



Europe for us

**European Disability Strategy
and deinstitutionalization**



Find explanations for words in **bold** at the end of Europe For Us on pages 22 to 30.

“Europe for us” is available in:

- English
- French
- German
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Netherlands
- Romanian
- Spanish

Go to www.inclusion-europe.eu/europe-for-us to find the other language versions.

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Editor's note





The European Disability Strategy is very important for people with intellectual disabilities because it means we have the right to have a job and have our own place and be independent.



Also, it means we can have our voice heard by everyone.



For me personally it is important because it means that I have a job and I am earning my own money.

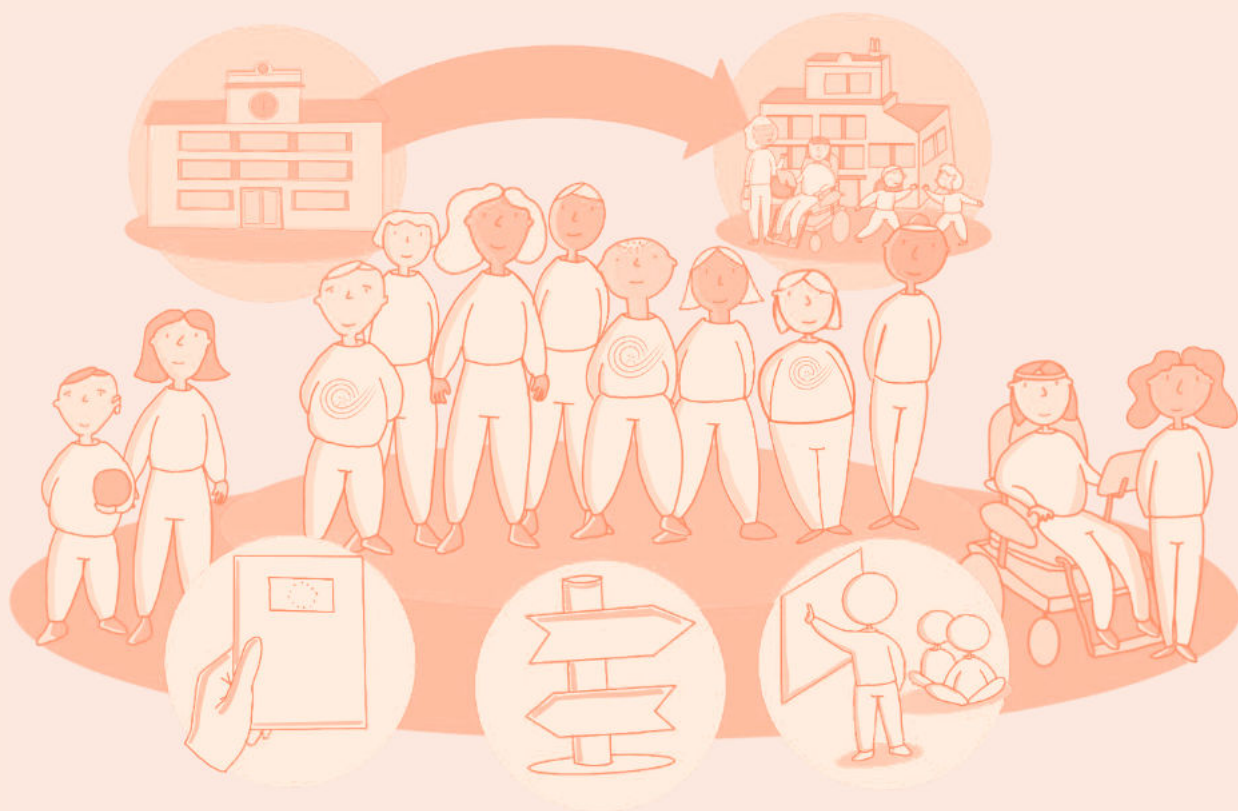


Also it means that I can live independently and be part of the community.



It is important to include people with intellectual disabilities in the community.

Stories from self-advocates





Paul Alford is a self-advocate
at Inclusion Ireland.



Paul says it is important
getting the right support
to take control of your own life.

Paul says:

“Live a life of your own
get education and experience
get a job with proper money”.



