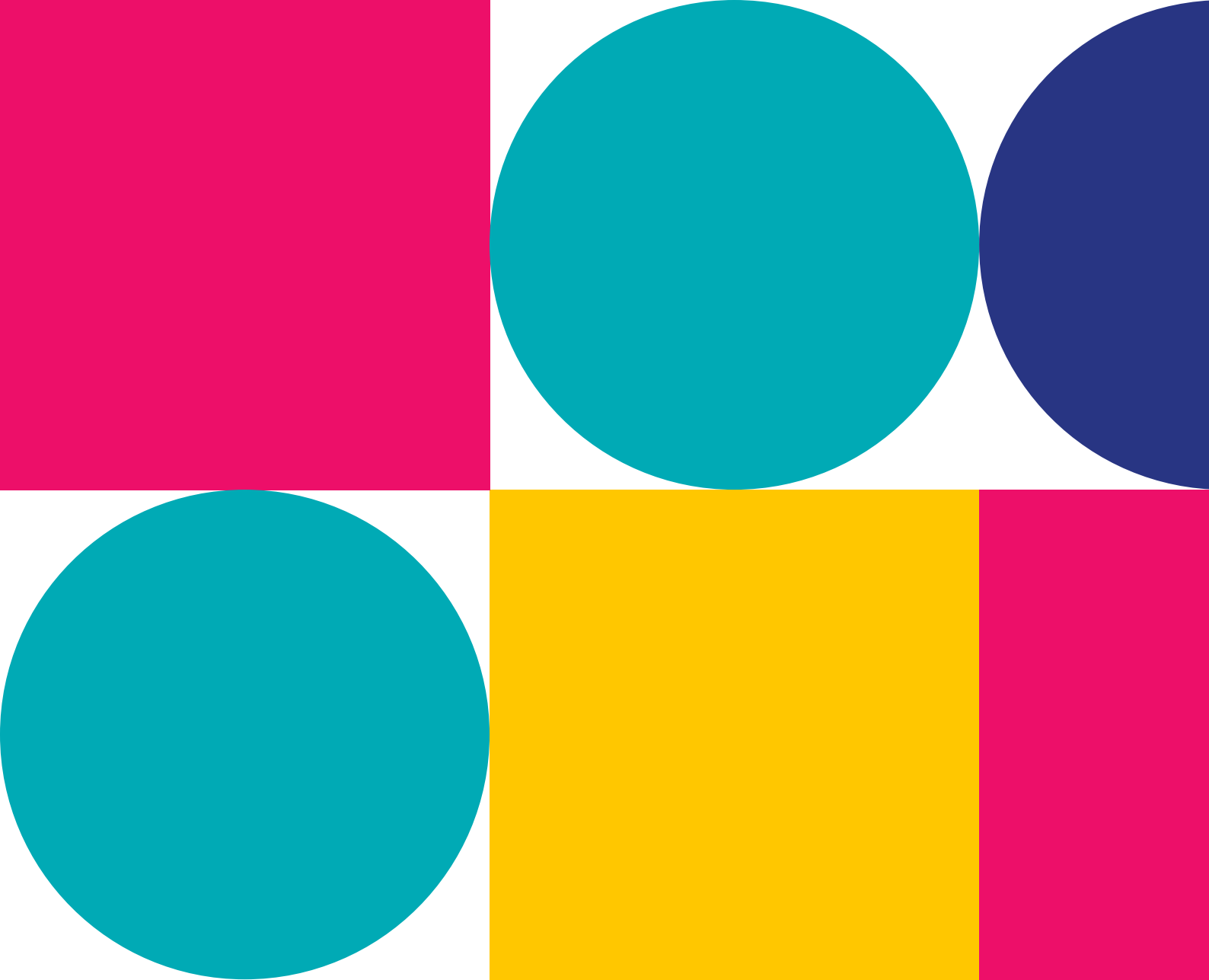




# **Inclusion Europe** annual report

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# **2025**



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# Who we are and how we work

Inclusion Europe is the European movement representing 20 million people with intellectual disabilities and their family members.

We stand for full rights and inclusion. We have members in 36 European countries. Our member organisations represent people with intellectual disabilities and their families in their countries, we represent them with the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The European Platform of Self-Advocates is an integral part of our structure and identity. Inclusion Europe works to end segregation of people with intellectual disabilities and isolation of their families.

We do that with:

## **1. Advocacy and participation.**

Ensuring self-advocates and family members have the opportunities and skills to talk directly with decision-makers to express their views and expectations on policies that affect them.

## **2. Research and insights.**

Informing European policy-making with data and insights about the situation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, and about the work being done for their full rights and inclusion.

## **3. Collaborations and tools for inclusion.**

Bringing people together for inclusion, promoting inclusion through collaborations, and leading by example.

## **Our work is rooted in the values of the Inclusion movement:**

**Respect** for people with intellectual disabilities, their opinions and choices.

**Solidarity** between people, generations and organisations.

**Inclusion** of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in all aspects of society and of our work.

People with intellectual disabilities and family members are directly represented in governing bodies of Inclusion Europe. Sometimes, this structure can feel complicated.

Here is who does what at Inclusion Europe:

**Members:**

We have members in 36 European countries. Our members are organisations representing people with intellectual disabilities and their families on national or regional levels. One third of our member organisations are self-advocacy organisations. You can find a list of all our members on page 40.

Members elect the Board and approve all major decisions. Members share their work and experiences to contribute to our work at European level.

**European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA):**

The European Platform of Self-Advocates, also called EPSA, is a platform of self-advocacy organisations which are members of Inclusion Europe. EPSA has 18 members in 16 different countries. EPSA selects at least 3 members of Inclusion Europe Board. EPSA makes sure Inclusion Europe is an inclusive organisation by giving feedback on how well self-advocates are represented in our work. Self-advocates from EPSA represent Inclusion Europe at conferences and meetings. Every 2 years EPSA organises the self-advocacy conference Hear Our Voices!.

**EPSA Steering Group:**

The Steering Group is a group of self-advocates that lead the work of EPSA. Members of the Steering Group are elected by EPSA members.

You can find an overview of EPSA Steering Group on page 40.

**The Board:**

The Board leads the work of Inclusion Europe. Board members are elected by Inclusion Europe members to represent their interests.

The board is composed as a minimum of:

- 3 self-advocates, appointed by EPSA;
- 3 family members of people with intellectual disabilities,
- other advocates representing our members.

Board members include Inclusion Europe's president and Vice-Presidents.

Board members oversee the work of Inclusion Europe, consult on documents, speak at events to represent the organisation and do other important things.

You can find an overview of our board on page 40.

**Staff:**

The staff is a team of people doing most of the day-to-day work of Inclusion Europe. This includes many things from talking to other organisations, writing reports, organising events, promoting disability rights to making sure Inclusion Europe finances and affairs are in order.

You can find an overview of the staff on page 40.

**We all work together to make Europe finally end segregation of people with intellectual disabilities and isolation of their families.**

# 2025 in the words of...

Inclusion Europe's work is all about people. It is done to represent people, to improve peoples' lives. And it is done by people. Here's how some of us saw this work in 2025:



# Jyrki Pinomaa

## President

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Dear members of Inclusion Europe.

I have had the honour and pleasure to serve as Inclusion Europe's President for eight years. My time as President of this great organisation will come to its end in May 2026 after our General Assembly in Vicenza, Italy. Thank you, dear members, for the opportunity you have given me!

During the past year, 2025, I have been in many events where the role of siblings of people with intellectual disabilities has been one of the topics. Often, siblings themselves have been bringing their situation as family members into spotlight. It has partly been about their own experiences in growing up in a family with one or more persons with intellectual disabilities, partly about them taking over the responsibilities their parents have been carrying.

