



## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES YEREVAN, OCTOBER 1-3, 2015

“Mayri” social therapie center, Civil Society Institue (CSI), French- Armenian Development Organization (FADF), KharberdChidren`s Home, Pyunik NGO for disabled people, UNISON NGO are initiating Kongress for people with developmental problems. The Congress is the first in the history of Armenia and is held in the frames of Eurpean Congresses “In der Begegnung Leben”, which are now organized worldwide ([www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu](http://www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu)). The Congress will be entitled “The art to live”.

Congress will give an opportunity for meetings and common activities for people from different cultures of East and West, countries of the world, each of which having their own story of attitude towards "special" people. We would really like the scope of the Congress to be expanded so that guests from different parts of the world were able to come. Thus, we hope to host our friends from European countries as well as visitors from neighborhood region such as Georgia, Iran and Turkey and what is most important, guests from the former Soviet Union, with whom we have lived for many years in the atmosphere which were once real in Soviet society, where people having developmental problems were kept in poor conditions, in remote areas, away from the society. Our goal is to do everything for the event to attract the attention of society, as well as law enforcement agencies that affect the change in the situation on a large scale in those countries, where mentally disabled people still deprived of basic human rights.

Attitude towards "special" people in Europe also had a complicated history of development, full of obstacles and overcoming. This is the reason that communication with European colleagues is our motivating factor. Integration is one of the greatest values, which is readily transmitted to us by our European colleagues. The existence of such example is infinitely important to maintain fighting spirit in us, confidence in each next step and hope that the result will not belong in coming.

In this regard, as our main objective we put the creation of an atmosphere of creativity, health, joy and deep communication and understanding, which is only possible by methods of genuine art. For this purpose different art and other workshops will be organized where participants will be involved in common activity and results of which will be shown on the last day of the Congress, incl. preparing of Armenian food for all participants. Besides round table discussions on «Independent, full and resonant life» topic will be organized. At that, it will be good for the workshops and round table discussions to be held not only by our participants but also by the guests of the Congress.

We plan the overall number of the participants to be 100-110 people and are ready to host at least 40 people from different countries. People of the age over 14 are welcome to participate.

The Congress for people with disabilities will be held in Yerevan, on October 1-3, 2015 and we invite all interested parties to join this initiative.



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