

Mission Statement

of the
Deutsche Vereinigung für Rehabilitation
(German Association for Rehabilitation – DVfR)

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I. The DVfR's vision

We have a vision of an inclusive society in which every person can live life to the full and help enrich the world in which we live. Participation and self-determination are asserted as human rights – this means that everyone is entitled to live as autonomously and independently as possible and to enjoy the highest possible standard of living, the greatest possible health and the greatest possible capacity for action. Equal participation applies to all aspects of life: political, social, business, public and cultural life, education, work and employment, everyday living, family and friends.

People who are unable to participate fully in society because they evince long-term physical, emotional, mental or sensory impairments when interacting with their environments and are therefore deemed disabled¹, together with people who are at risk of this, e.g. due to disease, are helped to reach these goals in accordance with their individual needs and living conditions. Habilitation and rehabilitation² make a critical contribution in this context by comprehensively fostering the health, abilities and skills of the individual as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) so that people whose lifestyles are negatively affected can live as freely as possible.

II. The DVfR's mission

The DVfR's activities focus on the realisation of a modern, recognised rehabilitation system that reliably mobilises all resources to provide disabled people with the individual support they need to participate equally and autonomously in the life of society. The authoritative guideline for these activities is Article 26 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is the DVfR's contribution to the development of an all-inclusive society.

¹ Article 1 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

² Article 26 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For purposes of simplification, only the term "rehabilitation" will be used in this document; however, it should invariably be understood to mean both habilitation and rehabilitation.

The DVfR's work focuses on the following **fields of activity**:

1. (Further) development of ethical, professional, economic and scientific principles relating to rehabilitation
2. Increasing political and social awareness of society's tasks of habilitation and rehabilitation and of participation and inclusion, particularly for disadvantaged persons
3. Further development and implementation of rehabilitation and participation rights
4. Further development of rehabilitation services and programs with a focus on making them more needs-oriented, available, accessible and barrier-free
5. Active involvement of and participation by persons with disabilities
6. International cooperation in the areas of rehabilitation, participation and inclusion

III. The DVfR's work

The DVfR is the only organisation in Germany in which representatives of all stakeholders in the fields of rehabilitation and participation work together on equal terms: self-help and social organisations, social service providers, rehabilitation facilities and services, rehabilitation experts, occupational and professional organisations. As a non-government organisation (NGO), it brings together the interests of people with disabilities with those of bodies that provide or subsidise services relating to rehabilitation and participation. The members of the DVfR, its political, economic and social partners and all its staff come together to engage in interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, consensus-oriented discourse on developments in rehabilitation, participation and self-determination. They draw on their extensive expertise to analyse the problems from various perspectives and work out solutions that incorporate all interests, the implementation of which is supported and monitored by the DVfR.

To this end, the DVfR regularly compiles detailed work programmes based on its fields of activity and taking current developments into account; these work programmes are timed to coincide with the board's election term.

This mission statement was passed by the DVfR members' meeting held on 22 October 2013.