



Annual report 2024

Inclusion Europe

Ambitions. Rights. Belonging.

20 million people with intellectual disabilities
and their families in 38 European countries.



Published by:

Inclusion Europe

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**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Inclusion Europe has been co-funded by the European Union.

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Letter from the President

Written by Jyrki Pinomaa

Dear members,

Europe still has a long way to go to become inclusive.

This is the conclusion that one unfortunately has to come to, following the publication of [Inclusion indicators 2024](#). The report was launched at a [high-level conference in the European Parliament](#), organised by High Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity.



The event was opened by the **European Commissioner Hadja Lahbib**, and by **the European Parliament vice-president Younous Omarjee**.

Younous Omarjee said that people with intellectual disabilities and their families are all too 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.

I want to thank you all who have contributed to this report. **It is a strong tool, and it was made to be used.** So please, use it.

Organise your own high-level conferences and show your politicians **the scores of your countries**. Use this report to show them what needs to be done. Tell them that inclusion is the right thing to do. It is a human right.

Another year comes to its end. Another year with many great activities and events highlighting the need of full inclusion of European people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Visiting and meeting with many of our members this year, I have been introduced to your work and its results and have been impressed by the skills and talents of many self-advocates. So many memorable moments and experiences. Thank you!



This was also the year of our **Europe in Action conference**, hosted by our Scottish member Enable.

The conference gathered more than four hundred of us in Glasgow in May, also to join the celebration of Enable's 70th anniversary. A big thank you to the Enable team for the most successful conference!

I wish to express my gratitude to all of you, our loyal members, who have supported our work. It not only shows your support and dedication, it gives us the necessary resources and security to continue our work.

I also want to thank our partners and funders - your support makes our work possible.

Thank you, as always, to our Secretariat. Your hard work is highly appreciated.

Thank you also to the Board of Inclusion Europe. For me personally it means a lot that we have come back to in-person meetings. They give us much more space to real interaction and deep discussions.



Letter from the president of Inclusion Europe, Jyrki Pinomaa



Dear members.



Europe still has a long way to go
to become inclusive.



We can see this in the
Inclusion Indicators 2024.

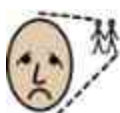
The report was presented at the
European Parliament in Brussels
in December 2024 with lots of important people.



Hadja Lahbib spoke at the event.
She is the European Commissioner for Equality.



European Parliament Vice President
Younous Omarjee also spoke at the event.



He said people with intellectual disabilities
are often excluded from society.



He also said that there is lots of work to be done to make sure people with intellectual disabilities are fully included in society.



He promised that the European Parliament will stand by Inclusion Europe!



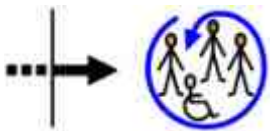
Thank you to everyone involved in the report. It is very useful and we must use it. Please, use it.



Organise events to show your politicians the scores of your countries.



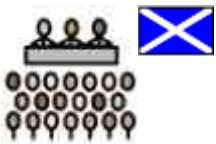
Use this report to show them what needs to be done. Tell them that inclusion is needed. It is a human right.



Another year is over. Lots of great activities and events happened. We continue to fight for the full inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families across Europe.



I met with lots of members this year,
I learnt a lot about your work.
I am very impressed by the
skills of many self- advocates.
Lots of important moments and experiences.
Thank you!



In 2024 we also had the Europe in Action
conference in Scotland with our member Enable.
More than 400 people came to Glasgow,
and we celebrated 70 years of Enable.
Thank you to the Enable team!



Thank you to all of you for supporting our work.
Your support makes our work possible.
Thank you to the Inclusion Europe team
and all your hard work.
Thank you to the board of Inclusion Europe.



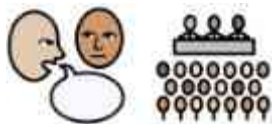
EPSA activities in 2024

Easy to read written by László Bercse



Dear European self-advocates,
I am very pleased to present you this report,
which describes what
The European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA)
worked on in 2024.

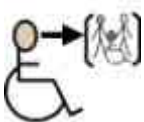
As you will see in the report,
a lot of exciting events happened last year.



We met decision-makers,
spoke at conferences and
worked on important projects.



As always,
we are all working
to create an inclusive Europe,
that fully includes all
people with intellectual disabilities.



We challenge decision-makers
to involve us in all decisions about us.

As the principle
"Nothing About Us, Without Us!"
clearly states.



As you will read in the report,
we were successful in raising
awareness on important issues.
But we still have a lot to do
to achieve our goals.



We also started to think about
how we can make our work better
and include more people.



But for this,
we need your support
and commitment as well.
This report shares what
European Platform of Self-Advocates (EPSA)
has done in 2024.



EPSA helps self-advocates speak up,
take part in decisions,
and be included in society.



EPSA has continued
to make self-advocacy stronger,
increase political participation,
and support the inclusion of people with
intellectual disabilities across Europe.



Let's stay in touch
and join us in organizing the
Hear Our Voices conference in 2025!
I wish you all a great success
for your work this year! 👍

László Bercse,
EPSA Chair and Inclusion Europe Vice-President

EPSA General meeting

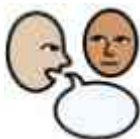


The EPSA General Meeting 2024
took place on 8 May in Glasgow,
bringing together 8 members
and 5 non-members
from different countries.

Key discussions included:



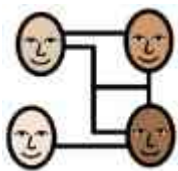
- Strengthening self-advocacy
at national and European levels.



- Increasing participation
of self-advocates in decision-making.



- Ensuring access to accessible information
and support.

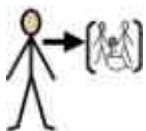


EPSA members defined their five-year vision, focusing on expanding self-advocacy networks and increasing involvement in political processes.