Lukáš Kudlička is a self-advocate from Czechia.



Lukas lived in an orphanage
and sheltered housing.

Lukas spoke about his experiences.

Lukas says:

“No institution can
replace a proper family”.



Elisabeta Moldovan is a self-advocate from Romania.



Elisabeta shared her experience living and working in institutions.

Elisabeta says:

“Now I support others to get out of institutions and live in the community”.



Peter Laník is from Czechia.
Peter lived for 27 years in institutions.
Peter now lives in a sheltered housing.



Peter has more privacy,
and he can do things alone.

Peter says:

“Finally my life is what I want it to be”.



László Bercse is a Hungarian self-advocate.



László speaks about ending segregation.

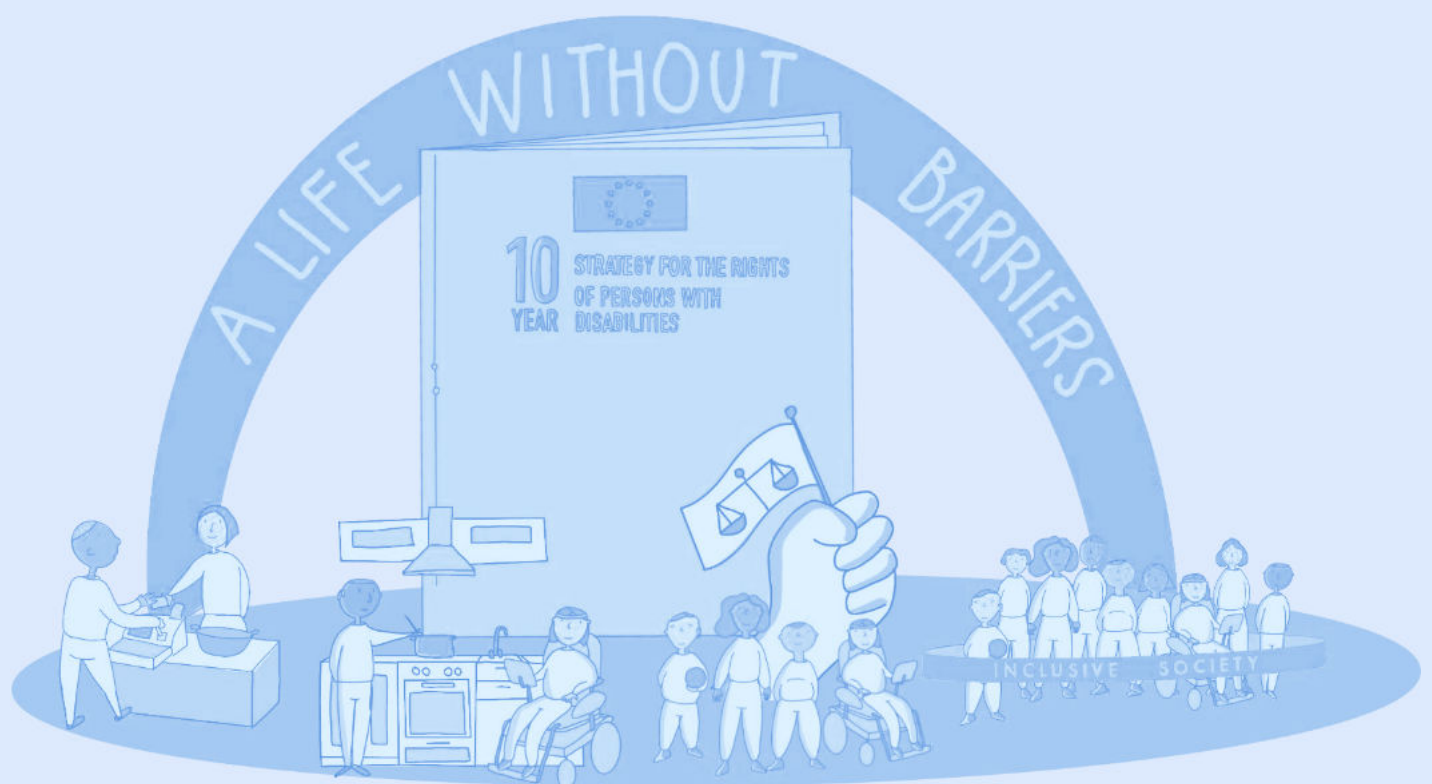
László says:

"Community-based living is important".