When I listen to the stories of siblings, my thoughts always take me to my own family and my four children. Markus (39) and Robin (34) with their very complex support needs and Rasmus (40) and Martina (36). I feel a flow of strong emotions. My eyes are blinded by a stream of tears.

I remember when we felt powerless as "reserved parents" of two children with intellectual disabilities. I remember our attempts to find ways to be parents also to our non-disabled children. I remember constantly having bad conscience, caused by the exhausting feeling of inadequacy. And an equal feeling also from the moments of relief when Markus and Robin were in respite care. Aren't we capable of taking care of our own children?

The concern for the well-being of the siblings was always there. With help of psychotherapy the siblings got through their adolescence. Yet, when listening to siblings today, I feel anxious about the thought of our children's adult life, its challenging moments and the anxiety of the future. Have we been able to equip them with strong enough life skills?

The topic of siblings, and the situation of families of people with intellectual disabilities with complex support needs are the two topics which have always been most important to me. I am very happy that both are now well recognised and represented in the work of Inclusion Europe.

Another successful year for Inclusion Europe is now behind. I wish to express my thanks to the whole staff for their work. With your efforts and commitment our presence in Brussels is most visible and our organisation respected and valued. My sincere thanks go also to the Board. It has been a pleasure to work with you. I appreciate the support each one of you have given me throughout my years as President.

The General Assembly 2025 in Berlin elected Jeanne Nicklas-Faust as new President for Inclusion Europe. Jeanne is our Board member and Treasurer. She is also a mother, and works as Director of our German member Lebenshilfe. Warmest congratulations to our new President!

# László Bercse

## Chair of the European Platform of Self-Advocates, Vice-president of Inclusion Europe

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Dear members.

As Chair of the European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA)

I am happy to share what we have been doing this year,  
and how Inclusion Europe supports self-advocates.



For me, self-advocacy means knowing my rights  
and responsibilities.

It also means speaking up for myself and  
for other people with intellectual disabilities.

Self-advocacy helps us to be included in society.

It helps us take part in decisions that affect our lives.



I became Chair of EPSA in 2019.

Before that, I already worked with EPSA since 2017.



What I like most about EPSA is that I can speak  
in many places in Europe.

I can talk about the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

I can tell decision-makers what support we need.



In 2025, some very good things happened.

One important activity was the Unity project.

Self-advocates from many countries came together.



We joined trainings and meetings.  
 We learned from each other.  
 We learned how to be more visible.  
 We learned how to speak up better.



Inclusion Europe helped to make this happen.  
 They support self-advocates with training and opportunities to meet.



We also met Mar Galcerán.  
 She is a self-advocate and a politician in Spain.  
 She came to our training sessions.  
 This was very inspiring.



We need more politicians with intellectual disabilities.  
 We can learn a lot from them.



But there is still a lot to do.  
 People with intellectual disabilities still face many barriers.



We need:  
 real jobs and fair pay



inclusive schools and workplaces



the right to make our own decisions



the right to vote



EPSA and self-advocates will keep working on these issues.

Inclusion Europe work is important for self-advocacy,  
supporting us to learn, speak up, and be heard.



Together, we keep working for full inclusion.

We want all people with intellectual disabilities  
to be heard and respected.

# Milan Šveřepa

## Chief Executive

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Wherever I went in 2025, people told me the same things: Governments are cutting funding for organisations and for services. New institutions are being opened, even in countries that did away with them decades ago. New laws make it easier to provide bad services to people with intellectual disabilities.

I'm not writing this to add to that weight. I'm writing it because I think we need to look at it honestly – and then ask what it means for us at Inclusion Europe. And also for you – the people who are this Inclusion movement.

The world is changing. Quickly, and not always in the direction we want. That means we need to ask ourselves: are we adapting? Are we responding to the fact that clearly some of what we do does not have the results we want? Are we making the most of what this movement has to offer – its people, its knowledge, its experience, its resilience? These are the questions I carry with me. I hope you carry them too – about your own organisations, about how you work, about what we might do differently. How we should work better together, as one participant at a session with European organisations at the World Congress suggested.

I was in Copenhagen in October 2025, to speak at a conference on independent living. I met with colleagues from our Danish member Lev and we talked – about the situation there, about what we can learn from each other, about how to make international exchange genuinely useful. Those conversations are part of what makes this movement. It's not about the reports on policy papers – it's about belonging. About the work we can do together with our shared values and joined efforts.

There are thousands of us in this movement who share a vision of full rights and inclusion. Who work for it in all kinds of different ways. Who struggle with everything that is going on – for people with intellectual disabilities, and in the broader political sense. But we come together in organisations, at events or in families. At local, national and European levels we make things happen every day.

At Inclusion Europe, 2025 was a year of good work. You can read about it in these pages – my colleagues write about it better than I could. What I want to add is this: Behind all of this work is a movement that has already changed the world. Institutions have closed. Legal capacity laws have improved. People with intellectual disabilities are living in their communities, making their own choices, doing work that matters. This movement made that happen.

Full rights and inclusion is not a pipe dream. It is a reality lived by many. It's what gives this movement its power.

The challenges that remain are real. So is the progress we've made. We need to adapt and change some of our ways of working. We need to be creative and honest about what works and what doesn't. But we do all of this while staying committed – to the mission, to each other, and to who we are.

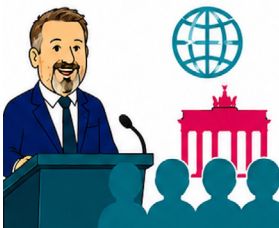
# Soufiane El Amrani

## Accessibility expert and self-advocate

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In 2025 I did a lot of different things with Inclusion Europe.



I spoke at the Global Disability Summit 2025 in Berlin.

The Summit was a very big conference with people from all around the world.



I gave several easy-to-read trainings to many different organisations.



I went to the World Congress of Inclusion International.

I took part in the Self-Advocacy Summit there, as well as in other sessions.



With Inge we presented the Inclusion Indicators at the World Congress.

Inclusion Indicators is a report about what Europe looks like for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



I went to other conferences and events,  
both in Brussels and in different countries in Europe.



I also took part in self-advocacy meetings  
for Hear Our Voices!.



I spoke at the European Parliament about legal capacity  
and supported decision-making.



I also started a campaign for me to get elected  
to the board of the European Disability Forum.



I met a lot of self-advocates and many others  
working for inclusion.

All this work is very important.



People with intellectual disabilities need to be able  
to have their say and be taken seriously.

As I said in Berlin: "Governments think they know  
what's best for us, but they don't. We do!"

# Sandra Marquez

## Supporting self-advocacy

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2025 was about finding my place, especially working from Lisbon and still feeling part of a team based in Brussels. And I can say clearly: I do feel part of it. Because of the people. Because of how we work. Because we share the same goals.

### Supporting self-advocacy

A big part of my work at Inclusion Europe is supporting the European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA) and strengthening self-advocacy. This is the thread that connects everything I do. EPSA exists since 2000. I have been close to Inclusion Europe since that year, able to see EPSA's beginnings and how it developed and grew. It now has 18 members from 16 countries, organises popular events like Hear Our Voices!, and is an integral part of Inclusion Europe and our work.

In 2025, two new organisations joined EPSA. This shows that the network continues to grow, even if some organisations leave along the way. It also reflects the reality many self-advocacy organisations face. Self-advocacy work often depends on external funding, and many organisations do not receive stable support for advocacy from governments. This makes it difficult to plan long-term and to sustain their work.