Elections and new members



Ana Martínez was re-elected to the EPSA Steering Group.



EPSA welcomed two new members' applications:

- BAPID (Belarus)
- Georgian Down Syndrome Association (GDSA)

Three self-advocates, Florence Jablonski, Illona Sallai and Joachim Busch were co-opted to work with the Steering Group.



They attended meetings and actively contributed to discussions, giving important ideas and perspectives on key advocacy issues.



EPSA's growing membership makes it easier to promote self-advocacy and inclusion across Europe.

Steering Group meetings and advocacy efforts



EPSA's Steering Group held five online meetings and one in-person meeting at the Europe in Action conference.

Key discussions included:



- Having more self-advocates' in meetings and events.



- Advocacy to close institutions in Europe and support independent living.



- Looking at employment barriers and accessibility issues.



- Political challenges in Austria, France, and Romania impacting disability rights.



- Updating EPSA's internal rules and decision-making processes.

- Preparations for Hear Our Voices 2025.

Key projects involving self-advocates

EPSA members participated in Inclusion Europe projects promoting self-advocacy:



- **JUDY Project**
Supporting self-advocacy and independent living.



- **Unity Project**
Advocacy training for self-advocates.

Representation and public engagement



EPSA members actively represented European self-advocates in international, national, and regional platform and events:



Soufiane Al Amrani was appointed as Europe's representative at Inclusion International's Regional Council.



Tamara Byrne represents Inclusion Europe in the Youth Committee of the European Disability Forum.



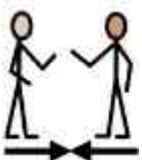
Senada Halilčević represents Inclusion Europe in the Women's Committee of the European Disability Forum.



László Bercse participated in many events advocating for independent living and deinstitutionalisation.



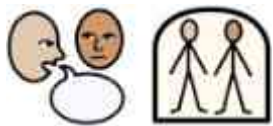
He spoke at the Freedom Drive organised by the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), discussing challenges in Hungary and ways to support the transition to independent living.



László also met with policymakers from the National Institute for Social Policy and participated in an international self-advocacy exchange with representatives from Hungary, Slovakia, Portugal, Spain, and Slovenia.



He was a keynote speaker at a webinar on self-advocacy and inclusion, where he highlighted EPSA's work on deinstitutionalisation and self-advocacy at the European level.



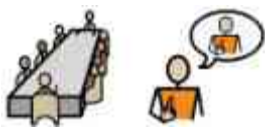
He was invited to an interview on Hungarian National TV, where he spoke about the importance of voting rights for self-advocates and the challenges of institutional care.



Ana Martínez played a leading role in making EPSA's visible at international advocacy events.



She spoke at a social innovation conference, where she talked about the importance of self-advocacy in shaping national and European policies.



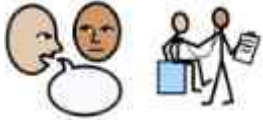
She participated in several meetings with government officials and disability rights organisations, advocating for the greater inclusion of self-advocates in political decision-making.



She also contributed to a panel discussion on accessible employment, where she spoke about barriers faced by self-advocates in the job market and the importance of reasonable accommodation in the workplace.



Andreas Zehetner attended several events and activities. He referred to his role in EPSA and Inclusion Europe.



He spoke at the Austrian Poverty Conference and contributed to the Health and Discrimination event. He made interviews and lead discussions



at Health without Barriers, a key advocacy event organized by the Austrian Disability Council in October.



He took part in meetings of the Self-Advocates Advisory Board of Lebenshilfe Austria, focusing on personal assistance and self-advocacy board regulations.



He engaged with Austrian policymakers and disability organisations to share Inclusion Europe and EPSA updates.



He advocated for self-advocacy rights during the Federal Election in Austria, conducting interviews on disability issues with politicians across all parties.

Andreas shared updates on EPSA activities in workplaces, group homes, and within municipal inclusion teams in Wiener Neudorf.

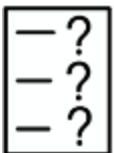


EPSA members were also interviewed by various media channels, including Hungarian National TV, a Polish self-advocacy radio station, and a Slovak easy-to-read magazine.



These interviews helped spread awareness about EPSA's work and the importance of self-advocacy.

Representation Survey



EPSA and Inclusion Europe conducted a survey to understand how members involve self-advocates in decision-making.

- 30 responses from 23 countries were received.
- Most organisations said they have people with intellectual disabilities on their Boards.
- The findings will guide future efforts to increase self-advocate involvement at all levels.



Advocacy initiatives

From advocating for the right to vote and stand for elections, to promoting independent living and inclusive employment, Inclusion Europe is dedicated to full rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



Self-advocacy

Self-advocates share their views and resilience and empowerment.

"I realised I can inspire others. I want to do more to make a difference"

How we work together to close institutions and to strengthen self-advocates in Eastern Europe.



"Inclusion was only possible because I, the organisation, and the community work together" - Alzira Fernandes speaks at EDPD

Alzira Fernandes spoke at the European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD), a conference organised by the European Commission and the European Disability Forum. The conference takes place on 28 November 2024 in Brussels. Alzira Fernandes represented Inclusion Europe at the conference.



“Independent living and community inclusion are important for everyone. Even when we are treated well in institutions, that is not our home. And if people want to live in their own homes, they should be able to. Organisations can help us make this change. They can prepare us to manage our lives and prepare the community to welcome us. They can also be there if we need guidance or help.”

Alzira Fernandes



Living independently and being included

Inclusion Europe advocates for inclusive policies and practices to foster community integration. This includes advocating for the closure of institutions and the transition to community-based support.



Rights of people with intellectual disabilities must be respected: Everywhere. All the time

László Bercse's speech at European Parliament about rights of people with intellectual disabilities.



Inge and Esther: story of love and support

Story about two sisters and experience of growing up with a sibling who has an intellectual disability.



“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.”

László Bercse





"It seems that deinstitutionalisation has become an exercise in wordsmithing."

Milan Šveřepa, director of Inclusion Europe, was invited to speak during a workshop of the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and social affairs. The workshop was about Deinstitutionalisation and independent living of persons with disabilities.



Guidance, report, judgement... Many new developments on deinstitutionalisation

"Giving effect to independent living involves redirecting investments and resources from institutional settings and services to accessible and non-segregated places of residence, community-based services and support for persons with disabilities."



Employment

Inclusion Europe worked on raising awareness about ongoing discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities in the labour market, but also showcased good practices and initiated discussions on how we can make inclusive employment happen everywhere in Europe.

Breaking Barriers programme - Leanne Williams and Melanie Hill for Inclusion Europe Radio

The education and employment initiative aims to widen access for individuals with learning disabilities.



Inclusion indicators 2024

Rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in 31 European countries



Press announcement: Report reveals situation of people with intellectual disabilities in Europe

The report reveals how 31 European countries perform on rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.



Voting rights

Inclusion Europe developed an advocacy campaign about the right to vote of people with intellectual disabilities under guardianship, raising more awareness about lack of representation and restrictions to vote and to stand for elections in several EU countries.



The election results are in, but the fight for disability rights continues

László Bercse, Vice-President of Inclusion Europe, wrote to European Economic and Social Committee about the demands of the hashtag disability rights movement.



Self-advocacy meetings in Greece to improve political participation

Self-advocacy meetings took place in Greece during September to improve political participation of people with intellectual disabilities.



“Every person with disabilities must have the right to vote, including all those under guardianship. We are citizens of Europe, and we should have the right to have a say in politics.”

László Bercse



European elections campaign

Inclusion Europe was a communication partner with European Parliament for European elections 2024. This included 43 social media posts about the right to vote in Europe, especially regarding those under guardianship. The campaign reached 119,040 impressions.

We

... collaborated with the Web team of the European Parliament on easy-to-read web page about the elections



... raised awareness about issues in legal capacity laws



... attended events by the Partnership team of the European Parliament



... collaborated with Europe Magazine to illustrate the issue of right to vote



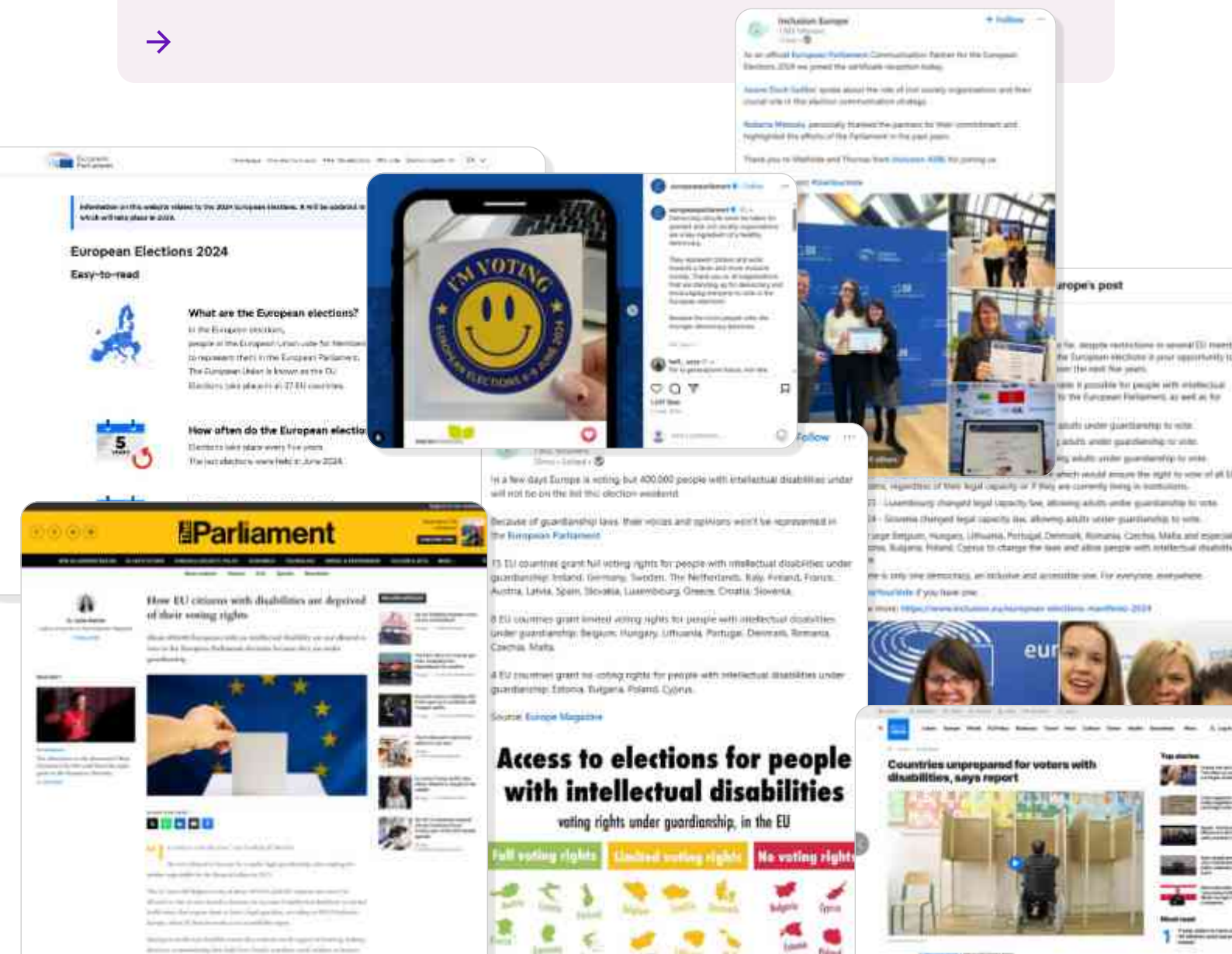
... were featured on the Instagram profile of the European Parliament



... collaborated with The Parliament magazine to advocate for the right to vote of 400,000 people under guardianship in the EU



... were part of the coverage in Euronews for the right to vote. Including Soufiane El Amrani's experience of being denied his vote in Belgium



Ukraine: Inclusive response and recovery from the war

The purpose of this project was to ensure that Ukrainians with intellectual disabilities and their representative organisations are not left behind in the response to and recovery from the Russian war. The project was launched in June 2023 and finished February 2025. The key implementing partner of Inclusion Europe is the All-Ukrainian Coalition for People with Intellectual Disabilities (VGO Coalition). The project was implemented thanks to the cooperation with the European Disability Forum and funding from the Christian Blind Mission.

The most important activities: trainings, involving self-advocates and families in pan-European events, and support for the partner organisation and its members.

We prepared and delivered long-term training for supporters of self-advocate groups, in-person training for families in Lutsk, and a series of webinars. Together with our partner organisation and external experts we **developed a series of reports and recommendations**. The project also support participation of Ukrainian representatives at Hear our Voices! self-advocacy conference, Europe in Action conference and other events.



JUDY project

The JUDY Project is a key initiative supporting people with intellectual disabilities to live independently in their communities. Throughout the first year, we have worked closely with self-advocates, families, and professionals to strengthen the disability movement and promote inclusive policies. The project leader was Inclusion International, and partners were our members in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia.

The project made great progress in its first year, running 79 training sessions, workshops and meetings with over 800 people taking part. These activities helped people with intellectual disabilities to build their confidence and speak up for themselves.

With the support of partners and organisations, the JUDY Project will keep working to make sure people with intellectual disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The project was funded by the US Department of State; funding was terminated early 2025.



Together+

The main objective is to create a comprehensive training programme focused on the management of **deinstitutionalisation** that will reflect current trends in social care across Europe.

Specific objectives of the project are to create an international platform focused on the management of the deinstitutionalisation (DI) process and on to develop methodological guidelines on the management of the DI process.

The trainings take place in Czechia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia. Inclusion Europe developed guide for the trainings.

Czechia

Institution for 116 people in Czechia - CLOSED



Inclusion Europe

26 Nov 2024 • 7 min read



Milan Šveřepa

DI is not a rocket science

Milan Šveřepa's contribution at the Global Disability Summit side-event, April 2025, Berlin. As organisations of people with intellectual disabilities and other advocates, we spend a lot of time demanding deinstitutionalisation. We also need to give time to working with those who make it...

18 Apr 2025 • 2 min read

Unity project

The Unity Project is an initiative promoting self-advocacy and working to improve the political participation of people with intellectual disabilities across Europe. Inclusion Europe serves as a partner in this project, which is co-funded by the European Union.

Throughout 2024, the project facilitated meetings, **such as those held in Greece**, bringing together self-advocates, family members, local authorities, and support staff. Discussions highlighted existing barriers, including limited access to easy-to-read information on rights and elections, and the need for increased support for self-advocacy groups.

The Unity Project continued into 2025 with further meetings **in Slovakia**. Similar initiatives are being undertaken by project partners in Austria and Slovenia.



Europe in Action GLASGOW 2024

20th Europe in Action conference took place in **Glasgow, Scotland, in May 2024**. It was also a celebration of **Enable's** 70th anniversary. Inclusion Europe's **General assembly** took place during the conference.

The **program** of the conference had many interesting plenaries and workshops for over 400 participants who attended from 39 different countries. The conference is also a place for disability support providers, decision-makers to learn about what people with intellectual disabilities and families expect from services and public policies.





Inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities - High-level event at the European Parliament

Inclusion indicators 2024 report was presented on **4th of December** during a event organised by the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity of the European Parliament for Disability Rights Week, in collaboration with Inclusion Europe.

The event, attended by over 200 participants, including self-advocates, and joined by additional participants online, featured contributions from key policymakers.

European Commissioner Hadja Lahbib and European Parliament Vice-Presidents Younous Omarjee, Antonella Sberna, and Nicolae Ștefănuță emphasised the importance of inclusion, accessibility, and the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

The event was also attended by many disability advocacy organisations and self-advocates.

László Bercse presented self-advocates' expectations from the European Union.



Members' meeting

A 3-day meeting to talk about priorities in advocacy, and to share the work being done across Europe for full rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Participants from 20 countries came to the meeting in Brussels.

Participants shared various initiatives improving support and inclusion, including advocating for better access to the justice system, new laws in support of employment of people with disabilities, and accessible information to people with intellectual disabilities, including easy-to-read news.



Online seminars and workshops



**Introducing EU Guidance
on Independent Living.
Organised together with
EASPD, EDF, ENIL, COFACE
Families Europe, and
Eurochild**



Breaking Barriers Program, about how it supports people to get education and jobs



Let's talk digital rights and accessibility, about lack of accessibility for people with intellectual disabilities in digital spaces



Closing the disability data gap, about the Inclusion indicators methodology



Trainings for self-advocates and family members

- A Germany: Training for self-advocates and family members on disability rights, European Union and related topics. Organised in collaboration with [Lebenshilfe](#)
- [Ukraine: 3-day training for family members](#) on person centred planning and developing support. Organised as part of our [CBM-funded project](#).
- [Greece](#): Meetings to improve self-advocates' political participation and decision-making. Organised as part of UNITY project



31 events organised

5-22 MARCH 2024 • BERLIN

Advocacy trainings Germany

19 MARCH 2024 • Online

Board meeting

5 JULY 2024 • GLASGOW

Board meeting

05 SEPTEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS

Board meeting

26-27 NOVEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS

Board meeting

3 JUNE 2024 • BRUSSELS

EEG civil dialog

14 NOVEMBER 2024 • Online

EEG Study Session

5 AUGUST 2024 • GLASGOW

EPSA general meeting

20 FEBRUARY 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

4 JULY 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

1 AUGUST 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

5 SEPTEMBER 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

3 OCTOBER 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

5 OCTOBER 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

7 NOVEMBER 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

5 DECEMBER 2024 • Online

EPSA Steering Group meeting

7-9 MAY 2024 • GLASGOW

Europe in Action 2024

8 MAY 2024 • GLASGOW

General assembly

4 DECEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS

Inclusion indicators 2024 launch

23-25 SEPTEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS

Members meeting

29 MAY 2024 • Online

Online session: Let's talk: digital rights and accessibility, with European Digital Rights and Inclusion Europe

30 FEBRUARY 2024 • Online

Online session Breaking barriers

30 APRIL 2024 • Online

Online session: Closing disability data gap

12 NOVEMBER 2024 • Online

Online session: Introducing EU Guidance on independent living

22 JANUARY 2024 • PRAGUE

**Training session:
Deinstitutionalisation Czechia**

4 MARCH 2024 • BRUSSELS

**Training session: Study session
for French self-advocates**

16 APRIL 2024 • Online

**Training session:
Deinstitutionalisation in Europe**

21 JUNE 2024 • BRUSSELS

Training session: Participation

16 SEPTEMBER 2024 • Online

**Training session: Self-advocacy
Slovakia**

3 DECEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS

**Training session: Self-advocacy
and services**

18 DECEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS

Housing report launch

41 speaking engagements: highlights

TAMARA BYRNE

1 MARCH 2024 • EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

**Manifesto on the Rights of
Women and Girls with
Disabilities →**

TOPIC: women's rights

JOSIPA FRIŠČIĆ

14 MARCH 2024 • EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EU elections campaign

TOPIC: EU elections

HELEN PORTAL

2-3 MAY 2024 • BELGIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU

EU presidency Child Guarantee

TOPIC: child guarantee

SOUFIANE EL AMRANI

29 MAY 2024 • EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**Access City award
conference →**

TOPIC: accessibility

SOUFIANE EL AMRANI, MILAN SVREPA

26 JUNE 2024 • EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Easy to read

TOPIC: easy to read

MILENA JOHNOVA

09 SEPTEMBER 2024 • ESF+ NETWORK

**Deinstitutionalisation in
Czechia**

TOPIC: deinstitutionalisation

LASZLO BERCSE

23 SEPTEMBER 2024 • ENIL

Freedom drive

TOPIC: independent living

JYRKI PINOMAA

18 OCTOBER 2024 • EASPD

EASPD conference on employment

TOPIC: employment

MILAN ŠVEŘEPA

30 OCTOBER 2024 • PFON

Poland disability forum conference on CRPD

TOPIC: CRPD

JYRKI PINOMAA

14 NOVEMBER 2024 • INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL

Deinstitutionalisation Working Group

TOPIC: inclusion of people with complex support needs

HELENA LAMBSDORFF

19 NOVEMBER 2024 • BRUSSELS BINDER

Equality in the European Parliament

TOPIC: disability rights

ALZIRA DA CONCEIÇÃO COSTA FERNANDES

28 NOVEMBER 2024 • EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Day of Persons with Disabilities →

TOPIC: independent living

ELIZAVET ROZAKI

27-28 NOVEMBER 2024 • PARTICIPATION FORUM 2024

Participation in democratic life, civic engagement and common values

TOPIC: participation

MILAN ŠVEŘEPA

2 DECEMBER 2024 • EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Deinstitutionalisation and independent living of persons with disabilities →

TOPIC: deinstitutionalisation

Easy-to-read and accessibility

Inclusion Europe worked with various organisations on implementing Easy to read texts and provided multiple trainings, including The European Parliament and the European Commission.

Other organisations are increasingly using easy-to-read to communicate about their work. Inclusion Europe continues to develop the public database of easy-to-read explanations of EU terminology.

Inclusion Europe also advocates to make sure accessibility for people with intellectual disability is not limited to text, but also to the participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in meetings and conference.

Deinstitutionalisation and inclusion in the community

The European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care (EEG) continued its work on advocating for deinstitutionalisation across Europe in 2023. Inclusion Europe supported EEG work on advocacy and awareness about deinstitutionalisation and use of EU funds.

Inclusion Europe contributed to [new reports](#) informing work on deinstitutionalisation, and structural changes for rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and families.

Workshop about Deinstitutionalisation and independent living

“Reports show that people with intellectual disabilities, specifically those with complex support needs, tend to be overlooked in deinstitutionalisation. They are least likely to benefit from anything that is being done to deinstitutionalise disabled people in Europe.”

Milan Šveřepa

Milan Šveřepa, the director of Inclusion Europe, [spoke at a workshop](#) of the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on 2 December 2024. During the workshop, he presented the perspective of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, highlighting the lack of significant progress in deinstitutionalisation.

European collaboration

Inclusion Europe cooperated and communicated with European institutions, NGOs, and other stakeholders making sure their policies, action and communication take on board the views of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Inclusion Europe is involved in European alliances, such as the coalition on victim's rights, the coalition to end violence against women, the EU Alliance for Investing in Children, or the EEG (European Expert Group on deinstitutionalisation).

Inclusion Europe is part of the Disability Platform, organised by the European Commission.

Inclusion Europe is co-funded by the European Union.

Inclusion Europe is a member of

European Disability Forum:

- Tamara Byrne (Youth Committee)
- Senada Halilčević (Women's Committee)
- Maureen Piggot

Inclusion International:

- Jyrki Pinomaa
- Soufiane El Amrani

Inclusion Europe represents the Region Europe in Inclusion International.

Organisations:

- European Disability Forum
- FAIB

Coalitions:

- EEG
- European coalition to end violence against women and girls Alliance for investing in children



58

**Media
appearances**



49

**Speaker
contributions
to events**

4

issues of
easy-to-read
magazine in
9 languages





6

Podcast episodes

17,447



**Newsletter
subscribers**

4

**easy-to-read
newsletters**

2

**monthly
newsletters**



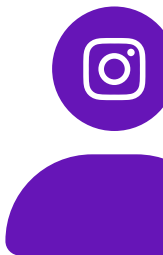
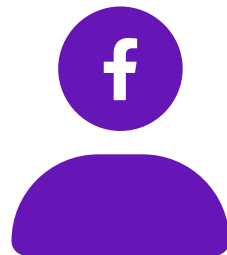
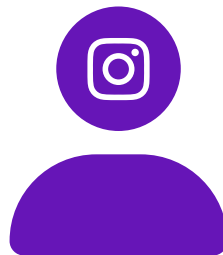
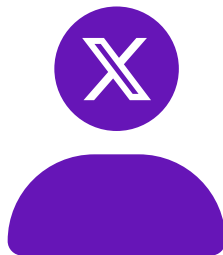
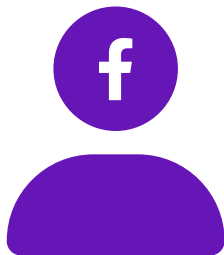
328,322

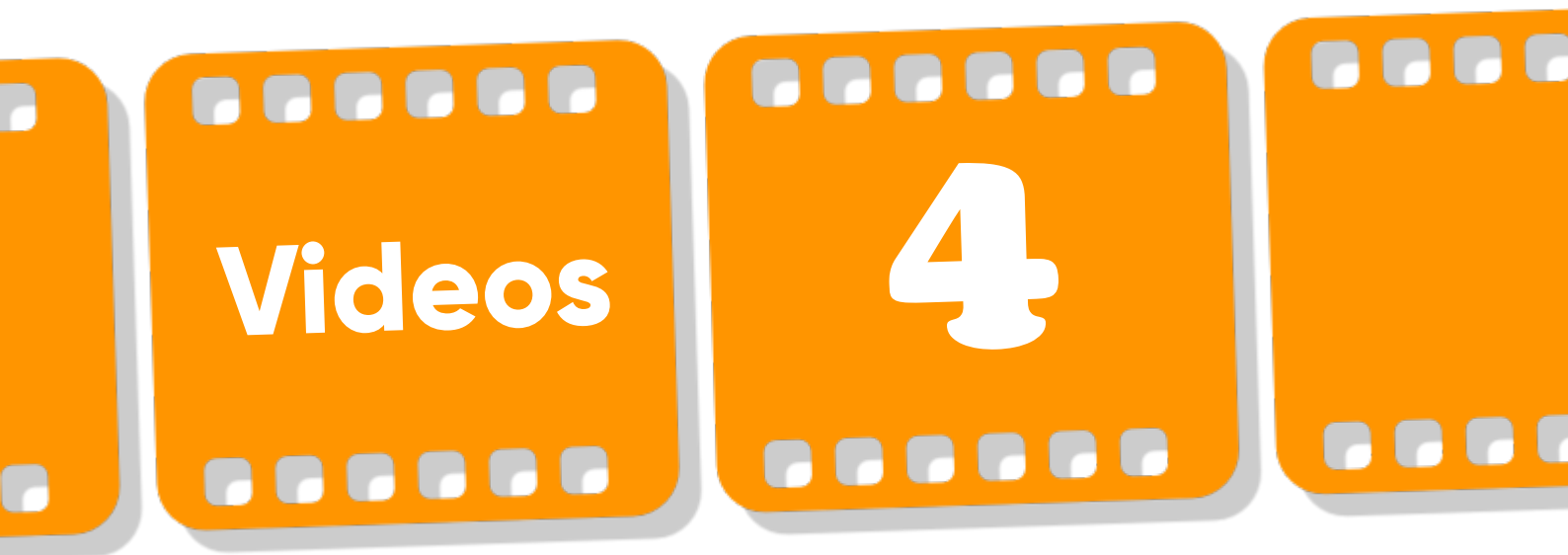
impressions on
social media channels



3,498

new followers on
social media channels





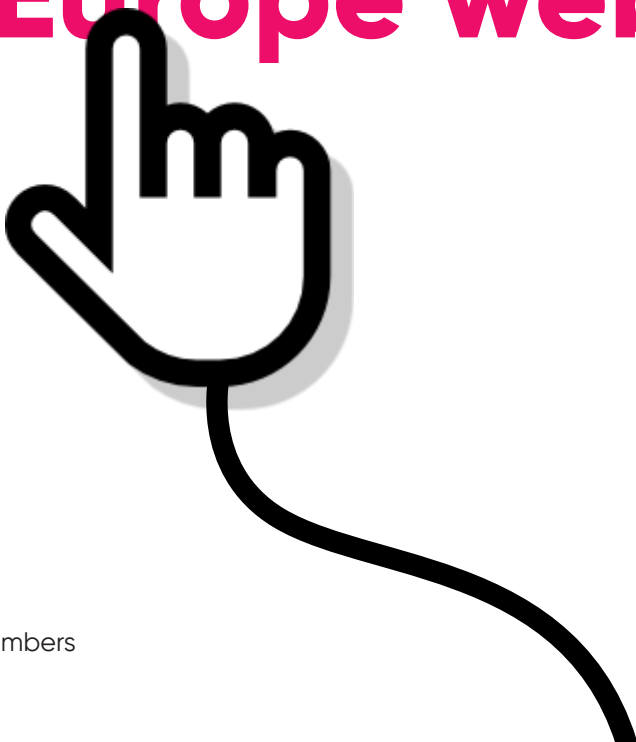
Videos

4



231,538

Visits for Inclusion
Europe website



Social media posts

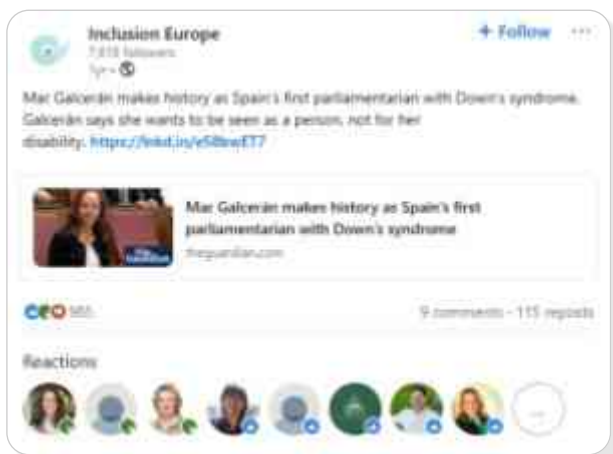
Facebook



X-Twitter



LinkedIn



Instagram



Publications

Inclusion indicators 2024

New updated report reveals how 31 European countries perform on rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

The report investigates seven areas of importance: Right to decide and right to vote; Right to live independently and to be included in the community; Housing and support; Education; Employment; Healthcare; and Representation.



Europe for us

The **Europe for us** magazine is done in easy to read. Every issue of the magazine is produced in eight language versions: EN, FR, DE, ES, RO, HU, IT, NL. We published four issues of Europe for us magazine and newsletter in 2024.

2024 / 1

Disability vote



2024 / 2

Self-advocacy and EU disability rights updates



2024 / 3

Guide for self-advocates and journalists in disability rights advocacy



2024 / 4

Inclusion indicators 2024



Much more needs to be done to implement deinstitutionalisation

The publication contains reflections from organisations in Czechia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia on the progress and challenges of deinstitutionalisation for people with intellectual disabilities. It discusses the need to move away from institutional care towards community-based support and greater inclusion in mainstream society.



Czechia



Lithuania



Romania



Slovakia



Deinstitutionalisation in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia

The publication is a summary of the progress and challenges of deinstitutionalisation for people with intellectual disabilities in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia. It highlights the varying levels of advancement, obstacles faced, and the importance of community-based services and self-advocacy.



Albania



Bulgaria



Hungary



Romania



Slovakia



Housing for people with intellectual disabilities

Inclusion Europe published a report on issues people with intellectual disabilities face in access to housing, and on ideas and practices to overcome these issues.



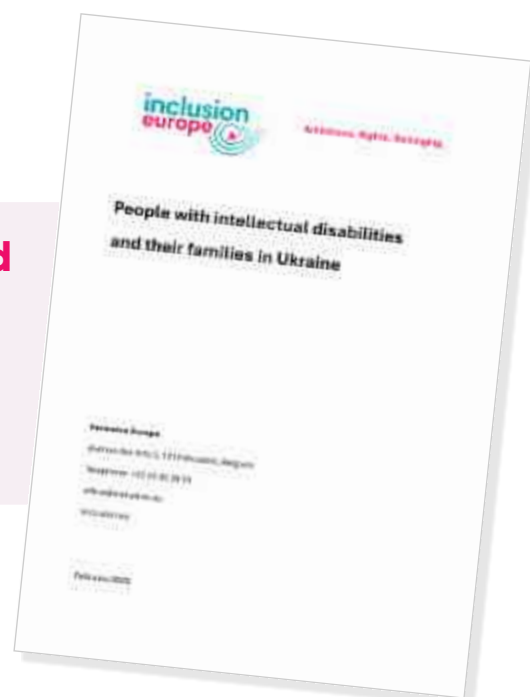
20 years in EU

The publication reflects on the 20th anniversary of the 2004 EU enlargement and examines the changes and challenges faced by people with intellectual disabilities and their families in the ten countries that joined. It highlights progress in areas like legislation and deinstitutionalisation, while also noting persistent issues such as voting rights and segregation.



People with intellectual disabilities and their families in Ukraine.

Report on their situation and impact of war.



Inclusion Europe Radio podcasts

Podcasts are available for listening on all main platforms (Spotify, Google, Apple etc.). Each episode has a brief written summary to help listeners get the key messages of the conversation.



Mapping rights and inclusion across Europe with Soufiane El Amrani, Bridget Lynch and Freddy Jussien

[Read summary](#)



Building self-advocacy movements with Soufiane El Amrani and Guillaume Jacquinet

[Read summary](#)



"Breaking Barriers" programme with Leanne Williams from Enable Scotland and Melanie Hill of Scottish Power

[Read summary](#)



Conversations with Sue Swenson on Intellectual Disability Advocacy - Inclusion Europe Radio

[Read summary](#)



Growing up as a sibling of a person with disabilities, with Aoife McGarry and Inge Volleberg - Inclusion Europe Radio

[Read summary](#)



The European Union's role in disability rights - Soufiane El Amrani

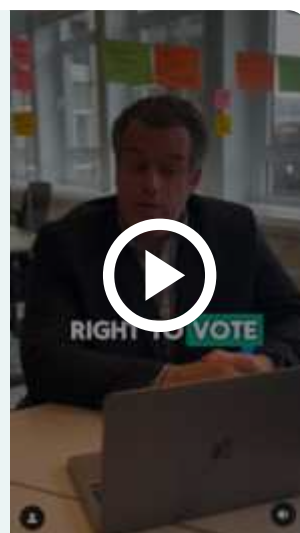


Inclusion indicators

In this animated video, Inclusion Europe focuses on the disability data gap in Europe, specifically when looking at desegregated data on people with intellectual disabilities. To decrease this gap, Inclusion Europe launched the first Inclusion indicators report in 2023: an ambitious data project to collect data on the situation on inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in different countries.

