Report of the Consultation Process of the Project with Deafblind People and Families

November 2013 – January 2014

The surveys regarding Deafblind Indicators took place November 2013 to January 2014; reports were received from Scotland, Slovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania, Catalonia, Austria, United Kingdom and Denmark.

Deafblind people using services and family members were consulted and asked to complete a questionnaire.

A total of 95 questionnaires were completed, 70 from Deafblind people using services and 25 from family members of people using services.
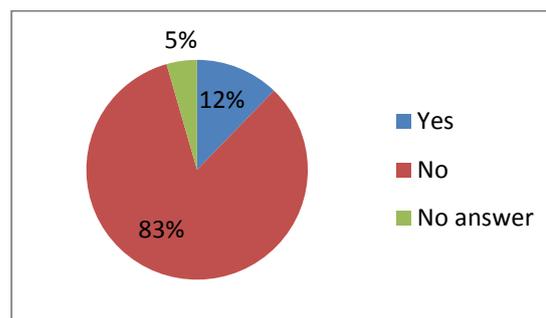
	Scotland	Slovakia	Hungary	Netherlands	Romania	Catalonia	Austria	United Kingdom
Deafblind People	2	Nil	6	7	42	1	6	6
Family Members	7	6	2	Nil	Nil	5	3	2

1. Have you heard of the United Nations Convention of Rights for the People with Disabilities?

83% of people (75) questioned were not aware of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

12% of people (16) respondents were not aware.
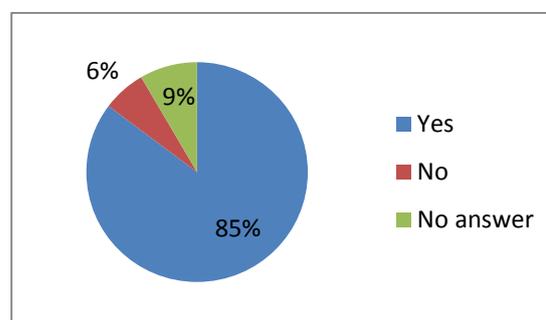
5% of people (4) questioned didn't answer.

2. Did the consultation process make it clear to you what the project is about?

85% of people (81) questioned said they understood the project as they had participated in the consultation process.

6% of people (6) respondents said they haven't understood the project.

9% of people (8) questioned didn't answer.

3. Do you think any of the seven domains are more important than the rest?

Some people have indicated one domain as "more important", while other people have indicated several domains as "more important" (there is even one case where all domains
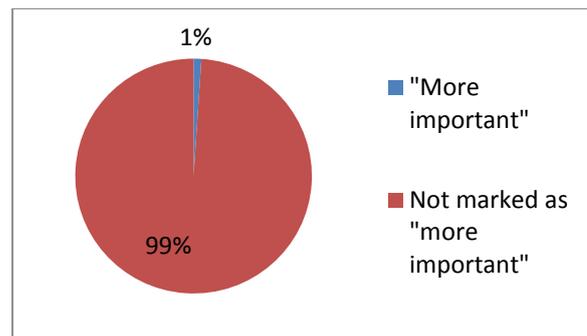
were considered important), and some other haven't indicated any domain as "more important".

We can see the different domains accompanied by a graph with the percentage of those polled who have indicated that domain as "more important", in relation with the ones that have not indicated it as "more important" (this is not meaning that this domain was "less important").

Domain 1: Demographics

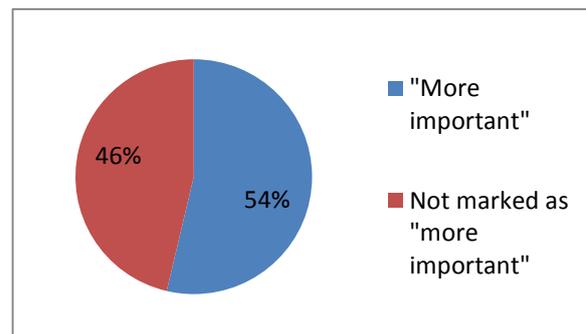1% of people (1) questioned felt this domain was more important.

99% of people (94) questioned didn't feel this domain was more important.

