I-DECIDE Assessment

Introduction

**Assessment – Who does what?**

Assessment is a complex and progressive process, where results change over time and need to cover a number of different aspects,

1. Firstly, I-DECIDE project offers an easy and customisable set of tools in order to help supporters to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the supported person. The supporter should use the themed assessments in each of the following areas: financial, consumer and healthcare. The three areas also include a crosscutting area about Digital, Literacy and Numeracy skills. Specific tools have been produced (See files *"financial assessment; healthcare assessment; consumer rights assessment”*).
2. Supported persons, themselves, are also asked to evaluate the support they have received, and if it enabled them to make decisions they wanted to make. A specific tool has been produced. (See file *“user periodic self-assessment”).*
3. Finally, being aware that support is a multi-disciplinary process, the supporter has the opportunity to evaluate the involvement of others and reflect on his/her own interventions. A specific tool has been produced (See file *“supporter periodic self-assessment”*).

As a result of these three assessments, the supported persons and supporters should share this evaluation to understand any progress made or any adjustments needed. The assessment tool is a powerful tool for motivation.

**When does assessment take place?**

It takes place after the support agreement has been signed, then periodically as needed. The frequency depends on the user’s capacity to improve on the fields evaluated and on the needs of the particular moment (e.g. in finance, to decide to ask for a loan, or in healthcare to decide about some treatment/operation).

**What has to be covered?**

This depends on the user’s circumstances and the decisions, based on his/her wishes and on the supporter’s advice. Assessment can cover all of the areas or just be limited to certain matters of particular interest and relevance to the user. Naturally there will be periodic revisions, so what is covered and assessed in each area can be modified.

**What is the level of detail required?**

This is where the supporter must use their discretion to clearly identify which skills and capacities are needed to fulfil a certain goal relevant to and agreed with the user. As such decisions are individualised it is impossible to set a detailed and exhaustive list of all the skills/capacities. Consequently this tool includes the most relevant matters to be assessed whilst also giving the possibility to supporter to further adapt/extend and detail them to meet the precise needs of the person they are supporting.

**After assessment, what next?**

Assessment has to provide evidence about the user’s strengths and needs for improvement. On this basis, a supported decision making plan is produced in which milestones, frequency and goals are set.

**When does it end?**

In theory support for SDM will only end when it is not needed because the user is able to make their own decisions by themself. In terms of this project the period over which the impact of support for SDM will be measured is from July 2019 to December 2019. Of course in that period if the user finally acquires/improves the skills needed in one area of decision making, support for SDM can be moved on to another area where it might still be needed. This may not happen but the user still decides to suspend the support or to ask to focus it on other subjects.