"People with intellectual disabilities need jobs to be independent".

Elements and goals of the European Disability Strategy



Current situation for persons with disabilities in the European Union



Around 87 million people with disabilities living in the European Union face barriers.

Persons with disabilities are more likely to face barriers in healthcare, education, employment, recreation activities and participation in political life.

Unemployment and poverty



Employment rate of people with disabilities is at 50.8%, It means that persons with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed.



The risk of poverty or social exclusion is 28,4%. It means that persons with disabilities are more likely to be poor and segregated from the community.

The European Disability Strategy



The European Commission adopted the ten-year Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



The strategy calls for an inclusive society in which the rights of people living with disabilities are protected and there is no discrimination.

The strategy supports many projects around EU rights, independent living, decision making, non-discrimination and equal opportunities.



The goal of the strategy is to include the rights of people living with disabilities into all policies and areas.



The strategy wants to ensure equal access to health care, employment, public transport and housing.

Elements of the strategy

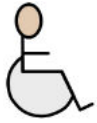


The strategy includes elements to improve the life of the people with disabilities.



The strategy will support people with disabilities who get affected by health crises like Covid-19.

European Disability Card



The European Disability card project will allow for mutual recognition of disabilities in different EU countries.



It means that the card will show the disability someone has and it will be recognised by all EU countries.

Person with disabilities can use the card while traveling and use it in case it's necessary.



For example, someone can use it to access transportation or healthcare help while in a different country.

The European Accessibility Act



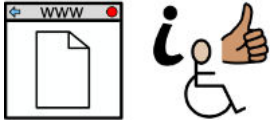
The European Accessibility Act recommends that more products and services need to be accessible to everyone.

Products like smartphones and tablets
ATMs or E-books.



This will help persons with disabilities live more independently.

The Directive on Web accessibility



The Directive on Web accessibility is a recommendation to make the online data and services more accessible to people with disabilities.

The recommendation will affect public institutions like hospitals, courts or universities.

The recommendation will help persons with disabilities who need information written in easy to read.



What is deinstitutionalisation and independent living



Persons with disabilities in institutions



There are 1.5 million people with disabilities in the European Union that live in institutions.

People with disabilities face many problems in institutions.



For example, the institution has full guardianship over people with disabilities and people with disabilities may experience violence.



During COVID-19, many people with disabilities died in institutions.



The European Union needs to support deinstitutionalisation.

How to support deinstitutionalisation

There are two ways to support deinstitutionalisation.



1. Independent living
2. Community-based services



Independent living

Independent living means that persons with disabilities can make their own decisions. Who they live with and organise their lives.



Persons with disabilities need accessibility to be independent.



Persons with disabilities need accessibility of the environment and the transport.



The information and communication about community-based services needs to be easy to understand.

Community based services



Community-based services mean that persons with disabilities must have access to various services that enable them to live and be part of the community.

Services that need to be accessible for people so that they can live independently are housing, health care, education employment, culture and leisure.

End segregation of persons with disabilities



To achieve full inclusion and end the segregation of person with disabilities governments must work closely with organisations of people with disabilities.



Governments need to work closely with self-advocacy organisations.



Support should be person centred, especially for those with complex support needs.



We need to work together to make
deinstitutionalisation a reality because
people with disabilities have the right to

- live independently
- make their own decisions
- be part of the community
- and enjoy their full rights.



Role of the European Union in deinstitutionalisation and independent living





In the European Union,
some persons with disabilities
have their rights violated because
they are still segregated in institutions.



Especially those with intellectual disabilities
and with complex support needs.



The United Nations Convention (UN CRPD)



The United Nations Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) says
that every person with disability has rights.



Rights to live independently
and to be included in community.
Rights to have access to education,
health, work and employment.
Rights to fully participate
in political and public life.

What is deinstitutionalisation



To end segregation of people with disabilities in institutions, governments need to support moving people out from care institutions to their own home and with a support they can rely on.