### Hear Our Voices!

One of the highlights of 2025 were the Hear Our Voices! self-advocacy events. I have been organising Hear Our Voices! since 2011, and every time it is different and differently good. But 2025 was special: 18 countries were involved, with 23 organisations organising activities and more than 1,200 participants across Europe. Behind these numbers are people speaking up, sharing their experiences, and making their voices heard. Members organised their own events. Self-advocates spoke about what matters most to them.

### Supporting learning and capacity building

Supporting self-advocacy also means investing in learning and capacity building. I worked with members and helped them organise trainings. I also gave trainings myself. For self-advocates, family members, and for support persons. After all, Inclusion is not only about self-advocates. It is also about the people around them understanding how to support without taking over.

One of the trainings I created was on making the European Union more accessible for self-advocates. This is important if we want people to be part of decisions that affect their lives.

### **Sharing experiences across Europe and growing self-advocacy**

Through work done in projects like UNITY, I could clearly see self-advocacy growing across Europe. In 2025, I took part in several online events from different organisations. More than 400 people participated, with presentations from over 20 self-advocates from 9 countries. In Greece, more than 100 self-advocates were involved as they organised their first self-advocacy conference!

To reach even more people, the work I do for the Self-Determination Academy focuses on the roots of self-advocacy: empowerment. Supporting people to develop confidence, knowledge, and skills to make their own choices and speak up.

### **Building connections**

Looking back at 2025, what stands out is not only what was achieved but how it was achieved. Through collaboration. Through shared commitment. And through the voices of people who we make sure are heard.



As a sibling of someone with an intellectual disability working at Inclusion Europe, I have no traditional 'work-life' balance.

So much of my life relates to my work, and so much of my work relates to my life.

This became even more clear to me when I got sick in 2024 and could not work for a while. I hated it.

So, when I was able to get back to work at the start of 2025, I was so excited. But it was, and still is, on a part-time basis, which meant I had to find a new balance.

What should I work on? What deserves my attention and energy? What gives me energy? How can I do my work in a way that is sustainable and has impact?

The answers came in two parts. The first was predictable, the second was more of a surprise to me.

The **Inclusion Indicators** is the predictable answer to the questions above.

I love working on the Inclusion Indicators. It gives me so much energy to be working on fixing a problem like the lack of data on people with intellectual disabilities. It is not perfect, we still have to work with incomplete and missing data, but it has impact.

I have been working on the Inclusion Indicators since the first report in 2023. That year was very much a period of trial and error. Seeing what worked and what did not, which questions we had to ask to get the answers we were looking for, and discussing with members what we can improve. For 2024, we had already made many improvements. But for 2025, I wanted to make the last 'big' adjustments, to get the survey and the report in the shape we had always envisioned. So, that's where I put most of my focus.

**Siblings' advocacy** was the more surprising answer to the questions above.

Of course, as a sibling myself, I already shared about my experiences here and there. But I realised that I wanted to take it more seriously. To take my advocacy to the next level, so to say. Luckily, at Inclusion Europe I get opportunities to do just that.

I got the chance to do a podcast for Inclusion Europe Radio, to write an article for the website, to host focus groups with siblings for a series of essays that will be published in 2026, and to travel to different places to speak about my experiences as a sibling.

I am so grateful that I can combine my work and my life, that I can both work on something as impactful as the Inclusion Indicators, while also working on something that is so personal as advocating for siblings.

Like I said in the beginning, it is pretty much impossible for me to have a standard 'worklife' balance, and I love it.



In 2025 all the pieces fell into place for me.

In January, I started as the coordinator for the **European Expert Group on the transition from institutions to community-based support**. Which means I got to work with the EEG's 12 amazing member organisations. Coordinating so many people and constituencies is not always easy. But being a part of the EEG's incredibly strong effort to make deinstitutionalisation happen – I'd do it all over again in a heartbeat.

- Together, we made a report on how EU funding could be better used for the transition from institutions to independent living in the community.
- We organised an online event – the annual Study Session – where over 140 people came together.
- And we discussed the importance of investing EU money in deinstitutionalisation and showed the difference it can make.

Soon, I was ready to take on more (the EEG Coordinator is a half-time position). So I started as Inclusion Europe's **Communications Officer** (also just half-time at first). When I say 'all the pieces fell into place'... this is how it felt after about 3 days. The job fit(s) like a glove.

I learned to manage Inclusion Europe's impressive range of communication mediums:

- Europe for Us easy-to-read magazine,
- Inclusion Europe Radio podcasts,
- Include News and Belonging with Inclusion Europe newsletters,
- Online platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube.

Right on time to highlight the great work self-advocates all over Europe were doing, since 2025 was also a Hear Our Voices!-year. Self-advocates from Georgia, Iceland, Cyprus, Finland and many more (18 countries in total) spoke up about what matters most to them and the change they want to see. Creating posts and visuals with content provided by all these incredible people was the best introduction to the 'human side' of communications I could have asked for.

The fact that I was able to attend one of the Hear Our Voices! events in Timisoara, Romania was a huge bonus. Self-advocates Elisabeta Moldovan, Anna Ciuciura, and Tibi Chitoiu shared how they escaped from the institutions they had grown up in.

They spoke openly about the violence they had endured and what it took to survive. They also invited us to visit them in their houses, where they live independently. Seeing how proud they were of their homes, their interior choices, and the simple but great pleasure of being able to decide for themselves allowed me to witness the importance of deinstitutionalisation in practice.

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In 2025, I also focused on another topic close to my heart: **gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.**

In July, I wrote Inclusion Europe's first report on Gender (in)equality of women and girls with intellectual disabilities in Europe. The report was picked up by Euronews. They translated the article into many different languages and created a video based on Inclusion Europe's information.

In September I spoke in the European Parliament on how to prevent sexual violence against people with intellectual disabilities. Unsurprisingly, closing institutions is right at the top of that list...

And in October, the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) held a conference to consult on their report 'Places of Care = Places of Safety? Violence against persons with disabilities in institutions.' Meeting the participants of this event showed me that there are a lot of great people in Europe that are 'doing' deinstitutionalisation every day. But seeing that no survivors of institutionalisation were there taught me that even when there is good will, a lot of work remains to be done.



Every morning I ask myself the same question: How can I do better today?

Over the past year, I have learnt that to answer this seemingly simple question, many more questions must be considered first. To improve my work for people with intellectual disabilities and their families, I asked myself in January 2025:

- How can the next EU long-term budget work for inclusion?
- How will the UN CRPD Committee's review influence disability rights in the EU?
- How can jobs become inclusive?
- How can we make the right to decide a reality?
- What must the next Disability Rights Strategy include?

Here is what I found:

### **How can the next EU long-term budget work for inclusion?**

Our members told us that EU money helps every day. It helps run self-advocacy work, partner with others on deinstitutionalisation, or support inclusive jobs. But EU money also brings disappointment — for example when segregated institutions get financed.

We turned our members' voices into a position paper: [“EU money for inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.”](#) We shared this paper with Members of the European Parliament and with the European Commission. We asked our members to take it to their governments and [call for action](#).

In July, EU budget proposal was published. There are many [concerns](#). The budget advocacy is far from over.

### **What will the UN CRPD Committee say about disability rights in the European Union?**

In 2025 the CRPD Committee reviewed the EU. [I travelled to Geneva](#) to [present the situation of people with intellectual disabilities](#). Together with other organisations we looked at what the EU achieved for disability rights – and at the gaps that remain.

During the exchange between Committee members and the European Commission, the sentence “1.7 billion euros were used for community-based services” struck me. That is a lot of money!

