

Promoting the Equalization of Opportunities



How Styria organizes a help system of Public-Private-Partnership for people with disabilities

My professional positions ...



Styrian service provider for
persons with disabilities

NGO
Non-profit

Number of employees: 350

DIE STEIRISCHE BEHINDERTENHILFE

Styrian umbrella organization
representing
60 service providers for persons
with disabilities
and
about 20 self-advocacy
organizations



Styria

(Steiermark)

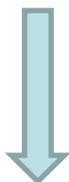
... is one of the nine federated states („Bundesländer“) in Austria

The population (as of 2011) was 1,210,700.

The capital city is Graz

Disability Services Administration in Austria

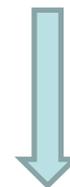
**Austrian Federal Government
(„Bund“)**



Authority:

Federal Social Office („Bundes-sozialamt“) which is part of the **Federal Ministry of Social Affairs** („Sozialministerium“)

Nine Federal States („Länder“)



9 different Authorities:

Social welfare offices (departments for people with disabilities) ...

... executing 9 different Disability Acts

Disability Services Administration in Austria

Federal Government („Bund“)



Disabled persons who are employable (fit for work)

- Labour market integration
- Vocational training
- School integration

... and further:

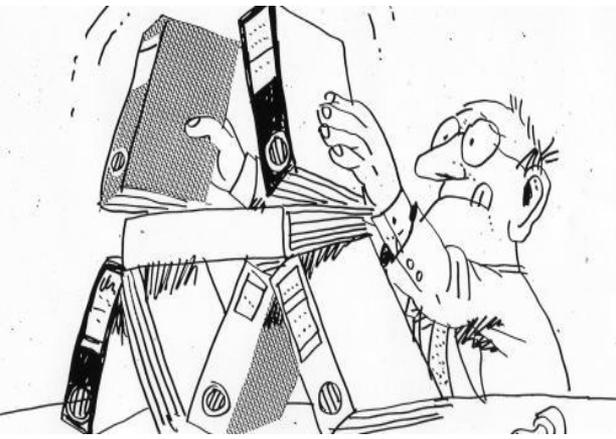
- Invalidity pension and disability benefits
- Fundamental rights and Antidiscrimination

9 Federal States („Länder“)



Disabled persons who are not employable

- Services of general interest (income, care and treatment, participation)
 - Sheltered housing
 - Sheltered workshops
 - ...
 - Personal assistance – personal budget



How people with disabilities receive support in Styria

Get information



Make an application to the local or regional authority



A team of experts will collect your individual need for support and defines a specific support plan



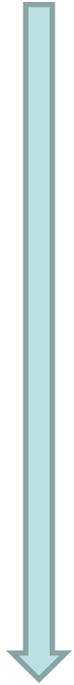
With this experts' advice, the authority will issue an administrative decision. This decision contains the specific type of assistance, the duration and extent of support



With the authorities' decision ("voucher") you are entitled to receive the granted support



Now find an authorized service provider which offers you the service needed (in some regions of Styria there is only one support organization – and unfortunately a lot of service providers have not enough care places and will put you on a waiting list)



If the authorities' decision does not satisfy your support need, you have the right to appeal against the decision. In this case, the authority of second instance will re-examine the facts and takes a final decision. Note that the appeal procedure will take approx. 6 months



Types of Service

Intensity of care - 4 degrees

price list (€ per day or per hour)

