

## Social Participation of People with Williams Syndrome

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## Overview

- Presentation of research
- Aim of research
- Areas of interest
- Respondents
- Outcome
- Discussion and recommendations

## Presentation of research

- Focus on adults with WS
- Interviews with people with WS
- Speaking about their lives, changes and wishes

## Aim of research

- To analyse extent of participation of people with WS in society
  - How person with WS perceives his place in the family surroundings?
  - What are life wishes, desires and expectations of people with WS?
  - How does educational and working process take place?
  - How do people with WS spend their free time?

## Areas of interest

- Family and relationships – own family, independent living
- Productive activities – education, job, volunteering
- Social activities – free time, hobbies, leisure activities, dreams

## Respondents

- Czech Republic – 3 respondents (21, 22, 23)
- Slovak Republic – 3 respondents (34, 23, 30)
- Germany – 3 respondents (30, 20, 43)
- Women – 4
- Men – 5

### Outcome

- Family and relationships
  - Good relationships with close and distant family
  - Two of them live alone in protected house
  - All of them want a partner, perhaps even to get married
  - None wants a child

- Productive activities
  - Three of them have a job (sheltered)
  - Three of them still visit the school
  - Two of them have volunteered
  - Helping with housework

- Social activities
  - Activities on internet
  - Going out with friends
  - Being alone
  - Music
  - Travelling
  - Clubs

### Discussion and recommendations

- Attachment between mother and child in adulthood – needs to be eliminated
- Support of partnership
- Encouragement and preparation for living on their own
- Expand social services into smaller towns
- Focus on perspective apprenticeship; volunteering
- Providing courses/workshop – English, travelling, cooking, sport, bowling,...
- Counseling – money, insurance, self-sufficiency, how to look for a job and others