



European Research Agendas for Disability Equality (EuRADE)

About the project

- Project funded by the European Commission (FP7)
- ‘Science in Society’ programme
- ‘Capacity building activities for civil society organisations...
...and development of cooperative research activities’
- Three partners:
 - European Disability Forum
 - University of Leeds
 - Maastricht University
- February 2008 – August 2009 (18 months)

Aims and focus

1. Identify and communicate the research priorities of disabled people's organisations in European civil society
2. Develop knowledge in civil society about research and in European countries
3. Initiate new research collaborations with European research teams within available funding opportunities

Activities

- review current themes (EDF, DPI, EC, UNCRPD, etc.)
- consult EDF members (questionnaire)
- disseminate priorities (civil society, researchers, policy makers)
- research knowledge summer school (civil society and researchers)
- observation at research conferences ('researching the researchers')
- online training (research methods and knowledge)
- identification of funding opportunities (FP7 and others)
- initiation of research funding collaborations (matching and meeting)

Survey

- Online questionnaire
- 68 organisations
- Mostly national or European level and controlled by disabled people
- Strong interest in research (and experiences of collaboration)
- Lack of resources for own research
- Very positive about potential for academic collaborations...
- ...BUT... Universities do not 'understand research needs'
- Civil society have clear priorities and strong ideas (many ideas!)

Summer School

- 11 national or European organisations (8 women, 3 men)
- 11 researchers (6 women, 5 men)
- 15 countries represented
- 5 different academic disciplines (different methods)
- Shared commitment to equality and participation
- Meet the researchers ('presentations' of research activity)
- Doing disability research ('theory', politics, methods?)
- Developing ideas (group work and informal discussion)

Who does what?

- Setting the agenda (funding and ideas)
- Formulating the questions
- Choosing the methods
- Access to people and knowledge
- Analysis of data
- Validation of results
- Dissemination and communication
- Practical implementation

Choice of Methods

- Questionnaires (paper and web)
- Life histories
- Observation (covert and overt)
- Interviews and focus groups (structured and conversational)
- Official statistics
- Measurement scales
- Documentary analysis (academic, legal, policy)
- Experiments and trials
- Theory
- Case studies and comparisons...?

Roles for disabled people?

- Research 'subjects' and participants
- Project reference group
- Consultants and advisors
- Peer interviewers
- Co-researchers
- Academics
- Project co-ordinators
- Employers



How would you do it?

Ideas for research projects

- What is the question...?
- Why is it relevant and important...?
- Where is the evidence we need...?
- How can we get it...?
- Who should be involved...?

What next?

- Develop the ideas
- Discuss organisational commitments
- Further training opportunity
- Selection of supported projects (EDF)
- Selection of researchers
- Development of collaboration
- Proposals for funding research projects

What was your experience?

- What do you think of the idea?
- Do you think it will work?
- What did you find useful?
- What could we improve?
- How can we help?
- How can you help?



Thank you for coming to Leeds!

Mark, Lisa, Sandra