

## **State the objective of the project**

The disabled receive more harsh feedback much more frequently than the healthy individuals, which may push them to develop a negative identity. In extreme cases, it leads to understated self-esteem, the feeling of guilt and weakening or lack of identification with others and their reification.

While, as emphasized by Zofia ukowska (2006), a disabled person, despite the experienced negative emotions and attitudes of others, may not only live normally but also joyfully. As the mentioned author adds, one of such routes is sport, which may be perceived as a chance for both individual development of a unit and its social integration. The needs of self-realization and social acceptance may be fulfilled in such a manner. Furthermore, sport plays a special role in strengthening the feeling of self-esteem of a disabled person, which is emphasized by Molik, Morgulec-Adamowicz and Kosmol in their work (2008).

From this perspective, it seems especially interesting to grasp the essence of this activity, and to comprehend the processual dimension of interconnected changes that take place in the disabled person's life, together with reconstruction of particular dimensions, which provide it with specific character.

Hence, aim of the research is to analyze the processual character of transformations that take place within identity of a disabled person practicing sport, as well as to determine psycho-social mechanisms that this process is responsible for. Both aspects of the research will be reconstructed on the basis of personal experiences of disabled individuals involved in sport activity.

## **The basic research to be carried out of the project**

The planned research will complement current heritage of scholars representing various scientific disciplines, interested in the topic of disability, especially in the scope of meaning of everyday interpersonal relations with the surrounding, in its symbolic layer pertaining to the world of culture, shaping the context of human life.

The research will serve development of interdisciplinary approach to disability, first of all within the scope of reconstructing perception of self by the disabled persons.

Results of the research will support development of theoretical knowledge, also within the area of problems devoted to the disabled, and methodological knowledge pertaining to application of specialist software that aids qualitative data analysis.

In the methodological, the research will serve to test the CAQDAS software, which may support the process of realization of a scientific project, on its each stage. The research project provides a possibility to evaluate usefulness of selected programs, which may be applied in other examinations realized according to the qualitative methodology on the ground of widely comprehended social sciences.

## **Reasons for choosing the research topic**

The research should contribute to development of science in the scope of disability problems, as well as support realization of the process of activating persons with various types of body dysfunctions.

first of all, the project is of interdisciplinary dimension, and the raised topics remains on the edge of interests of various scientific disciplines representatives, such as: sociology, pedagogy, psychology or psychiatry. It pertains to notions, which may pose significant contribution to development of those disciplines. At the same time, despite the fact that problems of disability, and also of physical activity and sport practicing within its framework, constitute the source of interests of numerous scientific disciplines, it is hard to resist a feeling that it is not highly interesting for scholars, whose workshop is based on qualitative methods (including the grounded theory methodology), and deriving from theoretical works of interpretative orientation (more accurately, of the symbolic interactionism).

Hence, the pioneering nature of the project will consist in application of the theoretical background with methodology of social research, which was not applied previously to tackle the described problems.

The pioneering nature of the project is also reflected in application of a holistic approach to the raised notion, including research, influencing realization of psycho-social emancipation of the physically disabled persons, where a crucial role is played by their physical activity and interconnected transformations that pertain to the problems of ego and identity of this category of persons. A theoretical framework of the designed approach will be posed by "Critical disability theory" (CDT), which was not applied previously in Polish papers on disability.

Results of the research are to enable an increase in knowledge within the scope of perceiving self by the disabled practicing sport, on the background of their identity transformations. In this context, the results of the project, will refer to the following:

1/ on the basis of the performed analyzes will be reconstructed of the meanings that physically active people with disabilities give the concept of disability.

2/ the mechanism of these meanings make sense in the context of individual and social determinants of sports will be described and analyzed.

3/ the cognitive perspective as used by disabilities sportsmen will be reconstructed.

4/ the relationship between physicality and identity of a disabled person will be tested.

5/ the study will enable the characterization of the process of reconstructing identity of a disabled person, as a result of physical activity and sport.

As a result, there will be an attempt taken to reconstruct the essence of physical activity and sport practicing, as activities seen by the disabled, playing a significant role in the process of shaping identity of the disabled sportsmen.

The research may also contribute to better understanding of the process of reconstructing self-definition of the disabled, who practice various forms of sport activity within the existing organizations that support such actions.