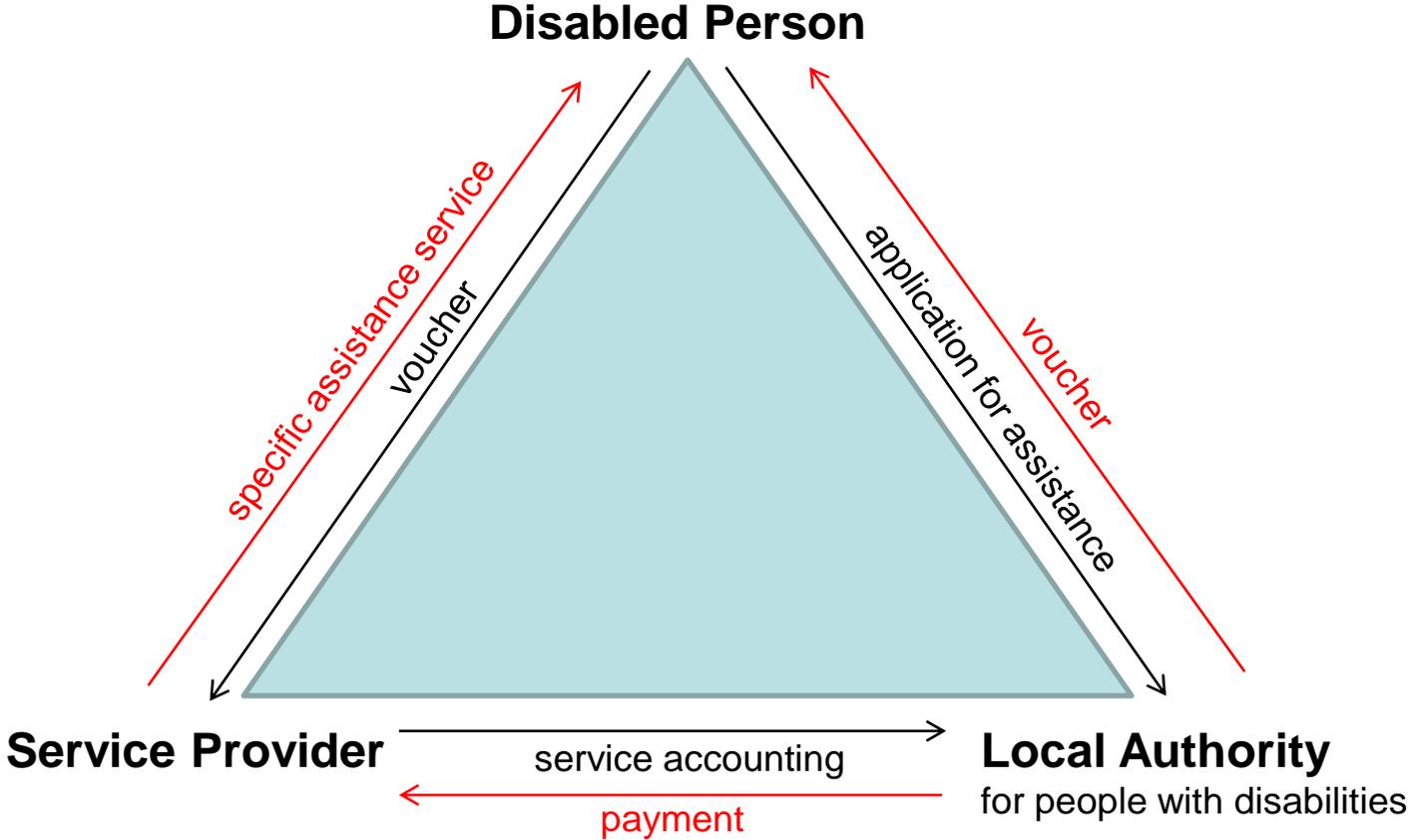
I.A. Full-time residential homes

zur LEVO-StBHG, LGBl. Nr. 43/2004 in der Fassung LGBl. Nr. 116/2011

	Kurzbezeichnung:	Grad der Beeinträchtigung:	Art:	Euro:
I. Stationäre LA:				
A. Vollzeitbetreutes Wohnen für Menschen mit Behinderung	WH BHG	2.) Mittel	TS	99,24
		3.) Hoch	TS	118,11
		4.) Höchst	TS	130,27
B. Trainingswohnung für Menschen mit Behinderung	TW BHG	1.) Leicht	TS	94,83
		2.) Mittel	TS	106,95
		3.) Hoch	TS	119,45
C. Teilzeitbetreutes Wohnen	TBEW BHG	1.) Leicht	TS	51,05
		2.) Mittel	TS	66,44
		3.) Hoch	TS	74,77
II. Teilstationäre LA:				
Beschäftigung in Tageseinrichtungen in Form von:				
A. Beschäftigung in Tageswerkstätten produktiv/kreativ	BT-TWS BHG	1.) Leicht	TS	52,98
		2.) Mittel	TS	63,58
		3.) Hoch	TS	105,11
		4.) Höchst	TS	136,25
B. Beschäftigung in Tageseinrichtungen mit Tagesstruktur	BT-TS BHG	3.) Hoch	TS	130,94
		4.) Höchst	TS	179,64
Berufliche Eingliederungshilfe in Form von:				
C. Berufliche Eingliederung Arbeitstraining	EGH-AT BHG		TS	42,60
D. Berufliche Eingliederung in Werkstätten (Vorbereitung, Ausbildung, Umschulung)	EGH-WS BHG		TS	56,97
E. Berufliche Eingliederung durch betriebliche Arbeit	EGH-BETR		TS	32,26
III. Mobile LA:				
A. Interdisziplinäre Frühförderung und Familienbegleitung	IFF		SS	36,61
B. Interdisziplinäre Sehfrühförderung und Familienbegleitung	IFF-Seh		SS	36,85
C. Interdisziplinäre audiologische Frühförderung und Familienbegleitung	IFF-Hör		SS	36,85
D. Wohnassistenz	ASS-W		SS	31,45
E. Familienentlastungsdienst	FED BHG		SS	31,45
F. Freizeitassistenz	ASS-F		SS	16,02

III.D. Assistance for independent living

Triangle Support System in Styria





Some specific remarks on the support system in Styria

- **Styrian Disability Act (“Behindertengesetz”)** 2004 encloses **22 different types of support** (e.g. institutional support – both, full- and part-time, day care centres, training facilities, mobile assistance, personal budget and 7 special supports for people with mental illness)
- **Mobile assistance should be preferred over institutional support** – but in fact most of the financial resources goes directly to traditional residential homes and care centres
- About **60 service providers in Styria** – concentration in and around the capital of Graz. Most of them are member of the Styrian **umbrella organisation** “Die Steirische Behindertenhilfe”.
- In Styria **self-advocacy groups** are badly organized and show a lack of determination and vigour

Austria has signed the UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - but ...

- **... only a few number of experts in the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs in Vienna seems to know the contents and effects**
