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Life pathway of disabled young adults in the shadow of the child protection system

Our researches' ³⁴aim is to present lives of those disabled children who were brought up in the child protection system, including their chances in the labor market, their abilities for housing and also the way they start to get on their own feet. Our interest is aimed at how the child protection system can support the deficient young adults to integrate to the society and also what those supporting tools are. We also wanted to find out what are those missing parts in the professional methods, services and in the helping system which interfere the complex rehabilitation and the social integration of the deficient young adults who have the child protection system past.

In the first part we used questionnaire in two areas of Hungary: Middle-Hungary and North of Great Plan. In these two areas we identified 506 people between age of 18 and 25 who were brought up in the child protection system. From the 506 people 120 were chosen randomly and got questioned. 84 people from the deficient young adults who took part in the examination needed aftercare.

We completed the questionnaire survey with interviews. We made interview with 10 disabled young adults between 18 and 24 with child protection background.

³⁴ This research was made by the Rubeus Association, financed by Kézenfogva Association in 2009. More information about the research in Hungarian: www.rubeus.hu

In addition we interviewed 10 experts and 3 decision makers. The research includes 5 case studies which are about young adults who have different walks of life. The case studies focus on the young adults' situations from the specialists and decision makers' angle. In the followings we present the main achievements of the research, putting the emphasis on the details of the result of the qualitative research part and touch upon the young adults' opinion and the specialists' and decision makers' view too.

I. The situation of disabled young adults between 18-25 years with child protection system background

In the questionnaire research we asked 120 people from two examined area. The complete model is produced by three targeted audience's model. These are: young adults between 18-25 with child protection care background who participate in after-care provision, young adults who get after care service and young adults who live in social institute.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents gender

Gender	N	%
Male	67	55,8
Female	53	44,2
All	120	100

We inquired about the young people's nationality and ethnicity by the voluntary survey and the anonymous query. The majority of the respondents were Hungarian (76,7%), 21,7 percent of them identified themselves as Roma, one of them told himself to be Romanian and one person did not know his origin.

40% percentage of the respondents were between 21-22 years old. The proportion of 19-20 years old was similar to the percentage of young people between 23 and 24 years. The percentage of the 25 years old ones is only 6,7%.

We managed to collect detailed information of the disabled young people who have child protection background, so we know the types of disabilities for each of the three test targets. The majority of young people who were studied, have mental disability. In the sample from those one who are mentally disabled 64% of them have slight retardation, the percentage of the moderately retarded is 27% while the rate of the serious retardation is 7%. Besides the disabled children, there were other children with different kinds of disabilities, like speech disabilities (17,5%), handicapped (10,8%), visually impaired (9.2%), hearing impaired (5,8%). In the sample the rate of autism were only 1,7%, in addition 3 people were ranked to other types of disabilities.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents gender

Types of disability	N	%
Mentally retarded	100	83,3
in details:		
slightly	64	64
moderately	29	29
seriously	7	7
Handicapped	13	10,8
Visually impaired	11	9,2
Deaf	7	5,8
Impediment in speech	21	17,5
Autistic	2	1,7
other (retarded dwarf, spinal injuries, learning disabilities)	3	2,5
All	120	100

The data we obtained, shows that nearly half of those young people who have disabilities is able to take care of themselves, while 38,3% of them are partly self-sufficient. In addition 12,5 percentage cannot be left alone. The rest 1,7 percentage need full care.

Table 3: Level of self-care ability

Self-care ability	N	%
Fully self-cared	54	45
Partly self-cared	46	38,3
Cannot be left alone	15	12,5
Needs full care	2	1,7
No data	3	2,5
All	120	100

The detailed analysis of self-sufficing ability shows that majority of those who have disabilities can independently carry out basic activities of daily living like: eating (96,7%), using toilet (93,3%), dressing up (94,2%), changing location in their home (91,7%), grooming (89,2%). Slightly fewer, but the majority of young people are also able to independently navigate themselves in the streets (74,2%). However, only 55 percent are able to autonomously do the shopping and an even smaller proportion, less than half (45.8%) is capable of learning and individually dealing with money (41.7). Our data suggest, despite the studied young adults with disabilities are able to make a successful life management, more than half of them cannot carry out the basic activities which necessary for independent living

Table 4: Range of activities to be performed independently

Are you able to do the following activities?	Yes (%)
Eating	96,7
Using toilet	93,3
Dressing	94,2
Grooming	89,2
Changing location in home	91,7
Navigating in streets	74,2
Shopping	55
Learning	45,8
Dealing with money	41,7

In our survey, we also examined what help, the young people with child protection system background are gotten to achieve services. The majority of the studied disabled young adults said that they get help to reach services through the child protection system or even from them.

