

**“Building projects of
life and
supporting
relationships”**

som - fundació catalana tutelar

som
—fundació

Josep Tresserras

Europe in action. Prague 2017

som - *fundació Catalana Tutelar* is a non-lucrative entity.

We defend the rights, protect, and guarantee the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities and modified capacity by court, in Catalunya.

We support these persons to develop their personal project of life.

It was created on March, 27th in 1987



Area of action



- We are members of these organisations:

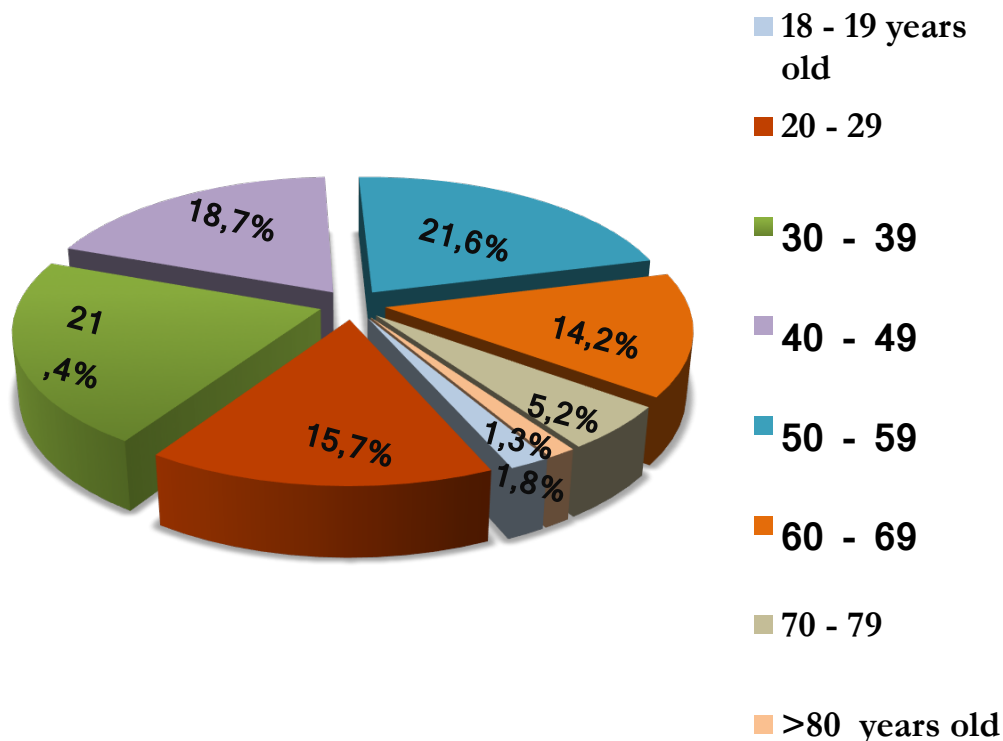


Now, we are giving support in the decision making to:

A wide range of ages.

580

persons



Currently, 92% are between 20 and 69 years old.



One of the most important characteristics of the persons we support is that they are in a situation of **abandonment and vulnerability**

Three situations:

