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SOCIAL REHABILITATION IN GERMANY

Social rehabilitation in Germany is one of the most advanced and comprehensive systems in the world, focused on ensuring the full participation of people with disabilities in society. Based on the principles of equality, self-determination, and an interdisciplinary approach, it is regulated by Book IX of the Social Code (SGB IX) and integrates medical, vocational, and social measures. High levels of funding, institutional specialization, and a focus on prevention enable impressive results, but the system faces challenges related to accessibility and regional disparities.

Characteristics of social rehabilitation in Germany:

1. Institutional structure: The system is highly institutionalized and specialized: services are provided by social insurance funds (e.g., pension and health insurance), as well as regional authorities. It includes inpatient (90% of cases are 3-week programs in specialized clinics) and outpatient forms, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary teams (medical professionals, psychologists, social workers). 2. Germany has one of the most developed rehabilitation systems in Europe, with high levels of funding (approximately €10 billion annually) and effectiveness: over 80% of participants return to work or social activity. Expansion over the past 15 years includes sociotherapeutic programs for juvenile offenders and the integration of digital technologies for monitoring.

3. Components of social rehabilitation include housing assistance, household services, support in leisure and sports, and measures to combat social exclusion. Particular attention is paid to social workers, whose role in medical rehabilitation is expanding, with a focus on psychosocial support and relapse prevention.

Despite successes, disparities exist: migrants and low-income groups are less likely to access services (20-30% less, according to 2019 data). Regional differences in employment impact outcomes; the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced applications by 15-20%. Reforms are needed to improve access to outpatient services. Future trends include digitalization (online consultations), integration with mental health services, and expanded services for the elderly. Policy focuses on inclusion, meeting the goals of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Social rehabilitation in Germany demonstrates a high level of development thanks to a robust legal framework, significant investments, and an interdisciplinary model that ensures the effective integration of people with disabilities into society. Achievements in employment and social reintegration, as well as the implementation of innovative approaches, including digitalization and psychosocial support, confirm the country's leadership in implementing the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However, persistent challenges—inequal access, regional disparities, and the impact of external factors such as the pandemic—require further reform. Future developments lie in strengthening outpatient and digital formats and focusing on preventing social exclusion. Overall, Germany's social rehabilitation system remains a model of inclusive policy, capable of adapting to modern societal challenges.