

Living independently and being included in the community *Making the most out of European Structural and Investment Funds*

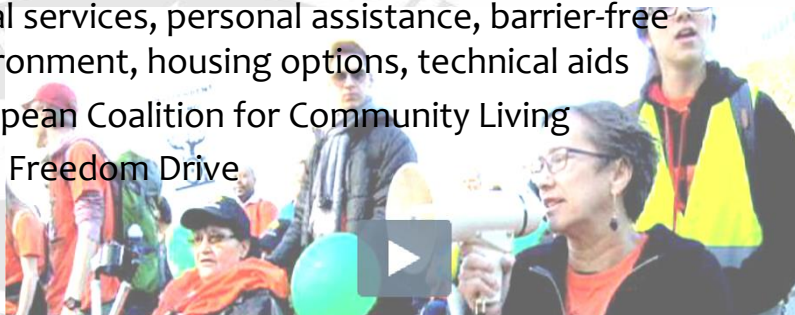
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European Network on Independent Living – ENIL
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About ENIL

- European network of user-led organisations, mainly at grassroots level
- Values: self-determination, self-representation, deinstitutionalisation, choice and control
- Independent living = access to society, through social services, personal assistance, barrier-free environment, housing options, technical aids
- European Coalition for Community Living
- ENIL Freedom Drive



What is Independent Living?

“Independent Living is having the same range of options and same degree of self-determination taken for granted by non-disabled.” Adolf Ratzka

The right to be
an ordinary person!



Structural Funds monitoring & advocacy

- Advocating for better use of SF and a ban on funding institutional care facilities since 2007 – in cooperation with NGOs in CEE
- Reports for the European Commission and European Parliament, highlighting main problems in CEE
- Contributing to EEG seminars and trainings
- Structured Dialogue on Structural Funds Expert Group and Thematic Networks member
- **EU Funds for Our Rights Campaign:** focus on monitoring & complaints system – using mid-term review to point to gaps and calling for changes in 2021 – 2028 regulations

Legal basis for supporting DI (2014 – 2020)

- ESI Funds Regulations 2014 - 2020
- Draft Thematic Guidance Fiche for Desk Officers – Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care
- EC Guidance on ensuring the respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU when implementing the ESI Funds
- CRPD Committee Concluding observations on the initial report of the EU
- Ad Hoc Expert Group Report on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care
- Common European Guidelines on Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care
- Toolkit on the Use of EU Funds

Progress made and remaining challenges

- No more funding for the building or renovation of large residential institutions
- Commitment by a number of MS to start the process of DI, and ratification of the CRPD by 27 MS & EU
- Moratorium on placement of children 0 – 3 in institutions
- Better awareness by EU officials about the need for DI
- ESIF Regulations that support DI

- Focus remains on buildings, rather than people
- Not enough efforts to bring about social inclusion and improve quality of life – people are moved to smaller institutions
- No timeline for the closure of institutions
- Failure to implement wider reforms
- Cuts to CBS

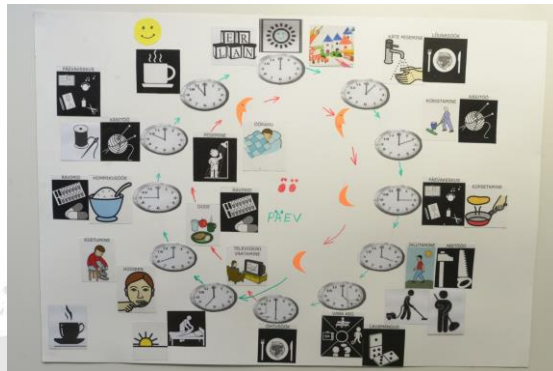
Improvement – YES

Good enough - NO

Case study: Estonia



Sinimäe village (*Sinimäe alevik*)



10 persons per service unit and 6 service units = 60 persons total

Daily plan for the customers living in the house, which sets out the time for meals, daily routines (showering, cleaning, dressing etc), work and free time activities (day center, exercising, handicraft etc).

Home rules, to be signed by residents (extract)

“I follow the daily plan of the home/---/ During the night I stay in the Home”.

“I know that in the territory of the home it is prohibited to consume alcohol/---/”

“If agreed with the occupational therapist, I can use my own things in my own room: television, radio and other technical equipment as well as furniture.”

“If agreed with the occupational therapist, I have an opportunity to use the Home’s telephone 10 minutes per week.”

“I am aware, that the Home can end the contract with me before it has expired, if I break the rules more than once.”

What is wrong with this example?

- Focus on buildings: size, space and location
- Focus on getting people out of big buildings and into small places
- Medical assessment and focus on placement: others decide where you will live and with whom, what you should be doing during the day, what time you need to wake up and go to bed
- Routinized care, with a lot of rules to control people and reinforce who is in power (and who isn't)
- Few efforts made to listen what people want and need
- Being physically closer to the rest of society, but psychologically and socially segregated

What do we want to see?

Choice

Control

Participation

Inclusion

Independent Living in practice

- Accessible/affordable housing
- Personal Assistance
- Peer Support
- Technical aids

- Accessibility
- Education
- Employment
- Transport
- Services

Using ESIF to support DI

How SF are commonly used	How SF should be used
Renovating/modernising institutions	Developing alternatives in the community that facilitate IL (infrastructure and support, such as personal assistance)
Building new institutions	Developing alternatives in the community that facilitate IL (infrastructure and support, such as personal assistance)
Building group homes or living centres	Increasing the social housing stock, purchasing regular apartments and houses in the community, making apartments and houses in the community accessible
Funding special/parallel services (day centres, sheltered employment, special schools)	Making mainstream services accessible and available to disabled people (employment, education, childcare, health, transport etc.)

Selected resources

ENIL Report Working Together to Close the Gap

<http://www.enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Working-Together-to-Close-the-Gap-web.pdf>

ENIL Myth Buster on Independent Living

<http://www.enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Myths-Buster-final-spread-A3-WEB.pdf>

ENIL Video Learning from the Swedish Experience

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQq_ahU9fbs

Common European Guidelines on DI and Toolkit on ESIF

<http://www.deinstitutionalisationguide.eu>

Thank you!

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