Domain 2: Personal and Family Life

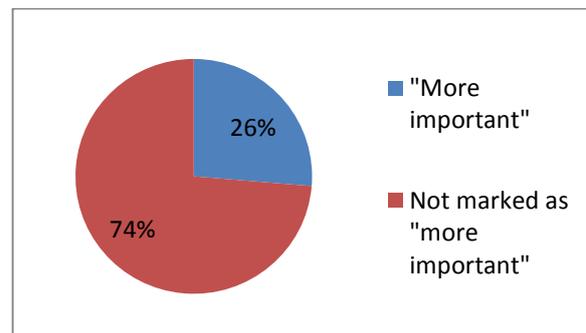54% of people (51) questioned felt this domain was more important.

46% of people (44) questioned didn't feel this domain was more important.

Domain 3: Choice and Control

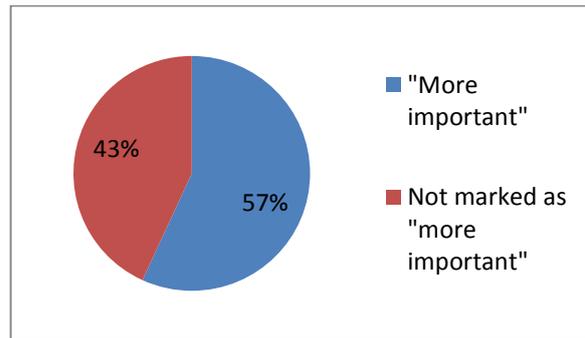26% of people (25) questioned felt this domain was more important.

74% of people (70) questioned didn't feel this domain was more important.

Domain 4: Access to Goods and Services

57% of people (54) questioned felt this domain was more important.

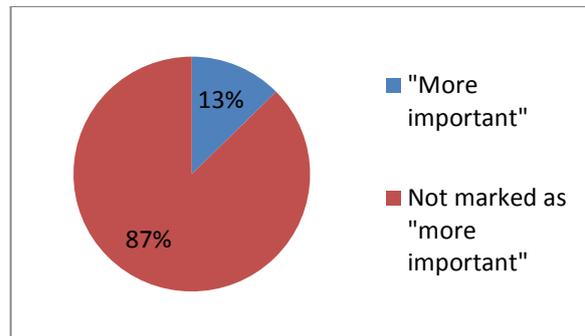43% of people (41) questioned didn't feel this domain was more important.

Domain 5: Education and Lifelong Learning

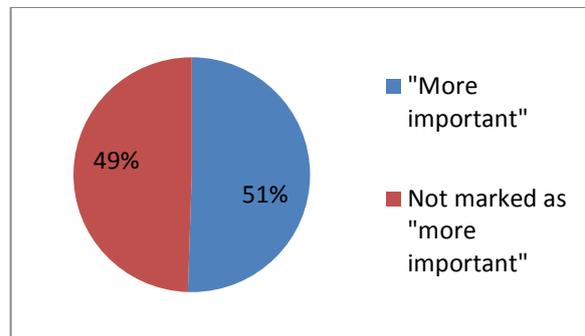13% of people (12) questioned felt this domain was more important.

87% of people (83) questioned didn't feel this domain was more important.

Domain 6: Work and Employment

51% of people (48) questioned felt this domain was more important.
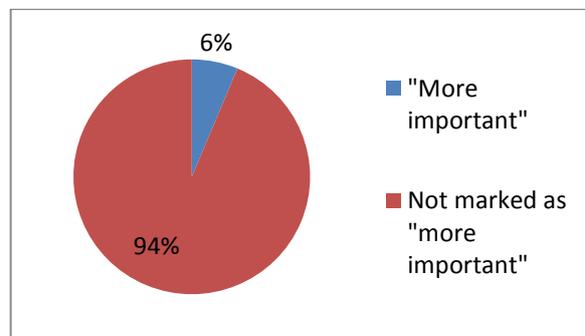
49% of people (47) questioned felt this domain was less important.

Domain 7: Incomes and Poverty

6% of people (6) questioned felt this domain was more important.

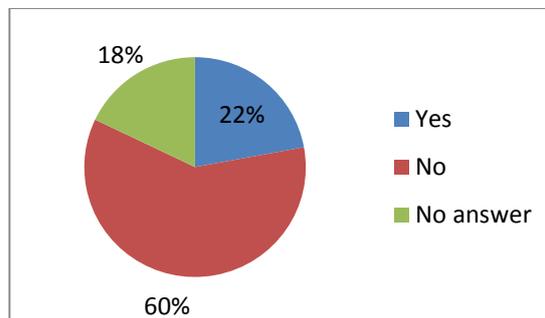94% of people (89) questioned felt this domain was less important.

