

WORK FOR ALL

For most people, work means being part of a meaningful process that enables them to be productive and create value. According to the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights "everyone" has the right to work. This of course includes people with disabilities. However, the latter do not enjoy the same access to work as the general population. That is why the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) calls for an inclusive labour market where all people not only have the right to work, but can also exercise it.

However, the promotion of an inclusive labour market does not guarantee that everyone actually has access to it. The wide range of people with disabilities includes a huge group of people who, due to the severity of their health, functional, psychological, developmental and cognitive disabilities, need special support to exercise their right to work.

That is why the services of sheltered workshops play such an important role. By offering work as well as providing support services for over three million people with disabilities in Europe, sheltered workshops are a part of an inclusive labour market.

Sheltered workshops:

- are an important part of the different national support systems for participation in work (including supported employment and inclusive enterprises).
- provide comprehensive services ranging from temporary support on the way to employment to permanent support services for those people who need them.

Regardless of the economic situation in Europe, people who need ongoing support would not have sufficient access to work opportunities without the services of sheltered workshops. For many of them the services of sheltered workshops are a possibility, often the only one, to participate in work.

We are committed to:

- enabling self-determined participation in work and society for people with disabilities;
- person-centered and adequately funded services for people with disabilities who otherwise would not have access to work;
- the further development of the services of sheltered workshops in accordance with the UN-CRPD;
- the promotion of qualified education and training for people with disabilities.

We are:

Organizations and service providers for people with disabilities from Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden.