



# Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community

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June 5 2025



## Development of long-term care in the community

- Greater focus on support
- Move away from medical model
- Increasing attention to independent living and choice
- CRPD has helped advance this notion
- HOWEVER, still 1.5 million persons with disabilities in institutions
- In 13 EU Member states more institutionalised people than 10 years ago



# What is an institution?

- isolation and segregation from the community;
- no or limited influence over whom one has to accept assistance from;
- lack of control over day-to-day decisions, such as what time to get up, what to eat, who you spend your free time with, etc.;
- lack of choice over whom to live with;
- not being able to decide freely when to visit friends or family, or having this decision taken by someone else;
- facing restrictions over if and when one can have guests over;
- rigidity of routine irrespective of personal will and preferences;
- Imposing group activities under the authority of the service provider



# Human rights issues in institutions

Other than lack of freedom to choose, some cases of human rights abuses are more extreme

- Physical and psychological abuse
- Increased risk of sexual abuse
- People left vulnerable in times of force majeure
- Forced sterilisation



# How to assist progress for community-based services

- Clearer rules on EU funding not going towards institutions
- Better protection for women and girls with disabilities against violence, abuse and forced sterilisation
- More support to boost the sector of service provision



# Inclusion in employment

- 24 percentage point employment gap in the EU
- Persons with disabilities earn less on average
- Only 29% of men and 20% of women with disabilities work full time
- Many still in sheltered workshops



# Barriers to employment

- Loss of disability allowance
- Fear of in-work poverty
- Resistance to making work adaptations
- Insufficient knowledge of how to include workers with disabilities
- Gap in digital skills