4. Are there any indicators that you think are more relevant than the rest?

60% of people (21) questioned identified indicators relating to Choice and Control, Personal and Family Life and Education and Lifelong Learning as more relevant than the rest.

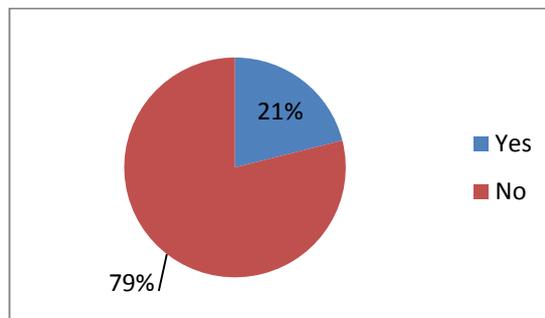22% of people (57) questioned felt there were no indicators more relevant.

18% of people (17) questioned didn't answer.

5. Is there anything you think has been missed?

21% of people (20) questioned identified indicators they felt had been missed within the domains. These are detailed below.

79% of people (75) questioned felt there was nothing missed.

Domain 1: Demographics

- Differentiation between congenital & acquired Deafblindness
- The number of Deafblind people who get psychiatric treatment

Domain 2: Personal and Family Life

- Prevalence of Deafblind people in a family
- Usual or more prevalence free time activity Deafblind people prefer
- Parental control
- Is there assistance to promote family involvement and interaction if the deafblind person is in residential care? (UK)

Domain 3: Choice and Control

- Aged population – choice/life quality
- Missed the theme equality
- Number of the totally Deafblind people who are living independently?
- What kind of supports independently living Deafblind people need to be able to live that way?
- Is there any possibility to choose between the shops or markets which are more accessible?

Domain 4: Access to Goods and Services

- What IT information/development is available for Deafblind people?
- Accessibility of braille books or braille libraries
- Accessibility to Braille-displays
- Guarantee for adult congenital Deafblind people to have the opportunity to live in sheltered group homes.
- Access to sport and leisure activities

Domain 5: Education and Lifelong Learning

- Where there is no individual learning assistance is there any other opportunity to be coached?
- Is there vocational guidance service for Deafblind students?
- What kind of technical assessment do Deafblind students use or need?
- Development of sign language and tactile sign language. Not only the methods but the language itself.

Domain 6: Work and Employment

- Telework (outwork) / home-office opportunities for Deafblind people
- Ratio of Deafblind people employed in telework compared to number of Deafblind people employed
- Ratio of physical or mental work in the employment of Deafblind people
- Are there any programs or services to make the employers more sensitive towards Deafblindness?
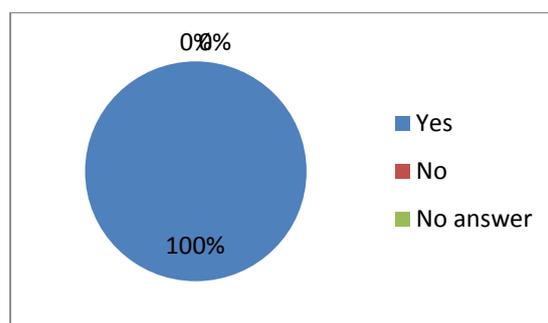- Fluctuation rate in Deafblind employees compared to other employees

Domain 7: Incomes and poverty

- Financial supports compared to the technical assessments.
- Inequality of outcomes within a country (UK)

6. Do you think it is a useful project?

100% of people (72) questioned said they felt the project was useful.

No people questioned felt the project was not useful.

Summary

All involved in the consultation process understood the European Deafblind Indicators Project however; the responses indicate a lack of awareness and understanding of the United Nations Convention of Rights for the People with Disabilities.

Of the seven domains, Personal & Family Life, Access to Goods & Services and Work & Employment were highlighted as the more important areas of people's lives.

Indicators relating to Choice & Control, Personal & Family Life and Education & Lifelong Learning were considered more relevant than the rest, whilst there was a broad range of indicators identified as being missed across all seven domains.

It was fully agreed the project is useful. Comments suggested the information could be used to train professionals, new rehabilitation needs could be recognized and the information could be useful to support people's rights.

It was questioned whether this project will change people's real life situations, with doubts raised over its effectiveness within National Governments and the European parliament. Experience suggested good legislation does not mean it benefits real life.

Other comments suggested the project can build the European Deafblind community, provide a platform to share information and help build a common European Deafblind identity.