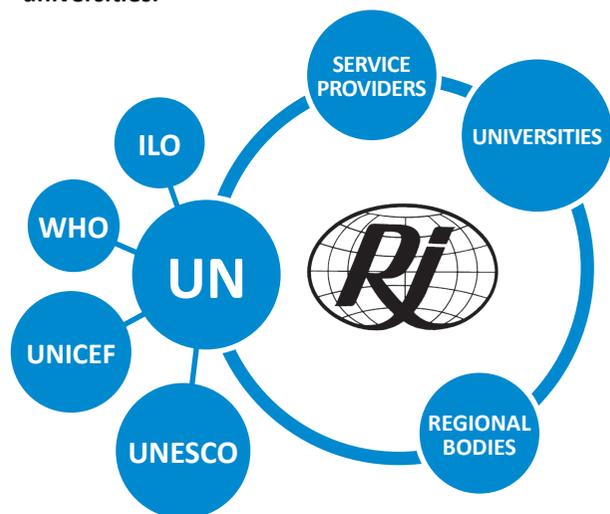


## RI members

Rehabilitation International (RI) maintains official relations with the United Nations (UN), and its agencies and institutions such as – the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO and UNICEF – as well as regional bodies, service providers and universities.



RI and its members work to protect the rights of people with disabilities and improve crucial services for persons with disabilities and their families. RI also promotes international collaboration and advocates for strong policies and legislation to promote these rights.

Rehabilitation International in Europe (RI Europe) represents a network of experts in rehabilitation from a wide range of European countries, including statutory bodies, service providers and organizations of people with disabilities, which comes together to share information and expertise to guide European and national policy.

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## RI Europe



**Rehabilitation International**

**POSITION PAPER**



# Rehabilitation in Europe

**Rehabilitation International (RI) provides a holistic approach to habilitation and rehabilitation and works actively both on global, regional and national level to reach this goal. The following sets out the rehabilitation position of the RI Europe members as agreed in September 29, 2010 in Dublin (Dublin Declaration).**

## 1. SOCIAL TRADITION

Rehabilitation is part of the welfare state provision in each country of Europe. Some European countries of them and the European Community (EU) have already ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). RI supports the implementation mainly of Article 26 (Habilitation and Rehabilitation) in Europe.

**RI Europe believes** that rehabilitation is best advanced through effective policies and legislation as part of each country's comprehensive health, education, employment and training services for the population in each country. The individuals should be central in shaping their personal plan.

## 2. ECONOMIC VALUE

Without preferring any of the various definitions of rehabilitation, rehabilitation means more than just wellness or acute medical care. Access to services at an early stage can play a vital role in advancing rehabilitation, including integration into education, work and social and community life. Every stakeholder benefits from investing in rehabilitation. Research in Germany proves that investing one Euro will return five.

**RI Europe calls** for a strategic approach to ensuring rehabilitation services are funded and supported to deliver effective outcomes for individuals, particularly supporting participation in employment and social activities. National strategies and programs need to include vocational rehabilitation with a focus on effective support systems based in the community.

## 3. HOLISTIC APPROACH

In order to be effective, rehabilitation requires cooperation between stakeholders. Governments need to address the full spectrum of needs which cross different ministries such as health, labour, housing and social issues. Insurers/payers have to collaborate as well as service providers in order to avoid gaps between acute care, medical and vocational rehabilitation. Prevention, coordination and a person centered approach to individuals planning must be intrinsic parts of comprehensive case management delivering best outcomes for individuals.

**RI Europe calls** for effective structures which support holistic assessment of individual needs and abilities. RI Europe believes that rehabilitation focusing on abilities in the sense of the ICF (WHO) can better support quality living and integration into work and community life.

## 4. SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Rehabilitation starts by identifying the needs of disabled persons at an early stage. Since most disabilities develop during the course of an individual's lifetime, particularly during working age, it is important that employers implement effective disability management policies and support the inclusion of staff with disabilities into the work. Employers also have an important responsibility in relation to health and safety at workplaces and the welfare of employees.

**RI Europe calls** for effective policies and supports to assist employers in their engagement in rehabilitation. National employment services have an important role as a source of effective guidance and support on workplace accommodations and effective disability management guidance.

## 5. QUALITY CRITERIA

Rehabilitation in the broad sense of this paper requires criteria to define what services are highgrade or lowgrade in order to define structures, processes and outcome elements. Service Users, funders and providers must be involved in developing evidence-based methods, benchmarking or other programs of quality assurances.

**RI Europe calls** for the development, adoption and implementation of quality criteria on a national and European level. RI believes that, for the benefit of the population in Europe, rehabilitation must be effectively and efficiently delivered within an outcome focus.