Most of them get various services for example: to reach general medical care (86,7%) to reach special medical care (79,2%) and to manage official affairs (86,7%). It is important to mention that most of them get help to manage the essential everyday activities like: leisure activities (85,8%), self-care (84,2%) and financial management (80%). In addition most of them said that they get emotional support from the child protection system (85,8%), they are helped to care about their personal relationships and also get advice on lifestyle (78,3%).

Our data indicates that most of the studied people get every sort of services to manage their every days. On the other hand our data suggest that this assistance cover less their dominant future activities. Against the dominant activities in the present only fewer

told that they would get support to solve the long-term solution for housing (69.2%), development, education (68.3%) or their studies (66.7%). We should also mention that few of them get help to get position in the labor market, employment (64.2%), to find a job (59.2%).The least help is given to take care of their relationships with their biological families.

Table 5: Available services

Service	Yes (%)
General medical care	86,7
Leisure activities	85,8
Emotional support	85,8
to learn how to care of themselves (washing, cooking, shopping)	84,2
Helping to manage their official affairs	84,2
Financial advices	80
To care of personal relationships	80
Special medical care	79,2
Life management consulting	78,3
To help to find solution for the long-term housing	69,2
development, education	68,3
Supporting their studies to get the proper education	66,7
Employment	64,2
Helping to find a job	59,2
To care of their relationships with their biological families	53,3

We studied the young people's child protection background features by standard questions for each of the three target groups.

25,8 percent of young people in the study were entered into the child care system before 1 year of age. 23,3 percent of the children were between the ages of 1-5 years. The rest 17,5 percent were older or over 10 years old.

Table 6: Types of the longest placement in care

Where did you spend most of your time?	N	%
Foster parents	30	25
Institute	81	67,5
Same time spent in institutional care and foster parents	1	0,8
No data	8	6,7
All	120	100

The majority of young people was raised more time in child protection institution (67,5%) than at foster parent. The proportion of those who have been brought up mostly at foster parents is 25 percent. Only one person spent same time in institution and in foster family.

The number of places where the studied young people lives since they got into the system indicates their stability of their living condition. Only 30% of them has stable upbringing background, they are who lived in one place only since they have been in the system. From the studied young people 30,8 percentage who lived at two places. Those ones, who were raised in 3 places have very unstable background 6,7 % of them were brought up at 4 or more places.

Table 7: Types of places where they were raised and the age of getting into the system

How old were you when you got special care? ³⁵	Before the age of 1 year	Between the age 1-5	Between the age 5-10	Over the age of 10 years	All
Foster parents	18 60,0%	5 16,7%	2 6,7%	5 16,7%	30 100%
In institutional care	13 18,1%	21 29,2%	26 36,1%	12 16,7%	72 100%
Same time spent in institutional care and foster	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%

Regarding the data we obtained we came to the conclusion that the type of the place where the disabled young people were raised up was greatly influenced by their actual age of getting into the system. Majority of who were grown up at foster parents got into the system before the age of 1 year, while the most of the children who lived in an institution were between 5-10 years of age when they got into the child protection system.

³⁵ Where they were raised more (institutional care or foster care).

Table 8: Are you under guardianship?

Are you under guardianship?	N	%
Yes	71	59,2
No	43	35,8
No data	6	5
All	120	100

It is also important that a significant proportion of young people in the study (59.2%) are under guardianship.

Schooling is crucial for young people. Therefore we examined the young people's schooling and educational experience for each of the three target group.

Table 9: Type of elementary school, where the young adult was educated

Where did you begin your studies?	N	%
In normal school (integrated)	30	25
In normal school (segregated)	7	5,8
In school with different syllabus	29	24,2
Special school with daily work	10	8,3
Internal school in children's home	10	8,3
Complex child protection institute with internal school	24	20
In other school	5	4,2
No data	5	4,2
All	120	100

Low rate of the studied children studied in internal school of child' home (8,3%), in special school with daily work (8,3%), and 5,8% of them studied in normal school but segregated. We found a similar portion of students who attended to normal school but with different syllabus.(24,2%), some of them studied internal school of complex institution (20,0%). A significant proportion of young people in the sample (25%) began their school career in normal, integrated schools.

