

## **Minutes National Workshop**

ENEVA  
4.11.2008, Graz

Start: 9:00

### **1) Welcome of the Participants**

The organising organisation is presenting the organisation SINN and the frame of the project, including short presentation of the ENEVA Homepage and the ENEVA partners (Dr. Pretis) Information about leaflets and available material (checklist sustainability)

- 2) **Organisational issues** (list of participants, breaks, lunch, group work in the afternoon with plenary presentations of the group findings)
- 3) **Presentation** of the logical framework and the background of the project (Dr. Pretis)
- 4) **Introduction** towards the topic of sustainability (see attached ppt-presentation).

Participants discuss the importance of sustainable networks regarding projects in the field of disability. Some participants describe best practice examples (in terms of mainstream-integration of project findings: z.B. Elternbildungsprojekt in Styria, Integrative Berufsausbildungsassistenz). Political lobbying from the very beginning of the project is highlighted

### **5) Lunchbreak**

Creation of 4 working groups

- a) Definition of sustainability in the field of disability
- b) Indicators of sustainability in the field of disability
- c) Challenges of sustainability in the field of disability
- d) Strategies to increase sustainability

### **6) Summary of working group findings**

**Group a:** Difficulty to define sustainability. Term used mainly in the field of ecology. Question whether these concepts can be directly transferred into the field of education. General consensus within the group, that sustainability of results are important. On the other hand experience, that project results disappear after the end of the project.

Sustainability definition on different levels (from personal level of the beneficiary up to global impact.) Some consensus, that project results should be observable on the level of quality of life for people with disability. Could be very diverse. Possible danger of too general parameters. Group consensus: Sustainability guaranteed if the quality of life of a person with disability is evidently increased.

**Group b:** Indicators could be defined on different levels: change of a law or regulation, change of services or direct service-delivery, change in attitudes... Post hoc definition of criteria might be difficult. Consensus, that indicators should be defined at the very beginning of the project. Importance of the level of abstraction (of the indicators). Suggestion: some middle level, which might be still observable

Regarding project: Are concrete impacts observable?

- on the level of regulations/laws
- on the level of training of professionals
- on the level of service delivery
- on the level of attitudes
- on the level of hand-on-practice
- on the level of individual processes

**Group c:** Sometimes changes are difficult to be observed and described. People with disability are not always fully participating in management processes. Changes normally are initiated from this level (e.g. in services). Sometimes people with disability might show difficulties to articulate changes. Sustainable effects need time to be implemented (sleeper effect).

It is important to have patience, therefore projects should be prolonged. Typical project duration (2-3 years) are too short for long-term-changes.

**Group d:** Highlight, that every strategies needs resources. The issue of sustainability is directly connected with the availability of financial resources. Strategies of sustainability should be planned in advance. Often : Issue of sustainability in the last months of the project. Important to plan also resources to guarantee sustainability within a project. Important of networks, which can transfer and implement changes.

## 7) Plenary discussion:

Consens: Project have to increase their sustainability. Resources are important, not only in terms of further projects, but of planning processes within the project cycle.

Important: to ensure full participation of people with disability. If they are doing lobbying by themselves, the probability of sustainable mains-stream-integration of a project is higher.

Discussion about necessary resources. Ideal: project is self-sustainable. Within the field of people with disability = not very realistic Important: to create something “useful” within in project. Usefulness is a major category regarding sustainability.

Sustainability, dissemination and exploitation are closely connected. No sustainability, if the project is unknown!!!

Closure: 16:15