



# Deinstitutionalisation in European context. Role of NGOs

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# THE SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EUROPE

**>1 million children & adults with disabilities in EU+Turkey live in large-scale institutions or in the back-rooms of family homes:**

- **cut off from their communities**
- **according to charity, protection or medical models;**
- **against their will;**
- **stripped of their dignity, freedom and human rights,**
- **without knowing why and how long,**
- **without real alternatives and hope for a change.**

# WHAT INSTITUTIONS ARE

**Residential care facilities where :**

- Residents are isolated from the broader community;
- Residents are compelled to live together;
- Residents do not have sufficient control
  - over their lives,
  - over decisions which affect them;
- the requirements of the organisation take precedence over residents' individual needs.

# THE SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EUROPE

- **Extensive de-institutionalisation programmes have not been implemented so far**
- **Economic crisis and cuts to social funds:**
  - **are delaying de-institutionalisation programmes**
  - **are triggering a trend towards re-institutionalisation**

# CRPD: LIVING INDEPENDENTLY AND BEING INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY (*Art. 19*)

- **Art. 19 CRPD is at the centre**
  - of the rights-based approach to disability
  - of the goals of the disability community,**
- **It is closely linked with and crucial for the exercise of other rights** (liberty, freedom from constrictions and degrading treatments...)

# CRPD: Living independently and being included in the community (*Art. 19*)

- **Art. 19 CRPD deals with:**
  - the right to full inclusion in society
  - **the right to choice** (on where and with whom to live)
- **It builds on Article 12** (requiring that wishes and preferences are predominant in decisions affecting the lives of persons with disabilities)

# KEY PRINCIPLES OF ARTICLE 19 CRPD

- **Equal right of all persons with disabilities to live independently and be included in their community**
  - **with choice and control over where and with whom they live,**
  - **through access to a range of services**
  - **fostering inclusion and participation in the community,**
  - **preventing isolation and segregation.**

# Art. 19 CRPD - KEY PRINCIPLES

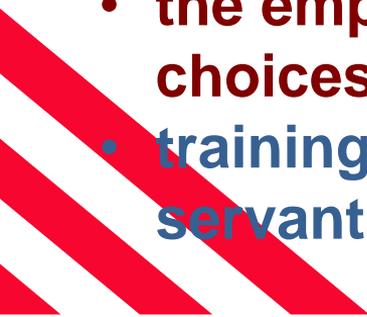
- **Equal access to community services and facilities, including:**
  - **Personal assistance,**
  - **Accessibility requirements in mainstream services,**
  - **Reasonable Accommodations of general services (Education, health, housing),**
- **Availability of a range of alternative living arrangements in the community, including:**
  - Individual or shared housing
  - small-scale community based services

# THE ROLE OF DPOs

- **Advocating for and raising awareness on**
    - the rights based approach to disability
    - consequent service and support models
  - **Combatting prejudices:**
    - on intellectual & psychosocial disabilities
    - on the presumed higher costs of community living
  - **Campaigning for a fair implementation of the CRPD art.19 at EU/national level**
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# THE ROLE OF DPOs

**Representative DPOs and users must be involved in:**

- design, implementation and evaluation of accessibility requirements and reasonable accommodations,
  - development, adoption and application of quality standards,
  - assessment of the quality of services and independent living,
  - the empowerment of persons with disabilities to make choices,
  - training programmes for public administrators, civil servants, directors and staff of services.
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# THE ROLE OF DPOs

## Monitoring the country's Partnership agreement on the use of Structural Funds:

- Shall indicate approach addressing the specific needs ... of ...persons with disabilities (art. 15 CPR)
  - Shall include ...non-governmental organisations (Art. 5 CPR), including through participation in the monitoring committees for programmes
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# THE ROLE OF DPOs

## Monitoring the use of Structural Funds:

- **Operational programmes**

- Member States --- shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on ..., disability, ...during the preparation and implementation of programmes (art. 7 CPR)
- shall specify ... whether and how it addresses the specific needs of ... persons with disabilities
- ... promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination based on ...disability (art. 96 CPR) ;

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