No family

The **family cannot** take care of them or **cannot give** them any **support.**



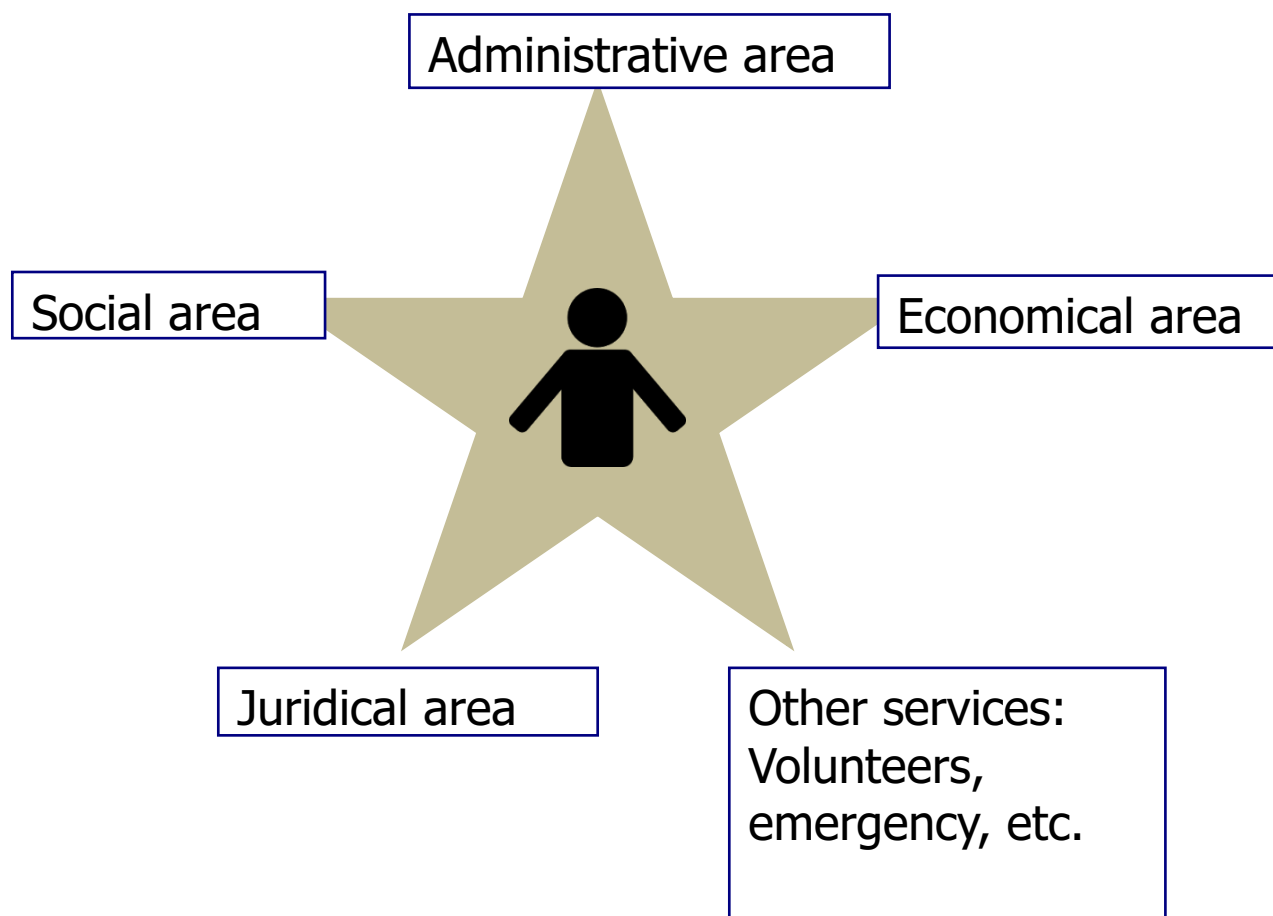
The family is negative for the person.



**We do not provide services.
We guarantee that the services they
receive are of quality.**

In order to guarantee the control of the quality of life and welfare of the persons under guardianship, the entity does not provide residential, labour, or educational services, because we could lose impartiality when defending their rights and interests.

Our support is global:



- Som–Fundació works to **guarantee** that the **rights** of the persons whom we support are **respected**.



FOTO: MANOLO GARCIA



- **Right to vote:** legal claims to recover the right of universal suffrage.
- **Will.**
- **Anticipated wills.** (medical treatment)
- **Independent life.**

236 persons in the project of Independent Life

The programme offers support and necessary help to **acquire the sufficient habits** to be able to lead an independent life in their own homes.

This contributes to the development of these persons and **promotes their personal autonomy.**





4 persons
sharing a flat and
doing tasks of
house
maintenance.

Fixing and decorating the flat they are going to share

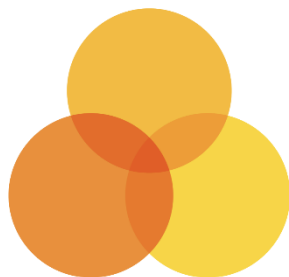




Roman and Cinfo:
Friends that share
a flat, with their
pets.



Supporting relationships



Diversitat funcional, afectivitat i sexualitat

Algunes qüestions ètiques que plantegen les relacions afectives i sexuals de les persones amb diversitat funcional amb necessitats de suport extens o generalitzat que viuen en residències

**SUPORT A LA SALUT AFECTIVA I SEXUAL
DE PERSONES AMB DISCAPACITAT INTEL·LECTUAL**

Joan Canimas





A group of people in a training workshop about sexual health.