- If 1.7 billion went to community-based services, why are more than 1 million people with intellectual disabilities still in institutions?
- How is money still flowing to institutions?
- What does “community-based services” actually mean in that statistic?

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## **How can jobs become inclusive?**

“Job First!” report about employment was a big focus in my work. A job as a first step to inclusion. In June [we took this message to the European Parliament](#), presenting our [Job First report](#), and also launching the [Ulla Topi Traineeship](#). In that meeting we explored the questions and answers the Job First report had brought up and that I continue to take on in my everyday work:

- How do we promote life skills — at school and on the job market?
- How do we help others see that a job is not just about tasks and a pay cheque, but about freedom, choice, and community?
- What concrete actions — at national and EU level — are needed to make access to skills and jobs equal for everyone?

## **How can we make the right to decide a reality?**

The answer has been known for years: Supported decision-making.

In 2025 we worked with our members to gather examples of good work, and of the challenges they face. Using their expertise, we published a report with examples of legal reforms and supported decision-making mechanisms from different countries. We explained why making your own decisions matters and what countries can do to make it possible.

We also spoke about this wherever we could: at EDF’s conference in Vilnius; in a meeting with the Council of the EU on the cross-border protection of adult regulation; and in multiple meetings with MEP’s.

## **What must the next Disability Rights Strategy include?**

The EU Disability Strategy 2021–2030 provides guidance on what needs to improve. For the next years, we think the Strategy should provide good answers to questions such as:

- How to finally close institutions and support people to move back into the community?
- How to guarantee jobs for people with intellectual disabilities — starting within EU administrations and bodies?
- How to make sure that every citizen can vote in the next EU elections?

## **In Conclusion...**

If 2025 has taught me anything it’s that as long as you look for answers you stay active. And inclusion takes a lot of action. So ask yourself: “How can I do better today? What can I do to make a change?” I promise you, no matter how big or small your contribution, it matters. It’s what keeps me going at least... And I highly recommend it.



# Self-advocates and family members speaking up at European level

At Inclusion Europe, we make sure self-advocates and family members have the opportunities and skills to talk directly with decision-makers to express their views and expectations on policies that affect them.



**"It is important for us to be able to come to the European Parliament and tell about the situation of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. We want to be seen. We want to be heard."**

László Bercse opened an event in the European Parliament in December.

You can read more [here](#).

**"The internet is powerful, but if you don't know how to use it, you are kind of lost. Everyone wants to get the right support!"**

Lydia Fisher talked about accessibility of websites.

You can read more [here](#).

**"Progress on independent living is stalled because the EU avoids firm action where its competence is limited. The Equal Treatment Directive has been blocked. The European Parliament and the Commission should place them at the centre of their work."**

José Smits wrote about her speech in the European Parliament about the CRPD review of the EU.

You can read more [here](#).

**"I was very proud that participating in all elections is one of my rights and responsibilities. I too can decide on the candidates."**

Juraj Šuster during an event about participation in politics, organised in Slovakia together with the Steering Group of the European Platform of Self-Advocates.

You can read more [here](#).

**"I am an adult woman who knows what she wants."**

Mariam Berikelashvili, one of the self-advocates speaking in the European Parliament at Inclusion Europe event in December.

You can read more [here](#).

**"Full citizenship against exclusion. We will make it happen."**

Ulla Topi during an event in the European Parliament, where Inclusion Europe launched the Ulla Topi traineeships in inclusive policy-making.

You can read more [here](#).

**"We make policies and laws more representative and inclusive."**

Soufiane El Amrani spoke about the importance of employing people with intellectual disabilities in policy-making jobs.

You can read more [here](#).

# Bringing people together for full rights and inclusion

Behind every report or event are the people who come together to share, to learn, to advocate for full rights and inclusion. It's a community of like-minded, dedicated, hardworking self-advocates, family members, professionals... And we are lucky to play a part in it.

## **Hear Our Voices!**

2025 was a year of the Hear Our Voices! self-advocacy events. The theme was "Being heard. Being seen."

Normally, Hear our Voices! takes place in one city. This year was different. EPSA, together with our members, organized 23 Hear Our Voices! self-advocacy events across 18 countries. There were over 1,200 participants.

Hear Our Voices! events took place in these countries:

Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Spain.

Topics covered many areas of life, such as the right to love, political participation, independent living, employment, education, healthcare and much more. Self-advocates spoke about what matters most to them in the context of their country and current situation.

On 2 December 2025 there was a final Hear Our Voices! event that took place in Brussels. Many self-advocates joined in person and online. Self-advocates presented what had happened during the Hear Our Voices! events in their country. Afterwards, self-advocates asked each other questions. They recognized many of the same problems across different countries and came up with clear and united messages for European decision-makers. Most of all, they wanted to see real action, not only nice words.





**"I don't want special treatment. I just want what you have. You studied and found work. I studied and I want to work too."**

Levan Gotsadze,  
self-advocate from Georgia



**"At work I tell others what to do and explain how to do it. Growing up in an institution I never thought I would be in a position like that. I didn't know it was possible."**

Anna Ciuciura,  
self-advocate from Romania



**"I want to talk about what it means to be a mother with an intellectual disability."**

Andrea Westerlund,  
self-advocate from Finland



**"The media often uses complicated language. It's important to have easy-to-read content to make it more accessible."**

Atli Már Haraldsson,  
self-advocate from Iceland



**"It is everyone's right to have a family. No one can stop us from loving."**

Tereza Onoufriou,  
self-advocate from Cyprus

# Events bringing perspective of people with intellectual disabilities to European level

In June, Inclusion Europe organised an event on employment in the European Parliament. We presented our 'Job First!' report. We spoke about the importance of having a job and developing skills for people with intellectual disabilities. We launched the Ulla Topi traineeship for inclusive policy-making.

In December, we hosted an online debate with Spanish politician Mar Galcerán. Ms. Galcerán is the first member of a regional parliament with an intellectual disability.

In 2025 Inclusion Europe launched a new series of events called Inclusion After Hours. We invited everyone we know to join us for a relaxed evening and a chat about anything: family life, work, the situation of people with intellectual disabilities, policy developments. We hosted 2 Inclusion After Hours events in 2025.



Inclusion Europe organised an event for self-advocates and family members to tell the European Parliament what they want and need. Self-advocates and family members from Cyprus, Hungary, Germany, Ireland, Georgia, Romania, Belgium and Iceland spoke. We also launched the Inclusion Indicators 2025 report during this meeting.

In summer, Inclusion Europe helped organise self-advocacy trainings in Greece. There were 4 trainings in total. 2 in Athens and 2 in Thessaloniki. 70 people participated and trained to be self-advocates. The trainings were aimed to strengthen political participation and digital skills of people with intellectual disabilities.

We organised 3 sessions at the World Congress of Inclusion International. And with Lebenshilfe and Inclusion International we co-organised a self-advocacy session at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin.

We organised a training in Lisbon, in collaboration with Fenacerci. And a members meeting in Berlin in collaboration with Lebenshilfe.



# Providing data and insights

## Inclusion Indicators

The Inclusion Indicators report shows what the situation for people with intellectual disabilities and their families is like in 33 European countries.

The report looks at 7 areas of importance:

1. Right to decide and right to vote
2. Right to live independently and be included in the community
3. Housing and Support
4. Education
5. Employment
6. Healthcare
7. Representation

In 2025, there was a special focus on Housing and support. Housing was a big topic in EU policy this year. Inclusion Europe wanted to make sure that the reality of people with intellectual disabilities and their families was included in the many discussions about new housing strategies and plans.