Table 10: High school where the young people attend/ed

What kind of high school did/do you go?	N	%
Internal school of child's home	15	12,5
Normal high school	15	12,5
Special vocational school of complex institution	15	12,5
Special vocational school of the settlement	18	15
Oppidant student of special vocational school	15	12,5
Living in dorm of special vocational school	4	3,3
Skills developing vocational schools	16	13,3
Did not attend to high school	22	18,3
All	120	100

Vast majority of the disabled young people in the sample attended or still attend to high school. Regarding these schools we can state that the schools are mostly heterogeneous. The largest portion goes to special vocational school of their settlements(12,5%), similarly the of those who go to special school of complex institution (12,5%), the same number of them is oppidant student of a special vocational school while 3,3% of them live in dorm of a special vocational school. In summary 43,3 percent of young people in the study go to specialized school. Both percent of those who go to normal high school and who go to internal school of child's home are 12,5.

Table 11: Rating of school experience

School experience	N	%
bad pieces of experience	13	10,9
neutral experience	34	28,3
good piece of experience	66	55,2
No data	7	5,8
All	120	100

We asked the young adults to rate their school experiences. The majority (55%) of the respondents assessed their experiences basically assessed to be good, 28,3 percentage had neutral experiences. While the rate of those one who had bad experiences is substantially low (10,9%).

Finally we analyzed the nature of the personal relationships and patterns of interpersonal relationships of disabled young adults. Regarding personal relationships, we examined the perceptions of young adults, including who they have relationship with and in their view who is the person that cares about their life, and some of the question related to their partnership.

Table 12: Development of interpersonal relationship

Personal relationships	There is connection (%)	There is no connection (%)	No data (%)
With parents	30,8	62,5	6,7
With siblings	50	41,7	8,3
With other relatives	27,5	58,3	14,2
With friends	66,7	20,8	12,5
With acquaintances	66,7	20,8	12,5

Regarding personal relationships first of all we examined if there is a person who the young adults keep in contact with. Majority of them has connection with friends or acquaintances (66,7%), half of them keep in touch with their siblings(50,0). Significantly fewer maintain connection with their parents (30,8%) and even fewer with relatives (27,5%).

Table 13: Who is that person who is interested in the development of your life?

Who is that person who is interested in the development of your life?	Yes (%)
Child protection specialist (educators, care worker, after-care worker)	70
Foster family	26,7
Teacher from school	23,3
Friend, who doesn't live in child protection system	20
Family member (parent, great parent, sibling)	15,8
Friend, who live in child protection system	13,3
Partner, spouse, wife/husband	10,8

Regarding the quality of the relationships we examined that who is that person who mostly helped them and showed interest about their development of their lives, mainly in the hard times, and also who is that person who they keep contact with. The vast proportion of the studied young adults has close connection with the child protection professionals, 70 % of them feels that the child protection specialist is the person who care about them and who they can rely on. Only 26,7% of them has close relationship with their foster families, similar the rate of young adults whose teachers are important in their lives (23,3%).

It's pointed out that although many of them have connection with friends, for the majority of them the friends don't mean real support, only 20 percent can rely on a friend who is not in the system and 13,3 percent said that they got support from a friend, who is in the system when they went through hard times. Very few of them can tell that their family members mean the personal support (15,8) and even less can rely on their partners (10,8%). All things considered we can state the biggest support for the disabled

young adults who were brought up in child protection system are the child protection system's professionals.

Finally, regarding personal relationships, we examined the partnerships.

More than half of the studied young adults have no partner (58,3%), 38,3 percent of them said that they have partner and 3,3 percentage gave no data.

Those who have partners almost equally said that they are in permanent (48,8%) and non-permanent (51,2%) partnerships. According the study, 29,2% of the young adults (aged 18-25) who have partnership live sexual life with their partner; the proportion of those who don't have sexual life is similar.

The majority of young people in a relationship have the opportunity to be alone with their partner (70.8%). In addition, 40.3 percent of those who are in care can be alone with their partner, 30.6 percent of them can be with their partner in the place of care. However, 29.2 percent of young people have no possibility to be alone with their partner.