- **... Local Governments either believe that the UN-Convention does not fall within their competence – or that “everything is fine” (all specifications are fulfilled)**
- **In fact a lot of human rights laid down in the UN-Convention remain neglected, e.g.**
 - **personal assistance (Art. 19)**
 - **independent living (Art. 19)**
 - **personal mobility (Art. 20)**
 - **access to information (Art. 21)**
 - **social protection (Art. 28)**



The impact of the European financial crisis ...

- 2011 the Styrian Government made a 25% budget cut - including a significant reduction of the expenditures for disability services (regardless of massive public protest)
- Budget reductions also shortens the opportunities of people with disabilities: cut-down of chances, access, participation, inclusion
- Nevertheless the Styrian Secretary for Social Services is convinced, that Styria has still *“one of the best service systems for people with disabilities”*



Personal Budget in Styria

The purpose of the personal budget is to finance

- Personal assistance
- Household care
- Mobility support
- Support services for daily living and leisure
- Special communication facilities
- ...



Who can receive it?

- Only people with **sensory** or **severe physical** handicaps (e.g. wheelchair users, blind or partially sighted persons, hearing impaired persons ...)
- ... over 18 years old
- ... but **not** people with learning difficulties or mental handicaps

Personal Budget in Styria

... to what extent?

- Maximum of 1.600 hours per year – depending on your individual support need
- ... reduced by any care allowance
- ... but **not** in combination with other support services

... how much?

- € 22,52 per hour (quarterly pre-payments; theoretical maximum of € 36.032 per year)
- ... you have to verify appropriate use of this budget



Experiences

- Until now, only 200 persons receive a “personal budget” in Styria
- Lack of information
- legal uncertainty (esp. for the administrative bodies)
- Lot of bureaucratic hurdles (“self-assessment file”)



Changing rolls

- People with disabilities are no longer “customer” or “recipient” of a service, but “employer” for personal assistants ...
- Employers must take care for income tax notification and for registration with the regional health insurance fund
- In terms of labour law, personal assistants are employees – but most of them are “underground workers”
- Illegal, undeclared work put people with disabilities at high risk and may result in sanctions and penalties





THANK YOU!

PERSPECTIEF
2020
zorgvernieuwing in de praktijk