

The Project “Schattenbericht Hamburg 2024” – Towards a Brighter Future for People with Disabilities

Although inclusion and participation are key political goals in Hamburg, their practical implementation often remains inadequate. Decision-making processes are frequently guided by short-term feasibility rather than by the human rights of persons with disabilities. Schattenbericht Hamburg 2024 (Hamburg Shadow Report 2024) addresses this gap by focusing exclusively on the perspectives and expertise of disabled people. This approach is particularly important in a city where more than 240,000 residents live with disabilities.

Since 2020, Hamburg has been updating its State Action Plan for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The revised plan was published in 2023 following a participation process that concluded in 2022. However, many persons with disabilities were insufficiently involved. A human rights-based and future-oriented action plan requires meaningful participation and a clear vision shaped by those directly affected. The Schattenbericht Hamburg 2024 therefore provides an independent and critical counter-perspective.

The project was carried out by Professor Siegfried Saerberg, Chair of Disability Studies and Participation Research at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences for Social Work and Diakonie in Hamburg. It was funded by Aktion Mensch and the Stiftung Das Rauhe Haus and ran from July 2022 to December 2024.

At its core, Schattenbericht Hamburg 2024 is based on a moderated Future Workshop, designed and conducted exclusively by persons with disabilities in cooperation with self-advocacy organizations. Participants engaged in future-oriented storytelling and narrative practices to develop visions and concrete recommendations in key areas such as work, mobility, education, health, housing, culture, and social participation. The report provides a critical assessment of disability rights in Hamburg and offers practical guidance for policymakers, public administration, and society toward a more inclusive future.