II. Life pathway of disabled young adults with child protection background.

In course of the study we made interviews. In this part we interviewed ten disabled young adults who have child protection background. Four of the respondent young adults live in social institute, two get after-care provision and live in foster families, two of them get after-care provision and live in an institute of child protection system, while one of them is out of the system, currently works and live in a rented house with a partner. In

addition, one of them became homeless after getting out of the system.

In the qualitative part of the study we made interviews with young adults who have slight mental retardation and who have neurological damages.

Because of the specific test group we used pre-structured questionnaires in order to recall the main stages of their life path. Since these young adults have bad communication skills and their memories are missing, we found out their life path by the answers they gave to the questionnaire. We couldn't make a long coherent narratives. We took into account this specificity of the results in the whole analyzing, so we focused on presenting unfolded elements of their life paths instead of analyzing their narratives in whole.

Therefore we quoted parts of the interviews, these parts were stylized in sake of clarity however we tried to keep most of the elements of the heard speech.

Features of childhood: lack of stability

A common feature of their childhood period of life path is that they lived in many places and were brought up in different parenting form through the child protecting system.

After getting out of the dangerous family they lived in many foster families before getting back to the children's home.

One of them was only six months old when got into children's home. Until starting elementary school, he was in children's home with some interruptions. Meanwhile he was in foster family and got home to his biological family for a short time. By now he doesn't keep in touch with them anymore.

Another young adult's life is also fractured, her situation is got worse by her disability and physical condition

"My mother and father lived in the subway then. They begged. At that time I was in kindergarten. My mother used to be a seller on the market of Bosnyák square, but now she is disabled, just as I, one-half has got degenerated. "His father said: "(...) in alcohol problems, if he does not drink a few glasses of beer, his heart stops, but of course they are joking."

Due to frequent changes in their life, the necessary development services for young people with disabilities couldn't be given properly and only with more or less breaks, it means significant inequalities compared to similar disabled young adults, who were raised in a family. As a result, they had disadvantages in their school career and in the labor market.

School career: failures and uncertainties

The examined disabled young adult's school career is described as fragmented by the frequent school changes. Because of the absence of a stable background they can hardly take the obstacles. The majority of them are unmotivated, did not see the point in learning. So the frequent school changes and the class repetition are typical.

One of them told about his school career in the following:

"When I started the first class, I went to the Bérczi Gustav in Debrecen. Because of I couldn't keep up in math and I got there. One ... two ... untill in the second class I went to Bérczi Gustav. After, from 3rd-8th class I went to school in Almosd. Then back to Debrecen, and now again. How old were you when you finished the eighth? 16, 9th class I failed, and then there was a re-take exam, and then I repeated the 9th."

Apart from choosing school with special syllabus, the child protecting system has no big variety of tools to motivate the children with special needs.

These children were more often insulted by schoolmates, because of the frequent school switching and the child protecting system's presence in their lives which is because of their special needs.

„Typically, the studied young adults had difficulties to recall their past, it was often hard to put the events chronological order. Recalling school experiences was really hard for them, so most of the times we just concluded from dropped words that expressed their negative experiences of their school career with failures and school mates behavior "What I like to remember is the love of dedicated teachers. What I would like to change is the manners of the other children. They should treat me, like I treat them. If I am nice, they should be, too.. "

The situation of Roma young adults is even worse, not only because of disability, but their Roma origin often were reason to be treated prejudiced. The disabled Roma young adults' narration suggests that because of their disability they are much more vulnerable, less able to deal with prejudice.

"My aim is to work enough to get pension later, but I'd rather like to live in social institution, because there they don't wait if I'm Hungarian, where they don't care if I'm gypsy or not. So I want to live in social institution because they don't say: „Look, this is a gypsy.”; But finding a job and keeping it is very hard.”

The majority of young people in the study was educated in special schools outside the child protection system. When the child protection professionals were informed about problems, in the absence of tools they could not prevent the failures and even less the personal conflicts. The only tool they had is the school change which is rather generated more many disadvantages. The child protecting system has no tools to deal with this vicious circle.

What the child protecting system can't defend from

From the studied young adult's stories we concluded that because of their disability they can be easily effected and the insecurity of their situation and judgment makes them vulnerable and unprotected.

One interviewee's story of life demonstrated in a shocking way how the impressibility from disability makes them more vulnerable and how these traumas can't be prevented and dealed well because of the limited tools of the system.

