



Europe for us

Inclusion indicators 2024



Find explanations for words in **bold** at the end of Europe for us on pages 29 to 37.

Europe for us is available in:

- English
- French
- German
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Dutch
- Romanian
- Spanish
- Ukrainian

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

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Event at the European Parliament





[Inclusion indicators report](#) was launched at a high-level conference in the European Parliament.



The event was organised by High Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity.

The event was opened by **European Commissioner Hadja Lahbib**, and by **European Parliament Vice-President Younous Omarjee**.



Younous Omarjee said that people with intellectual disabilities and their families are often victims of segregation, deprived of their basic rights.



He also said that much remains to be done to allow everyone to participate in our societies.



His promise was that the European Parliament stands by us.

Soufiane El Amrani presenting key findings of the report





It is a pleasure to present
the [Inclusion indicators 2024 report](#).

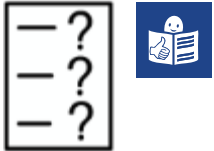


The report is about topics
that are important to all
people with intellectual disabilities
and that matter to me personally.



The report is based on what
Inclusion Europe members
think of the situation in their country.

This year,
we have 31 countries in the report.



We also asked people with intellectual disabilities,
using an easy-to-read survey.

More than 400 people
from 18 countries answered.

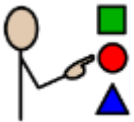


Let's have a look at the seven important topics:

1. Right to decide and right to vote
2. Right to live independently
and to be included in the community

3. Housing and support
4. Education
5. Employment
6. Healthcare
7. Representation

Right to decide and right to vote



People with intellectual disabilities have the right to make decisions about their lives just like any other person.



They also have the right to vote and the right to stand for elections.

European citizens take these rights for granted.

They expect to exercise them freely.



But it's far from being the same for many people with intellectual disabilities.



In 11 countries legal capacity
can be fully removed
and the right to decide
is not respected.



Only four countries fully respect
the right to decide and should
provide support in decision-making.



In 14 countries people
can be denied the right to vote
because their legal capacity was removed.



In 12 countries
people with intellectual disabilities
are restricted to stand for elections.



When asked about voting,
most people in our survey said they do vote.



'It is important to make our voices heard.'

Right to live independently and to be included



People with intellectual disabilities have the right to live independently and to be part of the community.



But many people with intellectual disabilities are denied this, having to live in segregated 'care' institutions.

We looked into the number of adults with intellectual disabilities living in segregated 'care' institutions, and what kind of institutions these are.

Over 800,000 people with intellectual disabilities are in segregated 'care' institutions.



There are more than 10 people in one place in these institutions.

Over 32 thousand are placed in psychiatric hospitals.



12 countries do not have any plan to close their institutions.

One of the people answering our survey said:



'I do not feel included in my community.'

Housing and support



Most adults in Europe expect to live in their own place with the people they choose (family, friends, or with no one at all).

It is very different for adults with intellectual disabilities.



Most are living with their parents, whether they chose to or not.



Many people with intellectual disabilities and families do not get disability support.

Many family members serve as disability support providers, instead of being just family.



In 19 countries most adults with intellectual disabilities live with their parents.

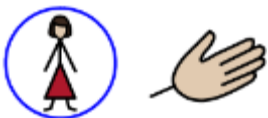


In 27 countries few or no adults with intellectual disabilities live in their own place.



In 27 countries people with intellectual disabilities are likely to move into an institution after their parents can no longer look after them.

One of the people answering our survey said:



“My mother supports me in everything. No one helps my mother who has to work a lot and at the same time support me with everything.”

Education



Children with intellectual disabilities should be going to school, and they should be going to the same schools as all other children.



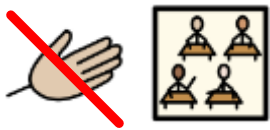
Many children with intellectual disabilities often attend 'special education' schools where they are segregated from other children.

At least 500,000 children with intellectual disabilities are in special schools.



Over 18 thousand children with intellectual disabilities are not in education at all.

One of the people answering our survey said:



'My teachers did not help me when I was in the classroom, the school was not equipped for a person with an intellectual disability.'



The school that I went to was not accessible because it did not have any ramps in the whole school.'

Employment



Having a job is important for financial stability, social inclusion, purpose and belonging.



In 29 countries few
or no people with intellectual disabilities
are employed in the open labour market.



In 18 countries
people with intellectual disabilities
risk losing their disability benefits
when they earn their own salary.



In 13 countries people working in
'protected employment' get paid
less than the minimum wage.

People answering our survey said:



**'We want support to have the opportunity to work
and have a more independent life.'**

'More wages and not pocket money, please!'

Healthcare



People with intellectual disabilities
have the right to equal access to healthcare.



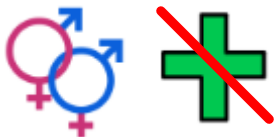
However,
people with intellectual disabilities
experience stigma,
forced treatment,
forced sterilisation
and forced abortion.



Sexual and reproductive health
of people with intellectual disabilities is often overlooked.



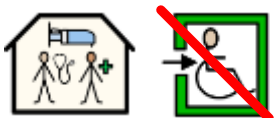
27 countries report that
most people with intellectual disabilities
have access to general healthcare.



In 11 countries people
with intellectual disabilities
have none or very little freedom
of choice about their reproductive health.

In 10 countries forced sterilisation is still performed.

