

Sporting Talents in the Life Project

Within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), every person with disabilities is recognized as a holder of the right to fully develop their skills, talents, and aspirations, and to participate actively in social life on an equal basis with others (Articles 3 and 30). From this perspective, talents - including sporting ones - assume a central role in constructing the “life project”, acting as a concrete expression of a person’s identity and as a lever for inclusion and active citizenship.

In line with these principles, the recent Legislative Decree No. 62/2024 represents a Reform of particular significance for Italy, aimed at strengthening the right to a personalized and participatory life project. This reform promotes a shift of paradigm: the person with disabilities is no longer a passive recipient of interventions, but the protagonist of their own choices and life path. This entails a shared responsibility involving the entire community—institutions, services, educational, sporting, and social contexts—called upon to create favorable conditions, remove obstacles, and generate opportunities so that every person can express themselves, achieve full self-realization as a citizen, and contribute actively to collective life.

In this context, sport represents a privileged arena where talents can emerge, be nurtured, and be recognized. Sporting practice not only promotes physical well-being but also fosters the development of fundamental transversal skills, such as discipline, resilience, cooperation, and challenge management, which strengthen autonomy and support paths toward self-determination. Ensuring equitable, inclusive, and fully accessible access to sport (Art. 9 UNCRPD) therefore means making the right to develop one’s potential effective, transforming talent into a concrete opportunity for participation and growth.

Against this backdrop, the side event aims to highlight the role of sporting talents of persons with disabilities by centering their direct experiences. Persons with disabilities themselves will share their journeys, highlighting how sport has contributed to skill development, identity building, and the fulfillment of their life projects. These testimonies will be accompanied by contributions from organizations and associations, which will share practices, intervention models, and the enabling conditions necessary to support and promote talent.

The initiative thus intends to promote a narrative centered on skills, achievements, and aspirations, contributing to a vision of disability consistent with the UNCRPD and the new Italian regulatory framework: a vision in which persons with disabilities are active protagonists, bearers of value, and resources for the entire community.