Inclusion Europe publishes a new Inclusion Indicators report every year. The first Inclusion Indicators report was published in 2023 and covered 29 countries. The data is based on the information we get from our members. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

## Reports and documents to inform policy-making

We published a report called **Examples and ideas for employment of people with intellectual disabilities.**

- This report is about why having a job is so important.
- There are 15 examples of support to employment of people with intellectual disabilities in different countries.

We published examples of **Supported decision-making.**

- What it means to have support in making decisions
- Which countries are working on reforms
- 19 examples of supported-decision making in practice



A lot of policy discussions in 2025 revolved around the **next long-term EU budget**.

- We advocated for EU money to go towards inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. We wrote our ideas about how EU money should be spent, and we talked about this with our members (for example at Members Meeting in Berlin).
- We contributed to joint advocacy of many organisations at European level to protect investment in social inclusion.
- We worked closely with the European Expert Group on the transition from institutions to community-based support (EEG) for better use of EU funds to foster the transition from institutional to community-based care.

In summer, Inclusion Europe published a report on **Gender (in)equality of women and girls with intellectual disabilities**.

- This report looks at the 7 areas of life (in line with the Inclusion Indicators) from a gender perspective.
- It also looks at the high risk of violence women and girls with intellectual disabilities face when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The report was picked up and reported on by Euronews in 6 different languages. Inclusion Europe also published a briefing on EU Accession and situation of people with intellectual disabilities.
- As the EU considers the human rights situation of the accession countries we reminded everyone, that people with intellectual disabilities must not be forgotten in the process.
- The briefing looks at Albania, North Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.



## Shaping EU policy

Throughout the year, Inclusion Europe worked to keep the issues that matter most – moving away from institutional care, ensuring people can make their own decisions, and addressing the specific situation of people with intellectual disabilities – at the heart of discussions on the future of EU disability policy.

- This included contributions to 14 EU initiatives and consultations, participation in the Disability Platform, and regular engagement with the European Commission, European Parliament, and civil society coalitions.
- EEG. We continue to work with our partners in the European Expert Group on Transition from Institutions to Community-Based Support. As part of the operating grant we receive from the EU, Inclusion Europe employs EEG Coordinator working on behalf of the group.
- European Disability Forum. EDF represents people with all disabilities from all over Europe. As their European member, we work closely with EDF on many issues.

Inclusion Europe was invited to support change in several countries:

- Providing legal and policy analysis for countries implementing supported decision-making reforms.
- Supporting strategies and actions for development of community-based support and for deinstitutionalisations.
- Advising on the use of easy-to-read and other means of making information and events accessible.



# Telling stories and sharing examples to promote full rights and inclusion

## Europe for Us

Europe for Us is easy-to-read magazine. Every issue of the magazine is produced in 8 languages: English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, and Hungarian.

We published 4 issues in 2025:

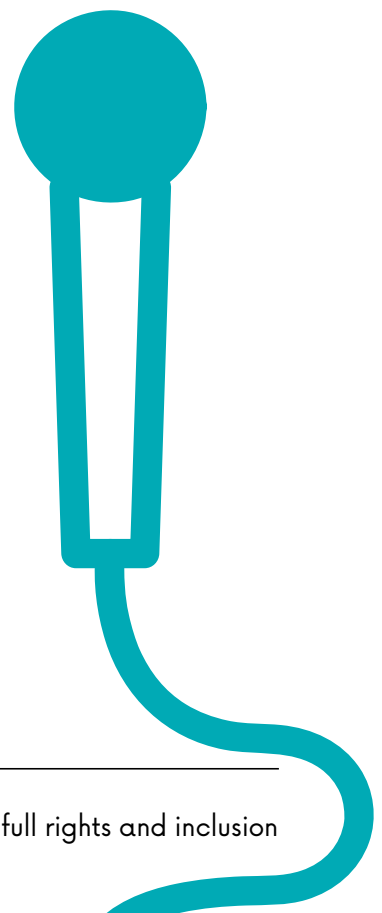
- Representation matters
- European funds and deinstitutionalisation
- EU funding: Our money. Our future.
- Inclusion Indicators 2025

## Inclusion Europe Radio

Inclusion Europe Radio is a podcast about rights, challenges and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities and their families across Europe. Through in-depth conversations with advocates, experts and self-advocates, the podcast highlights stories of inclusion, practical strategies for change and insights into creating inclusive societies.

We published 6 podcasts in 2025:

- Growing up as a sibling of a person with intellectual disabilities, with Aoife McGarry and Inge Volleberg.
- In Conversation with... Sue Swenson: President of Inclusion International on motherhood, advocacy and the future.
- In Conversation with... VGO Coalition from Ukraine: We keep advocating for our rights
- In Conversation with... Connie Laurin-Bowie: Leadership and advocacy in disability rights
- In Conversation with... Peter Torres Fremlin: On disability, policy, and global insights
- In Conversation with... Nic Crosby: Small Supports – From institutions to community
- In Conversation with... Theresa Shearer: On leadership
- In Conversation with... Freek Spinnewijn: On housing, homelessness, deinstitutionalisation



## Media highlights

Inclusion Europe had 43 media appearances in 2025.

Euronews's coverage of Inclusion Europe's report on Gender (in)equality of women and girls with intellectual disabilities was especially notable. The article is called "How does gender inequality affect people with disabilities?" Euronews also created a video on the findings of the report in 6 languages.

The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) covered our Inclusion Indicators 2025 report and event. ORF published an article and a video in which Inclusion Europe's Inge Volleberg, Soufiane El Amrani, and Jeanne Nicklas-Faust are interviewed. The video also shows an excerpt of Inclusion Europe vice-president Laszlo Bercse's speech. Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, the member of the European Parliament who hosted the event reiterates the importance of inclusion.

### In 2025 Inclusion Europe:

- Published 101 articles on the website
- Had 13,545 newsletter subscribers
- Got 323,093 impressions on online media posts
- Gained 2,363 new followers on online media channels
- Published 174 posts from staff members on LinkedIn
  - reaching hundreds of thousands of impressions
- Made 38 speaker contributions to events and trainings with over 2,200 participants reached.



# Collaborations and projects to advance inclusion

## **UNITY project**

**Strengthening networks and self-advocacy for an inclusive democracy in Europe**

Democracy works best when everyone can participate. But many people with intellectual disabilities still face barriers that prevent them from expressing themselves or influencing decisions that affect their lives. The UNITY project puts people with intellectual disabilities at the center - supporting them to become stronger self-advocates and to take part in democratic life. Project partners created accessible opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to practice expressing opinions, debating issues, and sharing experiences in a supportive environment. The project is co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ programme).

### **Inclusion Europe:**

- Used the project to develop self-advocacy in Greece, supporting people with intellectual disabilities to build skills and connect with others.

“We had a great time. We want more!”

– self-advocates after the first national self-advocacy conference in Greece

### **Partners:**

- Zavod RISA (Slovenia — coordinator)
- Inclusion Europe
- LebensGross (Austria)

## **Self-Determination Academy project**

### **Strengthening the voices of young people with intellectual disabilities and autism across Europe**

Self-determination is a right. But for many young people with intellectual disabilities and autism in Europe, decisions about their lives are still made by others – from where to live to what to do.

The Self-Determination Academy supports young people to learn about their rights, build confidence, and take part fully in the life of their communities.

The project started towards the end of the year and the work was mostly about preparing the trainings. The project is co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ programme).

#### **Inclusion Europe:**

- Contributed to the development of training materials and tools.

