

## CHAPTER 4

# The ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) as a reference in the assessment of functioning and needs of children with multiple disabilities

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Since 2008, in Portugal, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and its later version for children and youth (ICF-CY), has been the reference document in determining the eligibility of children to benefit from specialized supports. Previously, a medical report was required for the child to have support from special education.

In this chapter we explain how the ICF was operationalized in the Portuguese educational system, with regard to assessment and intervention with children and youth with special educational needs (SEN), namely, with children with multiple disabilities.

We also present some studies, that have been developed in Portugal about the implementation of the ICF in Portugal, especially the advantages and constraints of the ICF application in education, as well as some issues identified by special education teachers for a better implementation of the whole process of assessment and intervention by reference to the ICF.

## The introduction of ICF – International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health ICF – CY (Children and Youth), in Portugal

On May 22nd, 2001, the 54th World Health Assembly adopted the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) to be used by all WHO member countries, of which Portugal is a part.

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), in Portuguese official language, appears in 2003. ICF appears referenced in the field of the Portuguese