

EU Disability Rights Strategy

Next actions for inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities

[Inclusion Europe](#) is the European movement of the 20 million people with intellectual disabilities and their families advocating for equal rights and full inclusion.

People with intellectual disabilities and their families still face major challenges in many areas of their lives.

Right to decide and right to vote

- In 11 EU countries legal capacity can be fully removed and the right to decide is not respected.
- In 12 EU countries legal capacity can be (partially) removed and the right to decide is not respected.
- Only 2 EU countries fully respect the right to decide and provide support in decision making.
- In 10 EU countries people can be denied the right to vote because their legal capacity was removed.
- In 10 EU countries people with intellectual disabilities are restricted to stand for elections.
- Only 2 EU countries have people with intellectual disabilities elected.
- The average EU score is **5.0 out of 10** on the right to decide and right to vote.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Support EU member states in the transition to supported decision-making**, for example, by funding training for public officials, families, support service, banks, notaries on how to support the right to decide.

See more in the Inclusion Europe's report, [“The right to make decisions”](#).

Right to live independently and to be included in the community

- In the EU, at least 1 million people with intellectual disabilities are in segregated “care” institutions where there are more than 10 people in one place.
- At least 270,000 people with intellectual disabilities are in small care homes.
- Over 33,000 people with intellectual disabilities are placed in psychiatric hospitals.
- Institutions have been closed in at least 5 EU countries in the past year.
- At least 12 institutions have been closed the past year.
- At least 340 people with intellectual disabilities have been moved out of institutions in the past year.
- The average EU score is **4.2 out of 10** on the right to live independently and to be included in the community.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Promote “the action of deinstitutionalisation” - connecting those who implement deinstitutionalisation across different countries to help learn from their experiences, improve the practice, and make their know-how available to more countries and DI practitioners.**

See more in Inclusion Europe's contribution [“The lack of understanding is not the issue, lack of action is”](#).

Housing and support

- In 14 EU countries most adults with intellectual disabilities live with their families.

- In 22 EU countries few or no adults with intellectual disabilities live in their own place.
- In 18 EU countries people with intellectual disabilities are likely to have to move into an institution after their parents can no longer look after them.
- In 8 EU countries, disability benefits do not directly go to the person with an intellectual disability.
- In 4 EU countries there is no mechanism to assess quality of services.
- In 10 EU countries, there is a mechanism to assess quality of services but it is not user-driven, understandable or has impact.
- Only in 7 EU countries there is a mechanism to assess quality of services that is user driven, understandable and has impact.
- The average EU score is **4.3 out of 10** on housing and support.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Making sure EU funding is used to build housing** for people with intellectual disabilities with support to live independently in the community, complementing deinstitutionalisation strategies.

See more in the Inclusion Europe's report, "[Housing for people with intellectual disabilities: Issues, ideas, practices](#)".

Education

- In the EU, around 680,000 children with intellectual disabilities are in mainstream schools.
- At least 590,000 children with intellectual disabilities are in special schools.
- Over 11,000 children with intellectual disabilities are not in education.
- At least 8 EU countries have a national strategy for inclusive education.
- The average EU score is **5.6 out of 10** on education.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Making sure EU funding is used to support inclusive education** in member states, for example pupils' journey to inclusive education, training of teachers in mainstream schools, or adaptations of schools and learning programmes.

See more in Inclusion Europe's position paper, [“Why we care about education”](#).

Employment

- In 22 EU countries few or no people with intellectual disabilities are employed on the open labour market.
- In 16 EU countries people with intellectual disabilities risk losing their disability benefits when they earn their own salary.
- In 13 EU countries there is funding available for employers to make jobs more accessible for adults with intellectual disabilities.
- In 7 EU countries adults with intellectual disabilities working in 'protected employment' get paid less than minimum wage.
- The average EU score is **4.2 out of 10** on employment.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Employing people with intellectual disabilities in EU institutions** to benefit from their expertise on policies and other matters such as accessibility. For this, the EU bodies and agencies should make their workplace inclusive.

See more in the Inclusion Europe's report, [“Job first: Examples and ideas for employment and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities”](#).

Healthcare

- In 20 EU countries most people with intellectual disabilities have access to general healthcare.
- In 10 EU countries people with intellectual disabilities have no or very little freedom of choice about their reproductive health.

- In 7 EU countries forced sterilisation is still performed.
- The average EU score is **5.6 out of 10** on healthcare.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Specific actions backed with funding for freedom of choice about reproductive health** addressing all the following causes:
 - violence against women in institutions,
 - deprivation of legal capacity and lack of supported decision-making,
 - lack of good support for victims of forced sterilisation,
 - lack of education, accessible information and training on reproductive rights, especially for women with intellectual disabilities, their families and support services.

See more in Inclusion Europe's report, "[Gender \(in\)equality of women and girls with intellectual disabilities in Europe](#)".

Representation

- In 20 EU countries people with intellectual disabilities are represented in a national cross-disability organisation.
- In 20 EU countries there is no person with an intellectual disability part of the council of the national cross-disability organisation.
- In 7 EU countries our member organisations do not receive government funding for their advocacy work.
- The average EU score is **6.3 out of 10** on representation.

How the EU Disability Rights Strategy should address this:

- **Support creation of tools for participation of self-advocates** in the civil dialogue across the EU. These tools can be guidelines on accessible and inclusive civil dialogue.

See more in the Europe for us magazine, [“Representation matters”](#).

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