#### **Partners:**

- Inovar Autismo (Portugal — coordinator)
  - Croatian Union of Associations for Autism (Croatia)
  - As I Am (Ireland)
  - Association for the Defense of Human Rights (Portugal)
  - Inclusion Europe
- 

## **TIFA Project**

### **Training Module Inclusive First Aid: Making first aid courses accessible for people with intellectual disabilities.**

First aid courses are not adapted to people with intellectual disabilities, meaning they are not being prepared for emergency situations. The project teaches first aid trainers about accessibility, and it creates first aid trainings that are accessible. The project is co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ programme).

#### **Inclusion Europe:**

- Creates the guidelines and principles of the course.
- Provides guidance and feedback on easy-to-read and accessibility.

#### **Partners:**

- Samaritan International (SAM.I.) – Coordinator (Germany)
  - SRCE (Croatia)
  - Zdruzenie institut za razvoj na zaednicata (North Macedonia)
  - ANPAS (Italy)
  - Inclusion Europe
  - Inicijativa za razvoj i saradnju (Serbia)
  - Dansk Folkehjælp (Denmark)
  - Arbeiter-samariter-bund deutschland e.V. – ASB (Germany)
  - Sustento (Latvia)
  - Latvijas Samariesu Apvieniba (Latvia)
  - Associazione Provinciale di Soccorso Croce Bianca (Italy)
  - Asociácia samaritánov Slovenskej republiky (Slovakia)
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## **TOGETHER+ project**

### **Supporting the move from institutions to living independently and being included**

Many people with intellectual disabilities are still segregated in institutions. This project helps change that.

TOGETHER+ supported professionals in 4 countries to make the move towards services in the community. It focused on the people who can make this change happen. The project supported them with trainings and tools to do this change well. Project partners designed and delivered a training programme for professionals leading deinstitutionalisation. The project is co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ programme).

#### **Inclusion Europe:**

- Created a practical Deinstitutionalisation Guide, with step-by-step advice and examples
- Provided guidance and feedback for the trainings in different countries. We also visited Timisoara, Romania, to meet with the project partners. During this visit, Inclusion Europe met with our members in Timisoara. We also talked with students at the local university about deinstitutionalisation and about inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

“It takes time and effort to get there. But it can be done. I hope the good words in all the governments’ documents don’t stay just that – words. They must become real work, so that all people can have a good life included in the community.”  
– Milan Šveřepa after a Together + event in Romania

#### **Partners:**

- Centrum podpory transformace (Czechia – coordinator)
- Inclusion Europe
- Fundatia de Abilitare Speranta (Romania)
- Rada pre poradenstvo v sociálnej práci (Slovakia)
- Viltis (Lithuania)

The project finished in October 2025.

## Supporting rights and inclusion in Ukraine

### Strengthening the disability movement in Ukraine during war and recovery.

This project supported our member organisation in Ukraine to keep advocating for full rights and inclusion, strengthening self-advocates and family members, developing knowledge about community-based support and deinstitutionalisation, and making sure disability organisations had a voice in humanitarian response and reconstruction. In February 2025, participants took part in a study visit to Brussels to connect with European organisations and institutions. The project was funded by CBM and implemented as part of a wider initiative of the European Disability Forum.

#### Partner:

- All-Ukrainian Coalition for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Inclusion Ukraine)

The project finished in February 2025.

“[These] stories remind us that inclusion, dignity, and the right to live in the community are not luxuries to be postponed until after the war. They are obligations under international law, under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and above all under the shared principles of humanity.”  
– Richard Baker, member of the Parliament in the UK, in his report is based on work by VGO Coalition, Inclusion Europe and other organisations

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## JUDY project

### Working together to close institutions and to strengthen self-advocates in Eastern Europe.

Inclusion International and Inclusion Europe worked with five of our members from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia towards a common goal: For Europe to end segregation of people with intellectual disabilities. The US State Department terminated the project's funding in January 2025, and the project was closed.

“By sharing my story, I realised I can inspire others. I want to do more to make a difference,”  
– self-advocate from Slovakia said during one of the project's meetings

# Financial report

## 2025

We wouldn't be able to do all our work for full rights and inclusion without money from our members, the European Union, and from individual donors.

### Income 2025

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Project Income            | € 151.324,07        |
| EU operating grant (CERV) | € 487.482,44        |
| Membership fees           | € 142.939,00        |
| Other operating income    | € 9.313,81          |
| <b>Total income</b>       | <b>€ 791.059,32</b> |

### Expenditure 2025

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Staff                                 | € 436.281,49        |
| External Project staff/Subcontracting | € 97.895,50         |
| Travel and subsistence                | € 66.209,47         |
| Services                              | € 24.145,48         |
| Equipment & running cost              | € 121.559,47        |
| Other expenditure                     | € 20.030,90         |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>              | <b>€ 766.122,31</b> |
| <b>Result:</b>                        | <b>€ 24.937,01</b>  |

The annual financial audit was conducted in accordance with the required standards and the agreed terms of reference. The auditor confirmed that the financial statements present a true and fair view of Inclusion Europe's net assets and overall financial position.

The financial result of Inclusion Europe for the year 2025 shows a surplus of nearly 25,000 euros.

In 2025, Inclusion Europe's income continued to be based primarily on three pillars:

- **Membership fees** (over 18% of total income) increased compared to the previous year. This growth reflects our members' continued recognition of the value of Inclusion Europe's work.
- **Operating grant from the European Union** represents nearly 62% of total income. This money comes from the CERV programme of the European Union.
- **Project-specific income** made up 19% of total income. Income generated through projects was 23% lower than in the previous year.
- We continue to receive small but important donations from **individual donors supporting our work**.

On the expenditure side, **staff** costs remained the largest expense category.

- Costs for internal staff accounted for approximately 57%, while project-related staff costs represented nearly 13% of total costs.
- Running costs, including office rent represented 16%, while travel and subsistence expenses were at 9% of total costs.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the **European Union** and to our **members** for their continued financial support of Inclusion Europe's work, as well as to all the individual donors for your important contributions.

**Jeanne Nicklas-Faust**

Treasurer



# Who works at Inclusion Europe

As of 24 April 2026.

## Board members



**Jyrki Pinomaa**

President. Jyrki has two sons with intellectual disability and complex support needs. Finland.



**László Bercse**

Vice-President of Inclusion Europe, Chair of the European Platform of Self-Advocates. Hungary.



**Mateja de Reya**

Vice-President representing family members. Mateja is from Slovenia.



**Guillaume Jacquinot**

Secretary-General. Ireland.



**Jeanne Nicklas-Faust**

President-Elect and Treasurer. Germany.

**Andreas Zehetner,**  
self-advocate. Austria.

**Camille Latimier,**  
Czechia.

**Cristina Schiratti,**  
family member. Italy.

**Dana Migaliova,**  
family member. Lithuania.

**Oswald Föllerer,**  
self-advocate, Austria.

**Tania Damianova-Sabir,**  
co-opted Board member.

## Steering Group of the European Platform of Self-Advocates



**László Bercse,**  
Hungary. Chair of the European Platform of Self-Advocates, and Vice-President of Inclusion Europe

**Oswald Föllerer,**  
Austria. Board member of Inclusion Europe.

**Andreas Zehetner,**  
Austria. Board member of Inclusion Europe.

**Ana Martínez,**  
Spain.

**Ellis Jongerius,**  
Netherlands.

# Staff

**Milan Šveřepa**

Chief Executive. Milan speaks at conferences and represents Inclusion Europe. Milan leads our work on deinstitutionalisation.

**Soufiane El Amrani**

Accessibility Expert and self-advocate. Soufiane speaks at events, gives trainings, and represents Europe in the Council of Inclusion International.

**Sandra Marques**

supports self-advocacy, leads trainings and projects in participation.

**Freddy Jussien**

leads our advocacy work at European level, connecting with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

**Inge Volleberg**

is a researcher with main responsibility for Inclusion Indicators. Inge also leads our work on young families.

