

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

Thank you for this opportunity; it is a great privilege to be part of this discussion.

konczi@disabilityknowledge.org

My name is Gyorgy (George) Konczi (ELTE University, Barcsi Faculty), I am a professor of Disability Studies. I am from a country that was the second ratifying the UN Convention after Jamaica. Hungary was the first country that ratified the Protocol. We work very hard for the implementation of the Convention.



I understand that there is an unusually tight time frame that we are faced with. So I would like to refer only to a single extremely important aspect that is the core of the implementation of the Convention *worldwide*. It is the question of *capacity to act* and *supported decision making*.

A speaker from a university, a US colleague of mine just mentioned the name of Justin Dart. Dart once called people with disabilities the *poorest of the poor*. But there are even poorer of the poorest: people with severe and multiple disabilities, people with psychosocial (intellectual and mental) disabilities. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THESE PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE THE *CAPACITY TO ACT* IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. This topic is part of the employment and poverty issue that we speak about today, because these people do not have an identity card, they are officially excluded not only from the labor market, but from human rights as well! This problem belongs to Article 12, however, it is very closely connected to Article 27. We had very long debates on this question during the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The result has not to been understood by many governments yet. The result is as follows: *legal capacity* means not only 'capacity to rights', but *capacity to act* as well. And capacity to act will nowhere and never work without the system of *supported decision making* services. It will never work without a support network.

We work very hard for it in Hungary in these days. We are carrying out legal and sociological research on supported decision making in Hungary and we are about to convince judges of courts about its meaning and crucial importance. We, Hungarians, and many other nations of the world need further discussions and the worldwide support of movement of persons with disabilities to make all of this reality. Thank you for your attention.