People answering our survey said:



**'Healthcare is not easy for me because
some of the doctors' offices and the hospital
are not accessible to enter.'**



'I would like to decide more things for myself and have a life like other people, to have support people who explain to me so that I understand and decide.'

Representation



It is important that people with intellectual disabilities are represented and visible.



In all aspects of society, in civil society organisations and political parties, and in the disability movement.



So they can advocate for their rights, views and expectations.



In 29 countries people with intellectual disabilities are represented in a national cross-disability organisation.



In 20 countries there is no person with an intellectual disability part of the council of the national organisation.



In 13 countries our member organisations do not receive government funding for their advocacy work.

As one of the people in our survey said:



'I only hope that our rights are respected now and always.'

This is what Europe is like for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



**As you can see, often it's not a very nice picture.
I would like to know: what are you going to do to make it better?**

Laszlo Bercse addressing policymakers





I want to thank the
European Parliament
for organising this important event.

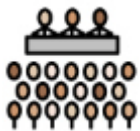
And especially to Vice-President Omarjee
for his contribution to making this event happen.

I also want to thank Commissioner Lahbib
for her words dedicated to the rights of
people with intellectual disabilities.

And thank you to all the speakers,
and all of you who attended this event.



It is an important day
for people with intellectual disabilities.



To have a high-level conference
in the European Parliament,
with so many important participants.

We heard a lot about
what the situation in Europe is for us,
people with intellectual disabilities.



In many cases, it is not a nice picture.



Yes, there are many good things,
and there is always progress.



But at the same time,
many governments are still limiting our rights.



Many people with intellectual disabilities
suffer from harmful and outdated laws and policies,
such as institutionalisation.



Rights of people with intellectual disabilities
must be respected everywhere, all the time.

As we are today in the European Parliament:
what can the Parliament do to make things better?



To answer that question,
I take what self-advocates say in our manifesto
from a conference in Tallinn in 2023.



‘We want to understand the world we live in,’
our manifesto says.

I ask for easy-to-understand information
about the work of the Parliament,
about laws and policies.

And I ask for accessible meetings
so that we can have our say.



'We want real jobs, and real pay,'

our manifesto says.

I ask for job opportunities in the European Parliament,
and in all EU bodies and agencies.



And I ask for good traineeships
and other opportunities
to learn new things and develop our skills.



People with disabilities need higher
incomes to be able to access quality services.



**'We want to live in the community,
with the people we choose,'**
our manifesto says.



I ask the Parliament to end segregation
of people with intellectual disabilities.

The Parliament must ensure
good conditions for next EU budget.



Governments must have plans to close institutions,
and they have to follow them.



EU money should go to community services.



'We want the right to vote in elections,'
the manifesto says.

I ask the Parliament to make sure everyone
can vote in European elections,
regardless of their legal capacity.

The next European elections
will be the 50th anniversary
since the first popular vote.



Make sure everyone can truly
celebrate this achievement of European democracy!

Member of Parliament, Katrin Langensiepen



I am often asked
how many people with disabilities
are there in this Parliament?



There are 720 politicians
and Members of Parliament.

But there were previously only three people
with disabilities in the Parliament.

How is it possible for people
with learning difficulties
to make a career
for themselves in this world.



We finally have data and facts
on how people with learning difficulties
in Europe are treated.

I travel through all European countries
and see what it's like there.

And that's not always easy.



We still have discrimination.



And there are always barriers that do
not allow many of them to be here today.

Vice-President, Younous Omarjee



This week is about making sure the voices of people with disabilities are heard.



The European Parliament is home to all people with disabilities. Everyone is welcome here.



We must work on accessibility. People with disabilities need to be involved in important conversations, just like today.



We are here to present the Inclusion indicators 2024 report. This report is shocking, there is lots of work to do to make society accessible.



The EU has made some progress, like the European disability card. This is helpful, but we need more.



We need to focus on our differences and how they can improve society.



Politicians must change things. We all have a responsibility to work together for inclusion.



Madame Commissioner, we hope to see progress for people with intellectual disabilities.

Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib



This week is very important
for people with disabilities.

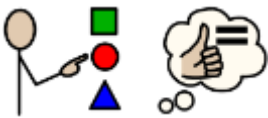
I am a strong supporter of people with
disabilities in Europe and across the world.



I will fight for the full inclusion
of people with disabilities.



We need to defend the rights of persons
with disabilities and make sure they
decide where they live and who they live with.



We need to break down barriers,
and make sure people with disabilities
make their own decisions
about all areas of their lives.
They must be treated equally.



I will work to create jobs for persons with disabilities
and to make independent living accessible.



We must make sure no one is left behind.
People with disabilities need to
have an active role in society.

I will listen to people with disabilities.
Their voices must be heard.

Self-advocates representing Inclusion ASBL





Eric Delfeld

There have been lots of changes,
but not fast enough.



Mathilde Cotman

Public transport needs to be
more accessible.

For example, a few years ago I
could not find the bus stop and I
had to call a taxi to bring me to
my appointment.
I could not find anyone to help me.



Jean Mylonas

It is important to have a place in society, and to help people with disabilities live better and participate in society.



Dimitri Yannoussis

I think we still have difficulties.
It is very difficult on the bus, metro and trams.
How can we make public transport better for people with intellectual disabilities?

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 27 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 organisations**

Non-governmental organisations, 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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