**Helena Lambsdorff**

is head of media and communications. Helena also leads the work on gender and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

**Mari-Paz Jimenez Varona**

works on the First Aid Project.

**Ebba Olsson**

is a researcher looking into deinstitutionalisation practices in Europe.

**Nina Vertot**

is responsible for Inclusion Europe finances and office management.

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**With EU funding from our operation grant, Inclusion Europe hosts two colleagues who work on behalf of other organisations:**

**Mari-Paz Jimenez Varona**

coordinator for the European Down Syndrom Association.

**Mariya Yassenovska**

coordinator and policy officer for the EEG.

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## Members:

Inclusion Europe has 65 members in 36 countries, including 18 members in 16 different countries that form the European Platform of Self-Advocates.

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| Country                       | Organisation                                                             | Website                                                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Albania</b>                | Help The Life Association                                                | <a href="http://www.helpthelife.org">www.helpthelife.org</a>     |
| <b>Austria</b>                | Lebenshilfe Österreich                                                   | <a href="http://www.lebenshilfe.at">www.lebenshilfe.at</a>       |
|                               | Selbstvertretungsbeirat der Lebenshilfe Österreich                       | <a href="http://www.lebenshilfe.at">www.lebenshilfe.at</a>       |
|                               | Selbstvertretungszentrum für Menschen mit Lernschwierigkeiten            | <a href="http://www.svz.wuk.at">www.svz.wuk.at</a>               |
| <b>Belarus</b>                | Lifeguide                                                                | <a href="http://www.belapdi.org">www.belapdi.org</a>             |
| <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> | Association Sumero                                                       | <a href="http://www.sumero.ba">www.sumero.ba</a>                 |
| <b>Bulgaria</b>               | BAPID – Bulgarian Association for Persons with intellectual disabilities | <a href="http://www.bapid.com">www.bapid.com</a>                 |
|                               | BAPID – Self-Advocacy Group                                              | <a href="http://www.bapid.com">www.bapid.com</a>                 |
|                               | National Association of Resource Teachers                                | <a href="http://www.narubg.org">www.narubg.org</a>               |
| <b>Croatia</b>                | Udruga za promicanje inkluzije – Association for Promoting Inclusion     | <a href="http://www.inkluzija.hr">www.inkluzija.hr</a>           |
|                               | Udruga za samozastupanje                                                 | <a href="http://www.samozastupanje.hr">www.samozastupanje.hr</a> |
|                               | Hrvatski savez udruga osoba s intelektualnim teškoćama                   | <a href="http://www.savezosit.hr">www.savezosit.hr</a>           |

| Country                  | Organisation                                                                             | Website                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cyprus                   | Organisation Pancyprian Parents Association for People with Mental Handicap              | pasygoka@cytanet.com.cy              |
| Czechia                  | SPMP (ČR): Společnost pro podporu lidí s mentálním postižením – Inclusion Czech Republic | www.spmPCR.cz                        |
|                          | Sebeobhájci Praha                                                                        | Jan.siska@pedf.cuni.cz               |
|                          | Rytmus                                                                                   | www.rytmus.org                       |
| Denmark                  | Landsforeningen LEV                                                                      | www.lev.dk                           |
| Estonia                  | Vaimukad: Eesti Vaimupuudega Inimeste Tugiliit (EVPIT)                                   | www.vaimukad.ee                      |
|                          | EVPIT Self-Advocacy Group                                                                | www.vaimukad.ee                      |
| England (United Kingdom) | Learning Disability England                                                              | www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk |
| Faroe Islands            | Javni                                                                                    | www.javni.fo                         |
| Finland                  | Kehitysvammaisten Tukiliitto r.y.                                                        | www.tukiliitto.fi                    |
|                          | FDUV                                                                                     | www.fduv.fi                          |

| Country | Organisation                                                                  | Website                                                                                |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| France  | UNAPEI                                                                        | <a href="http://www.unapei.org">www.unapei.org</a>                                     |
|         | Nous Aussi                                                                    | <a href="http://www.nousaussi.org">www.nousaussi.org</a>                               |
|         | Les Papillons Blancs de Dunkerque                                             | <a href="http://www.papillonsblancs-dunkerque.fr">www.papillonsblancs-dunkerque.fr</a> |
| Georgia | Georgian Down Syndrome Association Self-Advocacy Group                        | <a href="http://www.downsyndrome.ge">www.downsyndrome.ge</a>                           |
| Germany | Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e.V.     | <a href="http://www.lebenshilfe.de">www.lebenshilfe.de</a>                             |
|         | Der Rat behindeter Menschen der Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe                 | <a href="mailto:Unlich.niehoff@lebenshilfe.de">Unlich.niehoff@lebenshilfe.de</a>       |
|         | Lebenshilfe Schleswig-Holstein                                                | <a href="http://www.lebenshilfe-sh.de">www.lebenshilfe-sh.de</a>                       |
| Greece  | POSGAMEA – Panhellenic Federation of Parents and Guardians of Disabled People | <a href="http://www.posgamea.gr">www.posgamea.gr</a>                                   |
| Hungary | ÉFOÉSZ – Értelmi Fogyatekosok Országos Érdekvédelmi Szövetsége                | <a href="http://www.efoesz.hu">www.efoesz.hu</a>                                       |
|         | ÉFOÉSZ Self-Advocacy Group                                                    | <a href="http://www.efoesz.hu">www.efoesz.hu</a>                                       |

| Country   | Organisation                                                           | Website                                                              |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iceland   | Átak                                                                   | <a href="http://www.okkaratak.is">www.okkaratak.is</a>               |
|           | Landssamtökin Þroskahjálp                                              | <a href="http://www.throskahjalp.is">www.throskahjalp.is</a>         |
| Ireland   | Inclusion Ireland                                                      | <a href="http://www.inclusionireland.ie">www.inclusionireland.ie</a> |
| Israel    | AKIM Israel                                                            | <a href="http://www.akim.org.il">www.akim.org.il</a>                 |
| Italy     | Anffas Italy                                                           | <a href="http://www.anffas.net">www.anffas.net</a>                   |
| Lithuania | VILTIS – Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with Mental Disability | <a href="http://www.viltis.lt">www.viltis.lt</a>                     |
| Luxemburg | APEMH                                                                  | <a href="http://www.apemh.lu">www.apemh.lu</a>                       |
|           | Ligue HMC                                                              | <a href="http://www.ligue-hmc.lu">www.ligue-hmc.lu</a>               |
| Malta     | INSPIRE – The foundation for Inclusion                                 | <a href="http://www.inspire.org.mt">www.inspire.org.mt</a>           |
|           | Malta Federation of Organisations of Persons with Disability (MFOPD)   | <a href="http://www.mfopd.org">www.mfopd.org</a>                     |
|           | National Parents' Society of Persons with Disability                   | <a href="http://www.npspd.org">www.npspd.org</a>                     |