This interviewee is 24 years old, currently lives in a special home financed by a foundation she is unsuitable to live independently without assistance. She has two children: her son is two and her daughter is four years old. They have been living in a foster family since they were born. In the following she tells the story of the birth of her children:

„Maybe it was a very strange thing. How could I tell... well we went to the same school, then once we slept together and B (her daughter) was conceived from it. Meamwhile i had another boyfriend, I was in love with him. The teacher knew it and they were cool. But there was this affair with R(biological dad of her daughter). R had wife and two children. R said he couldn't undertake it because he would lose his wife and his children. He didn't undertake it so she got my last name. But I was like I only need one happiness in my life, a child from the person I love. It is weird thing, once I say something suddenly it comes true. Once I told I will have a baby from R. and it was so.”

The young woman wanted to keep the baby, but without effective help she became the victim of circumstances.

„I got to the home in the Rege street. I was there for a half of a year. They tried to find me residential home for mothers , but finally they couldn't. I didn't have enough milk from the nerve.”

Two years later the young mother gave birth again, but the circumstances didn't make to possible to keep the children again.

„I went to Adorjánbáza, I bought a house there - I sold by now - I bought from the family allowance I used to get. My aunt and uncle helped me and even V., the after-care provisor, but I couldn't take it. It's because my spiritual soul, there wasn't any job too. Before it, I lived in the Templom street, I used to visited B. and from there I got Adorjánbáza...His fater is a man from Pest, the brother of a girl from here. He didn't undertake the child too. He had girlfriend and lived with her mother. We were together for like a year here in Adorjánbáza. Then I gave birth in Ajka. I was in Adorjánbáza with E (her second children) for two weeks, I let the father of my son go, he went wherever he wanted. I turned to my mother to help me to save E. from getting into institution. I don't know why I asked her, she couldn't help me before, so why could she help now? V. helped me

to get back to here and to place E. in that foster family where B. was.”

The young mother's story shows that how much the disabled young people with child protection backgrounds can be influenced because of their vulnerable position. The child protection system failed to defend her to give birth twice in a row without a stable relationship. She didn't get sexual education and even wasn't told about prevention. The child protection system couldn't help her to keep the babies, the system could only manage to place the two siblings in the same foster family, preventing a broken connection between them. Despite the circumstances, it can be evaluated positively, but the effort to keep the family together proved to be powerless.

The young mother is unsuitable to live independently, she is currently living in a social institution. However, this was not taken into account when the child protection system allowed her to begin an independent life. Although she bought a house for herself, she didn't work, and she was alone while her pregnancy again. The child protection system only interfered after she was in this situation. Professionals helped her to get back into the child protection system, then to get into a social institution. The child protection system protected the woman from becoming lost and she didn't become a victim of deviance. This case indicates that the child protection system does not have proper tools to prevent similar situations.

The child protection system does not have the tools to meet the special needs of the disabled young people. There is no institutional mechanism that would provide proper information and would be suited to the needs for disabled young people.

Prospects for the future

The prospects of the disabled young people who has child protection background are mostly very uncertain. Their main aim is secure for themselves, they except secure from institutions or existing/planned relationship.

Those one who got into institution after leaving system find their safety of their future in these institutions. One of them who is going to live in social institution after quoting the after-care of child's home told about his future.

„- We talked about it in there. I'm going to a boarding-school in Dunakeszi .I have already friends there. I would have a paid job, I would get money for my work. I would gardening there too. I should pay 3000 HUF for the accommodation.

what are your further plans? Family, children?

First of all, a peaceful life. I am not capable of living independently."

Those who are capable of living independently find the safety in the security of their own family. In absence of their family they imagine this security based on their existing relationship.

The majority of them are uncertain about the future. The child protection system does not prepare these young people for the future.

It means a serious problem that the learned professions don't mean proper qualifications in the labor market. Typically, the majority of them think that their professions cannot be the basis of their livelihood. Most of them are not aware of the possibilities either, they do not know what the housing support could be

enough or not, and they also not aware of what possibilities they have getting out of the system. The child protection system is basically focused on the present, adapting to the daily needs of young people, but they have the proper tools to prepare them to future.

It is a serious problem that the disabled young adults with child protection background mostly get really little help to start their own life. The child protection system of the after-care does not satisfy the needs of these young people. They have periodical and mostly formal connection with the after-care worker.

