases (such as diabetes, cancer, Multiple Sclerosis) or psychological disabilities such as depressions, addiction, bipolar disorders.



By the way: People with disabilities are by no means a homogenous group. There are different causes and different effects. **Every disability is individual** just like the person themselves.

Focus on the fact that disabled does not mean **„less capable“**. There are **numerous qualities** that derive from disability.