| Country                      | Organisation                                                                    | Website                                                                |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Netherlands                  | Inclusie Nederland                                                              | <a href="http://www.inclusienederland.nl">www.inclusienederland.nl</a> |
|                              | Vereniging LFB                                                                  | <a href="http://www.lfb.nu">www.lfb.nu</a>                             |
| Norway                       | NFU - Norsk Forbund for Utviklingshemmede                                       | <a href="http://www.nfunorge.org">www.nfunorge.org</a>                 |
| Poland                       | PSONI – Polskie Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Osób z Niepełnosprawnością Intelktualną | <a href="http://www.psoni.org.pl">www.psoni.org.pl</a>                 |
| Portugal                     | FENACERCI                                                                       | <a href="http://www.fenacerci.pt">www.fenacerci.pt</a>                 |
| Romania                      | Ceva de spus                                                                    | <a href="http://www.cevadespus.ro">www.cevadespus.ro</a>               |
|                              | Pentru Voi                                                                      | <a href="http://www.pentruvoi.ro">www.pentruvoi.ro</a>                 |
| Russia                       | перспектива / Perspektiva                                                       | <a href="http://www.perspektiva-inva.ru">www.perspektiva-inva.ru</a>   |
| Scotland<br>(United Kingdom) | ENABLE Scotland                                                                 | <a href="http://www.enable.org.uk">www.enable.org.uk</a>               |
|                              | ENABLE ACE COMMITTEE                                                            | <a href="http://www.enable.org.uk">www.enable.org.uk</a>               |
| Slovakia                     | ZPMP v SR: Združenie na pomoc ľuďom s mentálnym postihnutím v SR                | <a href="http://www.zpmpvsr.sk">www.zpmpvsr.sk</a>                     |

| Country     | Organisation                                                         | Website                                                                                          |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Slovenia    | ZVEZA SOŽITJE                                                        | <a href="http://www.zveza-sozitje.si">www.zveza-sozitje.si</a>                                   |
|             | Center for training, work, and protection Dolfka Boštjančič, Draga   | <a href="mailto:Center.draga.ig@center-db.si">Center.draga.ig@center-db.si</a>                   |
| Spain       | Plena inclusión                                                      | <a href="http://www.plenainclusion.org">www.plenainclusion.org</a>                               |
|             | GADIR – Grupo de Apoyo a la Dirección Plena Inclusión                | <a href="http://www.plenainclusion.org">www.plenainclusion.org</a>                               |
|             | Som Fundació Catalana Tutelar                                        | <a href="http://www.somfundacio.org">www.somfundacio.org</a>                                     |
|             | Dincat                                                               | <a href="http://www.dincat.cat">www.dincat.cat</a>                                               |
| Sweden      | FUB                                                                  | <a href="http://www.fub.se">www.fub.se</a>                                                       |
|             | Inre Ringen Sverige                                                  | <a href="http://www.fub.se/inre-ringen">www.fub.se/inre-ringen</a>                               |
| Switzerland | INSIEME                                                              | <a href="http://www.insieme.ch">www.insieme.ch</a>                                               |
| Ukraine     | All-Ukrainian NGO Coalition for Persons with Intellectual Disability | <a href="http://www.inteldisabilitiescoalition.com.ua">www.inteldisabilitiescoalition.com.ua</a> |

## European Organisations

Down Syndrome Education International  
[www.down-syndrome.org/en-gb/](http://www.down-syndrome.org/en-gb/)

Special Olympics Europe Euroasia  
[www.specialolympics.eu](http://www.specialolympics.eu)

## Memberships in organisations and coalitions

Inclusion International, where we represent the Region Europe

- **Jyrki Pinomaa** and **Soufiane El Amrani** represent Europe in the Council of Inclusion International.

European Disability Forum

- **Maureen Piggot**, our past president, is our representative at EDF's board.
- **Tamara Byrne**, self-advocate from Ireland, represents Inclusion Europe in EDF Youth Committee.

We are also members of:

- Federation of European and International Associations established in Belgium
- European Expert Group on the transition from institutions to community-based support (EEG)
- European coalition to end violence against women and girls
- Alliance for investing in children



# Why we do what we do

The work we have done  
over the last nearly 40  
years, including 2025,  
matters. And it will continue  
to. This is why...

Living in your own place.  
Having friends.  
Making your own choices.  
Being good at something.  
Belonging.

All people share these ambitions.

But people with intellectual disabilities  
face segregation, and their family members isolation.  
They aren't allowed to have the life they want.



- 1.1 million people with intellectual disabilities are in institutions with 10+ people in one place.
- 37,000 are in psychiatric hospitals.
- People with intellectual disabilities, and with complex support needs, are most likely to be institutionalised, and left out of de-institutionalisation.
- 14 countries allow legal capacity to be removed fully, 15 partially.
- In 13 countries people can be denied the right to vote because their legal capacity was removed.
- At least 640,000 children with intellectual disabilities are in special schools.
- 24,000 children with intellectual disabilities are not in education.
- Very few people with intellectual disabilities have a proper job.
- In 21 countries people with intellectual disabilities risk losing their disability benefits when they earn their own salary.
- In 13 countries people with intellectual disabilities have no or very little freedom of choice about their reproductive health.
- In 11 countries forced sterilisation is still performed.
- Women with intellectual disabilities are often victims of sexual violence.
- In 26 countries there is no person with an intellectual disability part of the council of the national cross-disability organisation.

### **We want to change this, and we will.**

Legal and policy instruments for full rights and inclusion exist. From the UN CRPD, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, to national laws. There are many programmes and practices that support inclusion. These policies and practices have improved the lives of many.

It is possible to build on these existing good laws and policies and achieve full rights and inclusion for all people with intellectual disabilities and their families in Europe.

## **Our vision for Europe**

A Europe where people with intellectual disabilities:

- Enjoy equal rights and full participation in society.
- Make their own decisions, including voting and legal matters.
- Live in the community, with the support they need.
- Learn in mainstream schools, have a job, and are respected.

A Europe where families can be families  
– not carers, therapists, administrators...

A Europe that listens to and acts on the concerns of people with intellectual disabilities and families.

# Impact of our work



Our work has proven to have a strong impact over nearly 40 years of our history.

## **Easy-to-read makes information accessible**

- European easy-to-read guidelines from 1998 are used by many governments and organisations, including EU institutions, to provide information in accessible formats.
- Easy-to-read created job opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities working as editors, experts on cognitive accessibility, easy-to-read trainers.

## **Participation of self-advocates at EU-level has much improved.**

- Self-advocates are invited as speakers at key events, influencing policy and ensuring representation in policy-making.
- The European Platform of Self-Advocates, established in 2000, brings together self-advocates from 18 countries.
- Hear Our Voices! self-advocacy events make sure people with intellectual disabilities come together to be visible and heard.

“Inclusion Europe is increasingly seen as the reference organisation, especially on easy-to-read communication and the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in policy processes.”

## **Bringing attention to people segregated in institutions and the human rights violations they endure**

- Starting in 2000 with our work in Greece and together with the EEG our work has contributed to the recognition of the issue. Changes to relevant regulations and EU funding were made, and ultimately thousands of people were supported to move back into the community.



## **Impact on legal capacity laws at national level, development of supported decision-making mechanisms**

- Thanks to advocacy alongside our members, we contributed to changes in electoral law restoring the right to vote.
- Research on the national situation keeps the issue on the agenda and supports national disability organisations' advocacy.

## **Inclusion Indicators inform the work of policy-makers and researchers.**

- Inclusion Indicators provide data about the situation of people with intellectual disabilities and families in 30+ countries, leading to further research, and new projects targeting the situation.

"Inclusion Europe works to keep the issues that matter most - moving away from institutional care, ensuring people can make their own decisions, and addressing the specific situation of people with intellectual disabilities - at the heart of discussions on the future of EU disability policy."

## **Campaigns and communication**

- Effective communication educates about disability rights, situation of people with intellectual disabilities.
- Strong reach with clarity of our message and numbers of subscribers and followers.

"Inclusion Europe is a highly relevant, effective, and efficient EU-level organisation with a clear mission and strong credibility," whose work "demonstrates meaningful impact on policy debates, accessibility practices, and the empowerment of people with intellectual disabilities."



Quotes from evaluation report on Inclusion Europe work in 2022-2025.

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