That process is called deinstitutionalisation.



The European Union has improved the lives of people with disabilities by setting up different ways to support deinstitutionalisation.

Role of European Union in deinstitutionalisation



The European Disability Rights Strategy is the main way of the European Union to implement the UN CRPD.



The European Pillar of Social Rights promotes accessibility and independence in education, work, housing, and person-centred care.



The European Structural and Investment Funds and the European Union directive on Work life Balance support people who take care of relatives with disabilities and promote community-based services.

The European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care (EEG)

EEG is short for the “European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care”.



The EEG is a group of people who work on getting people out of institutions and into the community.



Inclusion Europe is an active member of the EEG. EEG develops reports, guidelines and trainings to support people with disabilities.

Number of people in institutions

The number of people in institutions in the European Union has not changed over the past ten years.



1,5 million people with disabilities in the European Union still live in care institutions separated from the rest of the society.



The road is long but together we can take measured steps towards a Europe where people live free, happy and independently regardless of who they are.



Explanations



Accessible

Something that is easy to use for people with disabilities.
Such as:

- Ramps to get into a building.
- Information in easy-to-read.
- Information in sign language.



Charter of Fundamental Rights

A paper that says what basic rights every person has.
For example, the right to freedom, the right to education.



Commissioner at the European Commission

A Commissioner is a person who is responsible
for a field of work at the European Commission
and manages a lot of people.



Community

People that belong to something.

For example, neighbourhood community.

People who live in the same neighbourhood.

Or religious community.

People who have the same religion.



Community-based services

Support given by people from the community.



Convention

An agreement between countries or

organisations which talks about many topics.



Deinstitutionalisation

Deinstitutionalisation is helping people
to move out of institutions.

It is when the people who lived in institutions get help
so they can live independently in the community.



Educate

Educate means to teach.

It means to make sure people have access to training so they can learn new skills.



European Union

The European Union (in short, EU) is a group of 28 countries.

We call these countries “member states”.

They have joined together to be stronger politically and economically.

The EU makes laws on many important things for the people who live in those countries.

The EU makes laws in different areas.

Some examples are:

- Laws to protect the environment.
- Laws for farmers.
- Laws to protect consumers.

A consumer is someone who buys things.

The EU also makes laws that are important for people with disabilities.

It also made a law that gives people with disabilities more rights when they are travelling.

The EU also gives money to its member states.

Some of this money is used for people with disabilities.



Fund

To give money to someone or to an organisation which helps people or organisations.

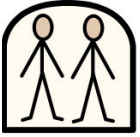


Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is an organisation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

We fight for their equal rights and inclusion in Europe.
We also want to make a difference to the laws in Europe.
We started in 1988.

We have 79 members in 39 European countries.
We are based in Brussels in Belgium.



Institutions

Institutions are places where people with intellectual disabilities live with other people with intellectual disabilities.

They live apart from other people.

This is what we call “segregated”.

Sometimes this happens against their will.

People who live in institutions have to follow the rules of the institution and cannot decide for themselves.



Intellectual disability

If you have an intellectual disability, that means it is more difficult for you to understand information and learn new skills than it is for other people.

This makes some parts of life harder.

People with intellectual disabilities often need support in learning or at work.

Intellectual disability often starts before you are an adult.

It affects you for your whole life.

There are things that can make life easier
for people with intellectual disabilities.

For example, information in easy-to-read language.

Some people say learning disabilities
instead of intellectual disabilities.



NGO **Non-governmental organizations**

Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs are generally defined as nonprofit and independent of governmental influence.



Online Schooling

Online schooling is a way for students to attend their classes using a computer or another device to connect to the internet.

These classes happen with the help of online applications for meetings or online classrooms.



Organisation

A group of people who work for the same thing.



Segregation

Segregation is when someone is set apart from others for an unfair reason.

For example, because of their disability.



Self-Advocacy

Self-advocacy is when people with intellectual disabilities speak up for themselves.

These people are called self-advocates.



Services

Support for people with disabilities.



Training

A class often given at work where people learn new things.



Ambitions. Rights. Belonging.

Contact us and share your self-advocacy stories!



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