Types of relationships:

- Persons who have a couple but they do not live together.
- Persons who live with their couple.
- Persons who are already married.
- Persons who have formed a family, with a couple or monoparental.

We have 35 persons who have a couple





Rafa and Ma. Angels,
married without children,
with two friends





Julián,
divorced
with
children.



He has
rebuilt his
life with
Nuria.



A story of personal **overcoming**:

Manuela

(a monoparental family)



She lived in the street, or in squatter houses.

She had a couple, Rasch, who exploited her: he bought cars under her name and took out credits on behalf of her.



In 2003, she told us for the first time that she was ill-treated by her couple.

She didn't want to report him to the Police.

She disappeared for long periods, but when she had problems, she came for help.

In 2005, **her first child**, a daughter, **was born**.

We offered her support for the correct care of her child because we noticed that the child was not adequately fed and cared.



In 2006, she came to us **asking for help.**

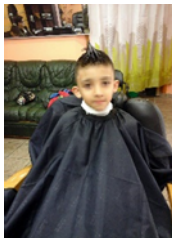
She took shelter at her mother's house, although she didn't want to live with her.

She decided to report her couple to the Police.
She said to us, "He compelled me to steal and deal with drugs.

He didn't let me to have any money on my own. He took me all the money I earned personally, included the money I was given by the Foundation.

He didn't let me to be in contact with Som–Fundació”.

We managed to implement the protocol of **ill-treated** women, staying with her daughter at a safe centre for ill-treated women.



Manuela **had difficulties in fitting in this resource**, because the level of obligations and responsibility was very high.

She had **conflicts** with the professionals.

They couldn't demand her the same as to the rest of the women.

She needed a type of support that **the centre could not give to her**.

After a few months, The Child Welfare Office (*DGAIA*). **assumed the guardianship of her daughter**.

Then, the Social Services monitored her **new situation** and kept a continuous coordination with Som-fundació.



5 months later, Manuela left the safe centre by her own decision, and **refused** all the social services.

She withdrew the criminal complaint against Rach, and got back to live with him.

In November 2008, she married Rach.

Her daughter was given, eventually, in adoption.



From 2009 to 2011, Manuela **was missing**.

She had **two more children**:

Rasch, born in 2010; Manu, born in 2011.

She was living in a re-rented room with her two children, and she told us that **she had broken up with** “her husband”.

By the time her second son was born, her husband was missing and he had gone to live to his country.

He left her a lot of debts, fines, vehicles and business under her name. Manuela paid this money little by little.

We **started again our relationship with her**.

Then, Manuela was very afraid of the possibility of losing her children if she did not guarantee them a welfare.



The situation of risk was very serious due to these factors:

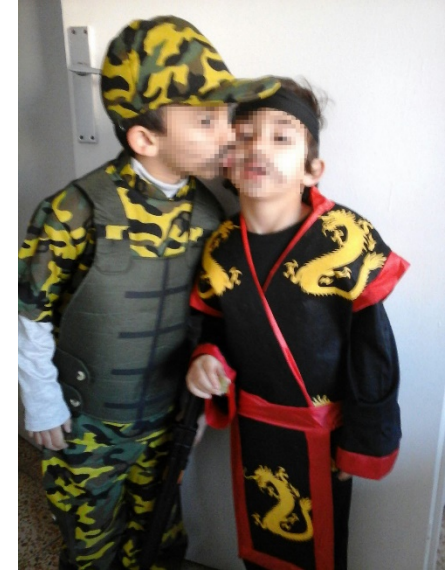
- Manuela was a very **vulnerable** person.
- Economical and **housing precariousness**.
- Difficulties of self-control.
- **No family** network.
- She is **illiterate**.
- Difficulties to give schooling and affective support to her children.
- Not autonomous and independent in her daily life.

Positive factors:

- She **accepted** the supports from Som- Fundació and from the network of services.
- **Good monitoring** of her children.
- **Fulfilment** of her commitments.

Our working plan was:

- A **steady housing**.
- Searching of a **job**.
- A **healthcare** card.
- **Census** certificate.
- **Schooling** of her children.
- **Monitoring of her children's health**



In 2013, Manuela **accepted a social-educational compromise for situations of serious risks.**

In 2014, her **housing was stabilised:** we managed to get a rented flat for the three of them.

