The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities

Co-funded by
the European Union

Who we are

- European non-governmental umbrella organisation
- Active in the disability sector since 1996
- Representing over 20.000 European social and health support services for persons with disabilities from 41 different countries
- EASPD plays a key role at European & International level

OBJECTIVE

To promote effective and high quality service systems, to empower people with disabilities so they:

- can take part in society on an equal basis
- get equal access to health, education, employment, economic and cultural environments
- live independently and have the freedom to make their own choices.

EASPD's key working areas

TOPICS:

- Work and employment
- Inclusive education
- Independent living & Community-based services
- Early Intervention
- Person Centred Technology
- Inclusive Arts
- Workforce Development and Human resources

TRANSVERSALS:

- User's involvement
- High-quality support systems
- New ways of funding services

EASPD's Fundamental Pillars

INFORMATION

Service provision to members: networking; exchange of information and good practices
at European, national, regional and local level

INNOVATION

Research and Development: projects and research as basis for innovation and improvement of service provision

IMPACT

Policy influence; offering service providers a voice in Europe & Internationally

International & EU Priorities

- **Independent Living:**
  - **A. UN Guidelines on De-Institutionalisation (SEP22)**
  - **B. EU Disability Rights Strategy (MAR21)**
  - **C. EU Care Strategy (SEP22)**

- **Employment:**
  - **D. UN General Comment N°8 (SEP22)**
  - **E. Disability Package of Initiatives (SEP22)**

Independent Living

A. New UN Guidelines on De-institutionalisation (9th September 2022)

8. States parties should **abolish all forms** of institutionalization, **end new placements** in institutions and **refrain from investing** in institutions. (…)

19. Deinstitutionalization comprises **interconnected processes** that should **focus on restoring autonomy, choice and control** to persons with disabilities as to how, where and with whom they decide to live.

Independent Living

A. New UN Guidelines on De-institutionalisation (9th September 2022)

Key elements of DI

- No obligatory **sharing of assistants** with others and
- no or limited influence as to **who provides** the assistance;
- **No isolation and segregation** from independent life in the community;
- **Choice and control** of persons with disabilities over day-to-day decisions;

Independent Living

A. New UN Guidelines on De-institutionalisation (9th September 2022)

- No **rigid routine** or identical activities enforced by service provider;
- No **paternalistic approach** in service provision;
- No **supervision** of living arrangements; and
- No **disproportionate number** of persons with disabilities in the same environment

Independent Living

B. EU Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030

The Commission will, by 2023, issue **guidance recommending to Member States improvements on independent living and inclusion in the community,** in order to enable persons with disabilities to live in accessible, supported housing in the community, or to continue living at home (including personal assistance schemes).

Building on the existing voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services, the Commission will present, by 2024, a specific **framework for Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities,** to improve service delivery for persons with disabilities and to enhance the attractiveness of jobs in this area including through upskilling and reskilling of service providers.

Independent Living

C. EU Care Strategy (7th Sep 2022)

EU Care Strategy is out and published!

Council Recommendations (expected December 2022, proposal by EU Commission already out)

- **on access to affordable high-quality long term care**
- **on the Revision of Barcelona Targets on Early Childhood Education & Care**

Independent Living

C. EU Care Strategy (7th Sep 2022)

Main messages:

- High quality care still **not affordable, available or accessible** for many
- Inadequate care services has disproportionate **impact on women**
- Funding of Care is a **Social Investment**, with positive impacts on public budgets (no investment means shifting cost elsewhere)
- Care has big **job creation potential** but requires better working conditions and wages
- Better **quality assurance mechanisms** are needed
- Strong recognition of **role & added value of social economy**/NGO service providers

Employment

D. UN General Comment N°8 on Article 27

Main messages:

- Facilitate the **transition away from segregated work environments** for persons with disabilities and support their engagement in the **open labour market**
- In the meantime, ensure the **immediate applicability of labour rights** to those settings
- Promote the **right to supported employment**, protect the rights of workers with disabilities & ensure the right to **freely chosen employment**
- Ensure that persons with disabilities are paid **no less than the minimum wage** and do not lose disability allowance in process

Employment

E. EU Disability Employment Package

1. **Guidance for Member States to improve the accessibility and inclusiveness of employment and career guidance services (2022).**

2. **Catalogue of positive actions to facilitate hiring of persons with disabilities (2023).**

3. **Guidelines for reasonable accommodation at work addressing employers (2023)**

Employment

E. EU Disability Employment Package

4. **Manual for managing chronic diseases** and preventing the risk of acquiring disabilities (2023).

5. **Guidelines for effective vocational rehabilitation schemes** covering frequent diseases and types of accident (2024).

6. **Study** on improving the employment of persons with disabilities through **alternative employment models & pathways to the open labour market**.

The Package will also support Member States to set-up **national targets** for increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities and for reducing the respective employment gap.

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Thank you!