

The name of this project is **ENABLE**.

ENABLE means:

Enabling inclusion and access to justice for defendants with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.



**Justice** is the national system of laws.

If someone breaks the law, a judge will decide what happens to them, in the **justice system**.



**Defendants** are people who are accused of breaking the law.

Sometimes if they go to court and meet a judge they will have with them a law expert called a **lawyer**.

People with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities are the kind of people who might choose to read an Easy-To-Read document. In this document we will sometimes call them people with disabilities, as it is easier to read.



### **Short explanation**

In the ENABLE project we will talk about:

- access to the justice system
- and fairer procedures in the justice system

for people with disabilities.



People with disabilities are sometimes involved in the justice system. They may be accused of breaking the law. Or they may be asked to speak about someone else who is accused of breaking the law. Dealing with a person who is accused of breaking the law can be called **criminal proceedings**.

The justice system may not be designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. The justice system can be difficult or traumatic for people with disabilities.



Traumatic means that people with disabilities may react with fear, anxiety, anger, depression or guilt.

National laws must ensure equal access to justice for all.

The ENABLE project wants to ensure:

- equal treatment,
- participation,
- inclusion,
- and fair treatment



of defendants with disabilities in the justice system.

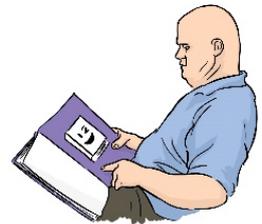
**Who is the ENABLE project for?**

For people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities  
who are involved in the justice system  
and who participate in the legal process.

### **What does the ENABLE project want to do?**

The justice system should provide for people with disabilities:

- information in accessible formats (such as Easy-To-Read),
- accessible technology and information,
- qualified lawyers and justice system workers  
who know about the needs of disabled people, and
- support workers who understand the justice system  
and can support disabled people with the legal process.



### **What is the goal of the ENABLE project?**

We will promote equal access to the justice system.

We will look for ways to improve  
the accessibility of the justice system.

We have 3 goals:

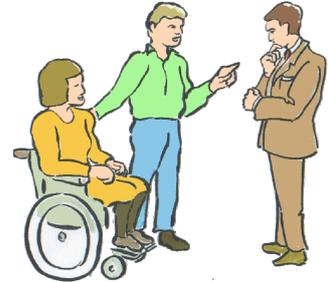
- to improve the knowledge of people  
working in the justice system about  
the needs of people with disabilities,  
especially women with disabilities and people who live in prison.

- to improve the knowledge and understanding about disabled people and the adjustments they need, among people working in the justice system. Such as lawyers, police, judges and others.



- to improve access to legal services for defendants with disabilities.

This means talking to people working in the justice system as well as disability support persons and other people in society who can help.



### **How does the ENABLE project work?**

- We will do research.

We will talk with defendants with disabilities and people who work in the justice system.

- We will prepare a handbook.

The handbook will provide judges and other justice system workers with the information they need to ensure people with disabilities can be heard and understand the proceedings.

- We will prepare a special protocol.

A protocol is an official procedure or system of rules. Our protocol will help people with disabilities



to access the justice system.

## **Important**

We want to help defendants with disabilities.

Experts from different fields

will work together:

- lawyers and other legal experts,
- disability rights experts,
- and other people with knowledge of the justice system and the needs of disabled people.



The project includes people

from EU countries.

EU means European Union.

People and organizations

who work in The ENABLE Project

have much experience and knowledge.

- Centrul de Resurse Juridice (Romania),
- Fenacerci - Federação Nacional de Cooperativas de Solidariedade Social (Portugal),
- Fórum pro lidská práva (Czechia),
- International Commission of Jurists - European Institutions (Belgium),
- KERA Foundation (Bulgaria),
- PIC - Pravni center za varstvo človekovih pravic in okolja (Slovenia),
- Confederación Plena Inclusión España (Spain), and
- Mental Health Perspectives (Lithuania).

The project is coordinated by an international organization - Validity Foundation.

### **More information**

The project follows international and EU standards for disabled people's access to justice.



Some Easy-To-Read information is available by these links:

- [United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (articles 4,5,9,12,13),
- [International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities](#),
- [European Union Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#).

### **Other project information**

Project ENABLE started September 2022.

It will finish in August 2024.

European Union helps to pay for the project.

The project number is 101056701.

Enabling inclusion and access to justice for defendants with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities (101056701 - ENABLE - JUST-2021-JACC).



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

This project is co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

©Illustrations by Peter Gaber (myPart Project) and the archive of  
Zavod Risa.