Now, she is able to see the consequences that her actions might bring.

She **knows her responsibilities and duties.**

She is making a great effort every day.

She **fights for her children** like any mother would do.



Som- fundació supports her in:

- **Schooling** of her children
- **Monitoring of health**, guaranteeing correct feeding, vaccines, specialists for her two children and accompanying her to medical appointments.
- **Support for the attention to her children**, offering her adequate action guidelines of intervention.
- **Support at home**, with the help of an auxiliary, twice a week.
- **Searching for a job**: she got a contract as street cleaner with compatible working hours.
- **Therapeutic support** for the control of her impulses.
- **Formalities** to get financial support.
- **Formalities** to initiate her divorce (the trial is going to take place next July)



Transsexuality: Maria's story



(no family support)



- They have serious **difficulties** to show their **sexual orientation**.
- Heterosexuals also have difficulties to practise their sexuality.
- **Other sexual orientations** are almost **unknown**, if they are not very evident and exceptional.
- Services rarely pay attention to these persons.
- Som-fundació support those persons who report us their sexual orientation.
- We attend two transsexual persons.



Maria is 60 years old. **He** has an intellectual disability. He is under the **curatela** of Som – Fundació.

From the very beginning, he expressed his determination of changing his sex.

We **supported** and **monitored** him in this **process**:

1st. Step: He **changed his name**: From Pablo to Maria.

2nd. Step: A public hospital certified her transsexuality and **she** underwent a **hormonal treatment** and a **breast implant**.

3rd Step: She **changed** her **sex**



She does not accept easily the support she is offered in the decision making.

She knows well that whenever she has **problems**, she can always come to us and asks for **help**.

Maria has **no family support**.

She often has bad companies and faces dangerous situations, like being **robbed and illtreated**.

Maria is not very clean: She **doesn't take care about her external appearance**.

Her neighbours make jokes and insult her. She sometimes react bad and needs the intervention of the police or the judicial authority.

She didn't have a good recovery after her operation, because she continued having sexual relationships. This caused her other important **health problems**.



Family: Araceli & Juan





Newspaper “El Mundo”:

<http://www.elmundo.es/sociedad/2017/02/20/58a749d722601d0b678b4615.html>.

Juan Araceli, holding their children, Juan and Lucía, at their home in Barberá del Vallés (Barcelona) Photograph: JOSÉ AYMÁ

UN recognises the right of people with disabilities to get married and have children, a statistic minority whis is still a social taboo.

For the first time in Spain, a means of communication explains the case of a couple with intellectual disability who decided to have children and lead a life, under guardianship and free together, a experience of love and family. The story of Araceli and Juan.

RAFAEL J. ÁLVAREZ. Newspaper “El Mundo” Barcelona Edition.





Araceli and Juan met each other in the company where she is still working.

Araceli, “**Juan was a pain, but I liked him**». «I asked her to go out. She took her time, but she said yes”, Juan said.

And they went to live together.

Two years later, Juan and Araceli explained to Som-Fundació that they wanted **to be parents of two children**: a boy and a girl.

Araceli and Juan told us they had it clear but it wasn't the moment yet and that they would wait for the more appropriate circumstances»





“As matters stood, there was lots to think. Juan and me were very young. I was very afraid of having a baby, of becoming a mother.

With time I felt myself more capable.

Things got much better then.

In 2011, **Araceli gave birth to Lucía.** “Juan wanted a boy”. I won”.

Soon after, they got married “to close up the matter of the children papers”.

In 2014 **Juan was born**





Araceli, “In the beginning, I was afraid of not knowing what to do. It took me a week to bathe Lucía. My sister-in-law helped me. It took me longer to do her nails. I was scared. But **once you have had the children, fear disappears**”.

Juan receives support from his family and Araceli, who hasn't got family, receives support from Som-fundació.

Every three months we have an appointment with their teachers. “The children behave very well. Their teachers say that they very open and friendly”. ¡The school; a World!. “We have never been rejected by anyone. We have attended the meetings with parents and everything is normal. I do not feel different from the rest of the mothers. **I will do it better or worse, but I feel my self able to grow up my children well**”. “First, my children!!!”.



Děkuji!

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