

Contributing to legislative change for persons with disabilities

Equality body's practice



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LEGAL CAPACITY

- 1st official translation of the CRPD **2007**:
- legal capacity = capacity to be rights holders



2015 – plenary guardianship abolished

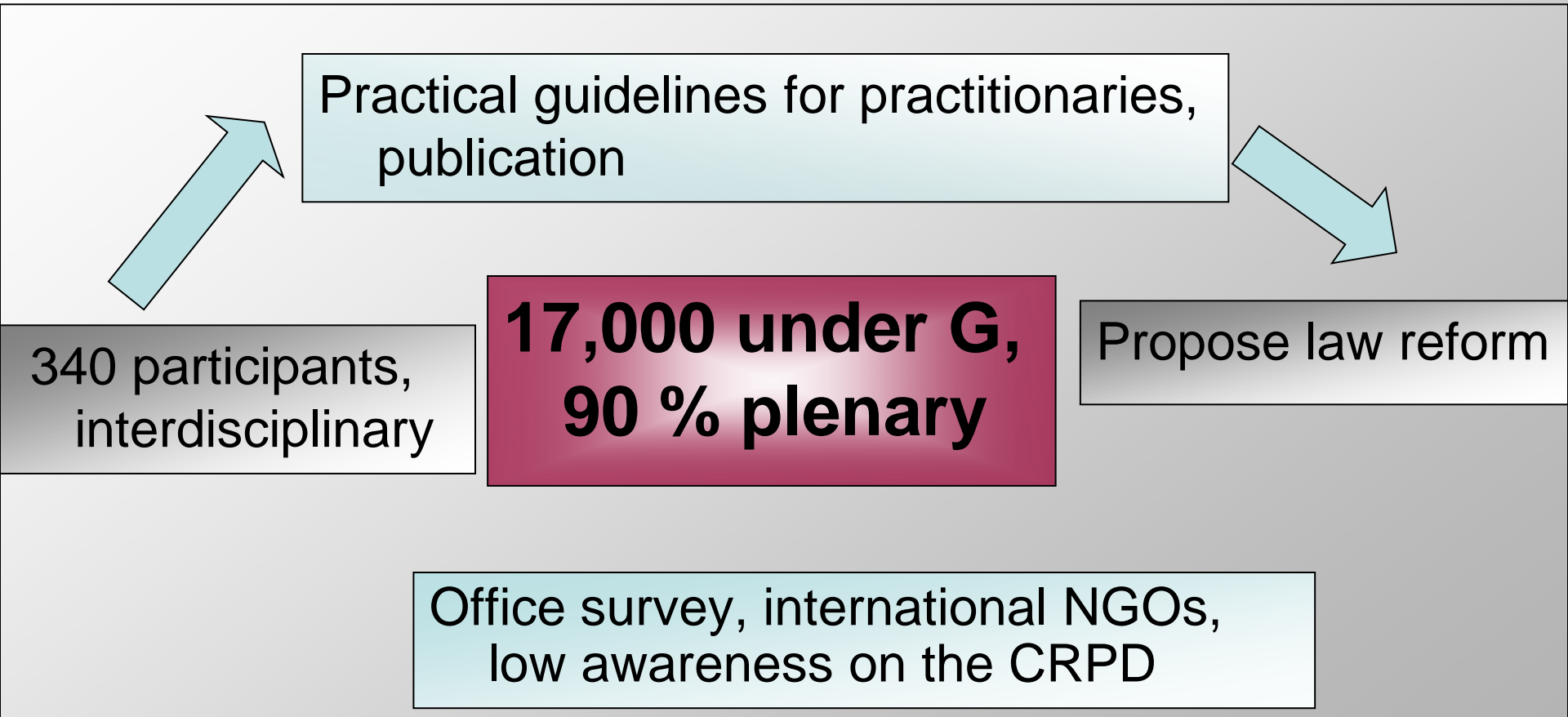
goal: introduce a supporter in decision making

Ways of contributing

- Attend international seminars/conferences
- Identify key stakeholders and good practices
- Organise a conference
- Cooperating with DPOs
- Engage international experts to devise solutions
- Develop a national solution

Challenges: Lack of national know how and good international practices

legal capacity conference 2011



Right to vote

- Constitution: Croatian citizens have a universal and equal voting right upon turning 18
- Act on the Register of Voters – citizens will be struck from the register of voters upon loss of Croatian citizenship, **death and loss of legal capacity (16.355)**

2010 – barriers to voting for persons with disabilities

2011 - Proposed individualized approach (ECtHR case of Kiss v. Hungary) **discriminatory**

- Broad coalition: associations of persons with psychosocial disabilities, self-advocates and association for the promotion of a more active participation of citizens in elections
- 2012 Register of Voters – PwD re-entered regardless of LC

After the act...

- Special polling stations organised in social care homes

96 institutions (60 old people's homes, 36 homes for PwDs)
7 314 voters (5 974 senior citizens, 1 300 PwDs)

- *Can I vote instead of him?*
- *That party supporters took the residents voting*
- *My brother wanted to vote for our late father*
- <http://www.samozastupanje.hr/novosti/pravo-glasa-2908/>

After the act...

- their right not to exercise their right if that is their choice

or if they indeed due to severity of their condition focus their energy on some other matters rather than voting.

could not allow the lack of support or fear of manipulation to be an excuse for denying them rights.

message to politicians: we are your voters, address our issues

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