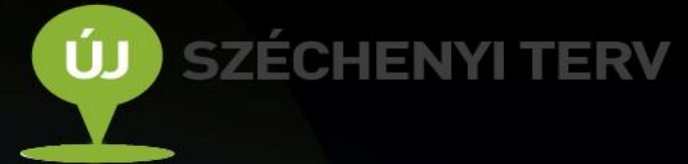


Mozgáskorlátozott emberek foglalkoztatását,
önálló életvitelét segítő eszközfejlesztő
műhely és szolgáltatási hálózat
TÁMOP-1.4.2-07/1.-2008-0001



BRAVING THE WINDMILL

*introducing a new approach into the
Hungarian system of providing AT*

Maastricht, 31. 08. 2011.

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A projekt az Európai Unió támogatásával, az Európai Szociális Alap társfinanszírozásával valósul meg

Topics

1. Need for change
2. MEREK AT achievements
3. The system of providing AT in Hungary
4. Future plans

1. Need for change

- UN Convention on PWD
- Aging population
- Better chances for survival
- Rising life standards
- Unequality in the job market, only 12% rate of employment among PWD
- Too many in social institutions
- Inefficient use of AT
- Barriers to independent life
- Technical development, market forces

2. MEREK facts

- Founded in the 1960ies, rehabilitation from 1988
- 330 clients, 150 employees, yearly budget cca. € 3 M
- National organisation financed by the Ministry of National Resources
- Mission: to contribute to the integration of PWD through quality rehabilitation services
- Rehabilitation services: physical therapy, providing AT, social work, psychological, pedagogical services, occupational rehabilitation, personal assistance, health services, general education, temporary accommodation

MEREK steps towards AT

- Baseline: residential health care institution; demand for the service approach and the rehabilitation approach
- Studying ICF (2004)
- First AT workshop (2005)
- Rehabilitational employment (2005)
- International experience: AT is a normal part of life, it is not a tool for discrimination; human services are also important in the provision of AT!
- House of Tomorrow (2008)
- **The Guruló Project (2008-12): network of AT workshops**

Guruló activities



SZÉCHENYI TERV

Budget: € 5M



Workshops

- 1 in each region
- employing PWD
- repair and adaptation controlled by rehabilitation experts



Cooperations

- networking seminars
- study trips
- cooperations, conferences



2008

2009

2010

2011

2012



Trainings

- practical and theoretical training of professionals
- training project staff
- disseminating the use of ICF



Professional developments

- measuring frame for wheelchairs
- pressure mapping
- further development of ICF



Project achievements

- change of attitude towards AT among project staff and partners
- cooperation between different professions and with domestic partners
- technical developments
- becoming familiar with international practices, developments and dilemmas
- achieving project indicators
- raise of MEREK prestige
- lobbying for a change of providing AT

Project difficulties

- finding suitable staff,
- lack of both business and social approach among employees
- lack of change in customers' own attitudes
- ensuring long-term sustainability
- resistance of AT distributors
- not enough workshops: regional coverage does not reach clients in remote areas
- difficulties of using ICF

WHY A WINDMILL?



3. The present system of providing AT

1. prescription of AT by a doctor, choosing AT from a list of supported items; delivery of AT by a distributor
2. in the case of expensive items approval by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF)
3. lending only in the case of a few expensive tools
4. difficult repair of AT, no substitute items provided
5. many types of AT are not on the list; difficult to get a new product on the list;
6. many AT is only provided, but not used or even sold
7. Hungary spends significantly less on AT and more on drugs: 1:3 in the EU, as opposed to 1:7

Medicalisation of providing AT

1. The provision of AT is usually initiated by a family doctor that in reality acts like a social worker as well
2. Absence of other professions
3. Disability is still basically a medical category
4. Doctors and suppliers' vested interests
5. There is no special distribution network for non-medical AT
6. The advertising of supported AT is prohibited
7. Lack of proper AT training

Suggestions for a reform

1. Transition from buying AT to borrowing/lending system
2. The complex assessment of the client
3. Eligibility based on certain life situations and problems
4. Delivering personal service packages rather than just AT
5. Recognising the importance of human services
6. Comparative database of AT, lift ban on advertising
7. Entering new types of products on the list (and later eliminate the list of supported devices)
8. Continuous professional training related to AT
9. Local/county level AT centers

4. Guruló future plans

- cooperations to create an AT showroom and training centre
- database for available AT, upload Hungarian data to EASTIN
- cooperations to change the system and the general attitude towards AT, promote use
- cooperation with job centres to enhance employment
- develop networks of rehabilitation services around workshops
- introduce AT into higher education, develop ICF, user validation criteria, test equipment
- partnerships to test AT and include user experience
- create new workshops

Guruló plans to develop AT

- criteria for selecting the right AT, measurement methods
- development of ICF
- describe usual life situations with possible AT solutions
- engage in reforming the provisional system
- ICF - ISO database
- upload EASTIN Database
- develop operation of workshops
- continuous learning: international relations, literature
- inventing new tools

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Thank you for your attention
at the end of a long day!

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MAGYARORSZÁG MEGÚJUL

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