Since there no effective, institutional method to prepare them for the future, the young adults mainly rely on their personal relationships. The care of a teacher or a foster parent means a lot about shaping the young adult's future prospects.

After leaving the system

Thus there are two strongly distinct categories of these young people: (1) those who start an independent life, and (2) those who need care and therefore they get into social institutions. The young adults in the second group (who aren't able to live independently) go right into a social institution after getting out of the child protecting system.

It's a problem if the system declares somebody to be capable who in fact can't cope alone. As a rule they quickly become victims of their deviances because of their condition. In these cases the solution is placing them in a social institution. The question is, in how many cases can the system correct its mistakes and how many young adult left alone without help. Those young adults who are capable of independent life, hopefully they can successfully organize their own lives and they are able to find job

in the labor market mainly relying on their personal relationships (like permanent relationship with social worker or foster parent).

Social institutions means the best way out for the disabled young adults who are leaving the system. Those young adults who start independent life usually became vulnerable because of their poor network. Only a few of them can take the obstacles and usually they are supported by a partner. After the after-care provision the young adults are left alone by the child protection system. There isn't further institutional forms of dealing with arising problems and necessary assistance. The young adults in need can trust in their personal relationships only. The love of an educator, foster parent or other relative can be essential. Unfortunately it depends on the people who are around the disabled young adults, not on the system so it is not available to everyone. In lack of this, the young adults must struggle with obstacles and difficulties on their own. This makes them vulnerable and they became unprotected from deviances.

The child protection system does not pay special attention to prepare disabled young adults how to live independently, they deserve the same support like those healthy youth who are raised in the system. Depending on their condition they can go to social institution or they can start independent life. In lack of preparation, the young adults are disadvantaged in the labour-market and in the social integration as well.

III. The views of the support and care that the disabled people get

In the research, we made interviews with 10 experts, two foster parents, three workers of social home (one is a head of an institution, two of them are residential home managers), an after-care professional, a professional caretaker and two social workers who take care of homeless people.

According to the child protection experts, the situation of the families which raises a disabled child is very difficult because the services which let them raise their child are basically missing. Getting out from the family is very common because of financial problems, which are in fact against the law of child protection. In the same time, another problem turns out. The families don't get psychological help to deal with the fact that their child is deficient. The prejudice of the society against these families and disabled people makes it worse.

Unfortunately, maintaining the contact with families is ponderous for both the child protection system and social system. The connections with biological families are not common. The experts also pointed out that the adoption of the disabled children are rare, although the adoptions would mean good chance for the children to live in family.

The professionally are not properly prepared to support the disabled children and young adults. The experts say that the institutions don't have enough members of workers who could prepare these children and young adults to live independently.

Both the child protection's and social institutions' workers can participate in professional training courses, but there is no possibility to visit institutions with similar function profile and professionals to share their experiences.

Further education means special problem for the disabled children. They need to choose a profession in a special vocational school and they need to find out if that profession meet the labor market's need.

Therefore it is necessary to increase the state's role in creating and sustaining protected jobs.

Greater emphasis should be placed on obtaining the tools which can improve the quality of life assets and those tools what can ensure the conformity to live fine in the institutions. In many cases, the problem is that caretakers expect the institution's staff to deal with the affairs of the children or young adults, meanwhile the relationship between the care taker, and the people who are in care is only formal and irregular.

The assistance is not typically comes from the operation of the system, rather from humanity of a professional. This is confirmed by the fact that the majority of young adults keep in touch with the professional who paid attention to them after leaving the system and getting into a social institution. These relationships are ranked small, according the professional criteria, although their supporting power is valuable. On the other hand the operation of the system cannot be based on sympathies.

When a person get into a social institution, there is no case transfer, so the social worker get information only from the professional who followed the person's life path. This results, that many events of their life story keeps being hidden, it makes hard to plan the further care which need to be suited to their personal needs.

The nature of the homeless care, there's just as much information as the homeless people shared during the registration. According the he professionals of homeless the people who become

homeless usually have child protection system background but not disability. This let us conclude that disabled people are more protected by the system. The fact that the disabled young adults go to social institution after starting their independent life unsuccessfully confirms that the best solution is placing them in a social institution while they get support.

In the opinion of experts, protected housing would be needed where the young adults would live independent life and would get professional support.

