**Background**

Kazakhstan ratified the CRPD in February 2015. Since that moment Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan together with DPOs partners has been closely monitoring the CRPD’s implementation on national level. The first steps taken by Government (changes and amendments to the 32 legislative acts concerning people with disabilities) showed lack of understanding of the scale and coverage of the CRPD norms. Most amendments applied only to persons with physical disabilities and physical access to objects and services, while overlooking the issues of people with mental health disabilities and their lack of access to main human rights, such as right to education, right to independent living and participation, etc. Moreover, the new approaches such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have never been mentioned in Kazakhstan in the specific context of the rights of people with disabilities.

In 2017, Kazakhstan government produced the first CRPD report which was followed by the alternative report prepared by national DPOs. The state report predictably contains a lot of positive-looking statistical data, and at the same time it either omits or gives an irrelevant data on such important articles as the right to life, [equal recognition before the law](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-12-equal-recognition-before-the-law.html), [access to justice](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-13-access-to-justice.html),   
[protecting the integrity of the person](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-17-protecting-the-integrity-of-the-person.html),  [living independently and being included in the community](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-19-living-independently-and-being-included-in-the-community.html),  
[personal mobility](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-20-personal-mobility.html),  [respect for privacy](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-22-respect-for-privacy.html),  [respect for home and the family](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-23-respect-for-home-and-the-family.html),  [education](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-24-education.html), [work and employment](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-27-work-and-employment.html), [adequate standard of living and social protection](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-28-adequate-standard-of-living-and-social-protection.html),  [participation in political and public life](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-29-participation-in-political-and-public-life.html),  [participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-30-participation-in-cultural-life-recreation-leisure-and-sport.html), [statistics and data collection](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-31-statistics-and-data-collection.html), etc.

The preparation of the DPOs report also revealed significant flaws in disability movement, such as lack of collaboration between DPOs, the huge gap in addressing critical issues by independent and pro-governmental NGOs, internal discrimination between DPOs based on type of disability they work with, lack of understanding or total misunderstanding of the role and structure of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, lack of essential skills and knowledge on data collecting and analysis, lack of knowledge on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

**Rationale**

In 2019, Kazakhstan is scheduled to report its national level progress towards CRPD. In 2020, there will be reporting under the Universal Periodic Review.

With these upcoming reviews in mind, we would like to strengthen our DPOs’ capacities on report preparation and presentation in front of the international community. The 5 days’ workshop scheduled for August 2018, will be organized by the Soros Foundation-Kazakhstan together with ZHIGER foundation (visually impaired youth), and will be facilitated and led by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) with some session provided by local Kazakhstani experts.

The training will be delivered in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation whenever necessary.

**Aim of the project**

To raise the capacity of local DPOs/leaders to continue their work in disability field with special focus on the innovative aspects of the UN CRPD and SDG implementation.

**Expected outcomes**

Participants will be able to meaningfully:

* Better understand/articulate/disseminate knowledge about the linkages between the CRPD and the SDGs
* Better understand innovative CRPD norms and its applicability towards all types of disabilities
* Engage in the monitoring processes of CRPD and SDGs implementation
* Engage with a diverse group of persons with disabilities, including persons from marginalized and invisible groups
* Engage in further capacity development of DPOs - using inclusive methodology for cross disability movement building and joint advocacy
* Understand the process of collecting and analyzing data for the reports’ producing
* Offer new topics for universities’ research in the field of disability
* Translate the outcomes of the international processes (CRPD review, UPR, SDG dynamics) into national context and use them to effectively advocate for realization of disability rights at the national and local level

**The proposed topics to be covered**

We will look at the new opportunities and innovative approaches the concept “Bridge CRPD – SDG” provides us. Thus, the international and national advocacy tools/schemes including strategic litigation will be covered.

The specific themes which we also will closely look at include but not limited to

* Legal capacity and the right to live independently (the new paradigm on psychosocial disability),
* Sexual and reproductive rights of people with mental disabilities including the topic of forced sterilization,
* [Equal recognition before the law](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-12-equal-recognition-before-the-law.html) and [access](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-13-access-to-justice.html) to justice,
* [The issues of integrity of the person](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-17-protecting-the-integrity-of-the-person.html" \o "Article 17 – Protecting the integrity of the person),
* Access to education and practical aspects of the inclusive education,
* [Work and supported employment](http://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-27-work-and-employment.html),
* Advocacy on local level on budget and good governance issues,
* Intersectional themes addressing gender issues, women rights, people living in rural areas’ rights, minorities’ rights, etc

**The proposed experts for the school:**

From IDA (3 persons)

* Gunta Anca (European Disability Forum),
* Orsolya Bartha (IDA) and
* Janina Arsenjeva (as independent expert),

From Kazakhstan DPOs (3 persons)

* Veniamin Alayev (Almaty Mayor Adviser on disability rights)
* Lukerya Lonshakova (human rights activist, Public Foundation ZHIGER – youth with visual impairment)
* Aigul Shakibayeva,
* Almagul Seisenova,
* Oleg Kozyrev (consultant, the editor of the CRPD alternative report)

**Administrative group**

SFK staff (3 persons)

Public Foundation ZHIGER (all logistic and organizational issues) – 3 persons

Participants – 23 persons from DPOs

* 5 persons from Universities
* 4 personal assistants

Translators – 4 persons

TOTAL 50 persons

**The stages of the project:**

* + - 1. Negotiations between IDA, SFK and Zhiger regarding the content and logistic of the School (April 2018)
      2. Open call competition for the potential participants based on motivation letter (May 2018)
      3. Preparation (May-August 2018)
      4. Summer school (August 2018)
      5. Follow up (feedback based on evaluation forms, engagement with the international bodies (CRPD Committee, Human Rights Council, High Level Political Forum)

**Budget**

SFK Contribution 30 000 USD

IDA contribution 5000 USD