



PhD student:

Samantha Pinna

Research project:

*ParTicipation and sociAl Inclusion fOR pERsons with Disabilities in municipalities (TAILORED):
a CRPD-based approach*

Abstract:

Background: Although the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been ratified by 193 States Parties, persons with disabilities continue to face persistent environmental, legal, and cultural barriers to full participation and social inclusion. Given their role as the level of government closest to citizens and their detailed understanding of local contexts, municipalities play a key role in implementing the principles of the Convention.

Objectives: This study aims to assess the extent to which the CRPD principles—particularly those related to participation and social inclusion—are being implemented in 19 municipalities across both European and non-European countries, while also examining potential correlations between these implementation levels and quality of life and depressive symptomatology among the study participants with and without disabilities.

Methods: The study employs a cross-sectional observational design and aims to recruit at least 300 participants, distributed in equal proportion between municipal policymakers and employees, and persons with disabilities, their family members, and representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities. Data will be collected online through the validated instruments Perceptions on the Implementation of the CRPD in municipalities Questionnaire (PICI-Q), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and 12-item Short Form Health Survey (SF-12). Sociodemographic data will be assessed through an ad hoc questionnaire, while structural and financial data from the participating municipalities will be gathered using a checklist completed by each municipality's administrative offices. Statistical analysis will include both descriptive and inferential techniques, such as ANOVA and Chi-square tests.

Expected Results: The study is expected to provide a comparative overview of CRPD implementation at the municipal level, identifying both best practices and critical gaps, and to uncover significant correlations between levels of inclusivity and psychosocial well-being indicators among the study population. Sharing the findings with the participating municipalities may further promote awareness among staff and local policymakers regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, strengthen institutional recognition of the proactive role that local governments can play in implementing the CRPD, and ultimately contribute to the development and adoption of more inclusive and participatory public policies.

Conclusions: The findings will offer a meaningful contribution to the scientific evidence base on social inclusion and civic participation of persons with disabilities, while also enhancing the knowledge and understanding of CRPD principles within the municipalities involved in the study.