IV. The views of the decision makers about the situation of the disabled people who lived in the child protecting system and the possibilities of the professional support

In the study three decision makers were interviewed, two of them work on the field of child protection, and one of them represents the social area. The followings we summarize the decision makers' opinion about the possibilities of the support the test target could get and how the system should be improved and finally their opinion about what kind of problems they notice in the effective support and the successful social integration.

According to the opinions of the decision makers, we suggest there are problems in the child protection system and in the social care, these problems makes the successful social integration harder.

Families which raise a disabled children are in very difficult situation, because they are in lack of basic services that are essential to fulfill special needs. For the families which raises disabled child, the home child care would be the best solution of

support, especially in single parent families. The home child care is a part of the child protection system.

The child protection system created a special children's home to take care of disabled children. There is also an elementary school, a student's home, children's home which are maintained by the child protection system and we call complex institution. Unfortunately there are many institutions in the country which take place in old castles in old forms and they can hardly comply with the laws of child protection. So the real reason why the children get into the system is not the cumulative disadvantages, it is rather because of endangerment, as the child protection system says.

The system and its professionals are not prepared to support and give additional support to these children due to the lack of special qualification. This special knowledge isn't emphasized either in the basic or further training.

Professional awareness would be needed in the fields of support and additional support for disabled children. The professional's activity should be adjusted to personal needs. For the disabled young adults would be important to get additional support in the after-care, but the system doesn't provide it equally neither when they are under or over the age.

From the child protection system's perspective the problem is the situation of those disabled young adults who don't need to be placed in a social institution, but their condition requires to be supervised permanently by a permanent mentor and to get professional help after age of 24 years. Basic problem that, when the disabled children turns to be 18 years old they no longer count as disabled from the system's perspective because there is no special caring need in after-care.

There is no information regarding what kind of experiences the social institutions have about the disabled people with child protection system background. In the same time, the conditions are better in the child protection system, especially in the apartment home care than in the social institutions, and this may cause fractures in the life of clients who have child protection background. The area of social services can't reach back to the child protection system, there is no case transfer so they don't know the young adult's life path in details. Knowing the accurate past of the young adults is essential in order to provide the required services through social services.

Summary

Our results show that disabled young adults during their childhood they were in many institutions and got meet many forms education within the child protection. Due to frequent changes in their life, the necessary development services for young people with disabilities couldn't be given properly and only with more or less breaks, it means significant inequalities compared to similar disabled young adults, who were raised in a family. Because of the absence of a stable background they can hardly take the obstacles. The majority of them are unmotivated. Apart from choosing school with special syllabus, the child protecting system has no big variety of tools to motivate the children with special needs.

Majority of the disabled young adults have faced prejudices and discrimination in their life. The situation of Roma young adults is even worse, not only disability but also because of their Roma origin are often treated prejudiced.

The child protection system does not have the tools to meet the special needs of the disabled young people. There is no institutional mechanisms that would provide proper information and would be suited to the needs for disabled young people. Young people are more vulnerable and they don't have ability to enforce well, though the system does not pay special attention to this.

The child protection system does not prepare these young people for the future. It means a serious problem that the learned professions don't mean proper qualifications in the labor market.

Without effective institutional tools, many of the young adults left alone and became victims of deviance after leaving the system.

Based on this, the following recommendations can be made:

- Additional support should be provided in after-care for those disabled young adults who have child protection background, because of their disabilities they need this support and it should not be stopped after they come of age.
- It should be forced to keep the children in their own home and decrease the number of the children who get into the child protection system. If they are in the system it should be urged to return them to their families.
- It is necessary to create a good cross-sector cooperation involving the social welfare system, and the educational- and employment systems, to improve the situation of disabled children and young adults by mutual projects.
- It would be necessary to increase the number of technical support professionals (especially special education teachers,

psychologists) whose services would be provided after reaching the age of majority.

- It need to be granted that the after care workers get the best preparation and ensure all the conditions what they need to do their job properly. These conditions must be provided by law.
- Emphasis should be placed on obtaining those tools which improve the quality of life of children and young adults and also provide the proper tools which contribute to their personal conformity to live in institutions.
- Those forms and tools of preparation should be formalized which prepare the young adults to live independently.
- The statistical data collection and diagnostic researches which focused on the disabled young adult's situation need to be supported.