Video on the right to vote

Inclusion Europe collaborated with a disability advocacy influencer Olivia Lori, who once worked as a trainee at our office, about the right to vote for persons with intellectual disabilities in the European elections.



Media highlights

SOCIAL EUROPE

Intellectual disability: escaping from neglect →

"Nearly 50,000 people under guardianship cannot vote in Hungary. We need the right to vote so that decision-makers do not decide about us without us," said László Bercse.

STV NEWS

Call for action on learning disability rights as activists gather in Glasgow →

"We want people with intellectual disabilities to be able to live where everybody else lives, live in the community, be part of the community, as equal citizens, as equal human beings," said Jyrki Pinomaa

THE PARLIAMENT MAGAZINE

How EU citizens with disabilities are deprived of their voting rights →

Šveřepa from Inclusion Europe remains optimistic. He thinks that the next EU elections in 2029 – marking the 50th anniversary of the first ballot in 1979 – will be the time the bloc does away with "this business of not allowing people to vote."

EURONEWS

Countries unprepared for voters with disabilities, says report →

"It makes me feel mad because I feel like I'm not doing my civic duty and making sure my voice is heard and my opinions taken into account. It makes me very angry," said Soufiane El Amrani.

EESC – CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' BULLETIN

The election results are in, but the fight for disability rights continues →

"Every person with disabilities must have the right to vote, including all those under guardianship," said László Bercse.

Financial report 2024

The income of Inclusion Europe came from 3 main sources:

1. Grant from the European Union. This grant allows Inclusion Europe to cover staff costs, conferences, trainings, events and other costs running of the organisation.
2. Grants for specific projects. These grants allow us to pay for staff costs, events, or other costs associated with work such as self-advocates' trainings, developments or reports etc.
3. Membership fees. These are important especially as co-financing (required contribution) for grants. Membership fees show our members' continued appreciation of Inclusion Europe's work.

We would like to thank the European Union for the support provided with grants both for operational costs and specific projects.

We would like to thank Christian Blind Mission for their funding of our project supporting disability rights in Ukraine.

We would like to thank our members for your continued support!

Inclusion Europe's finances were audited in accordance with the required standards and terms of reference. The auditor confirmed that the financial statements correctly present Inclusion Europe's net worth and the association's financial position. The financial result of Inclusion Europe for the year 2024 was € 37,976.72 euros.

Jeanne Nicklas-Faust, Treasurer

Income		
Project Income	€ 197,590.10	24.15%
Commission Grant	€ 473,291.00	57.85%
Membership Fees	€ 137,080.00	16.76%
Other operating income	€ 10,160.24	1.24%
Total income	€ 818,121.34	100%

Expenditure		
Staff	€ 407,366.91	52.22%
External Project staff/ Subcontracting	€ 118,502.00	15.19%
Travel and subsistence	€ 71,377.06	9.15%
Services	€ 60,626.01	7.77%
Equipment & running cost	€ 116,666.23	14.95%
Other expenditure	€ 5,606.41	0.72%
Total expenditure	€ 780,144.62	100%

Result: € 37,976.72

Our team

The Board

The board of Inclusion Europe is elected at the General Assembly and is responsible for managing the affairs of Inclusion Europe.



Jyrki Pinomaa

is the President of Inclusion Europe. Jyrki has two sons with severe disabilities. Jyrki had been the president for Inclusion Finland, and worked for an association providing housing and services to people with intellectual disabilities.

jyrki@inclusion.eu



László Bercse

is the Vice-President of Inclusion Europe, and chair of the European Platform of Self-Advocates. László is also the co-chair of EFOESZ, Hungary.



Mateja de Reya

is the Vice-President of Inclusion Europe representing family members. Mateja is also the director of Zveza Sožitje, Slovenia.



Guillaume Jacquinet

is a brother to his sister with intellectual disabilities. Guillaume was nominated to the Board by Inclusion Ireland.

Non-executive Board members

- **Andreas Zehetner**
self-advocate with Lebenshilfe Austria
- **Camille Latimier**
director of Inclusion Czechia
- **Cristina Schiratti**
a mother to her daughter with intellectual disabilities.
Board member of Anffas, Italy.
- **Dana Migaliova**
a mother to her son with intellectual disabilities.
President of Viltis, Lithuania.
- **Oswald Föllerer**
self-advocate with Self-Advocacy Centre in Vienna, Austria.



Jeanne Nicklas-Faust

is a mother of her daughter with intellectual disabilities. Jeanne is also Secretary-General of Lebenshilfe, Germany.

Staff

Inclusion Europe's office:
Avenue des art 3, 1210 Brussels, Belgium
office@inclusion.eu



Milan Šveřepa

is director of Inclusion Europe. Before joining Inclusion Europe Milan worked on deinstitutionalisation in Czechia and in other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

milan@inclusion.eu



Josipa Frisčić

is the communication officer at Inclusion Europe. Before joining Inclusion Europe, Josipa worked and volunteered at the Erasmus Student Network.

josipa@inclusion.eu



Soufiane El Amrani

is self-advocate, and accessibility expert of Inclusion Europe. Soufiane has been working with the European Platform of Self-Advocates for many years. Soufiane is at Council of Inclusion International since November 2020.

soufiane@inclusion.eu



Freddy Jussien

is advocacy lead of Inclusion Europe. Before starting at Inclusion Europe, Freddy used to work at European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities.

freddy@inclusion.eu



Sandra Marques

is the self-advocacy expert of Inclusion Europe. Sandra supports the European Platform of Self-Advocates.

sandra@inclusion.eu



Inge Volleberg

is coordinator and researcher. Previously, Inge worked as a coordinator of the EEG and at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research of Uppsala University.

inge@inclusion.eu



Helena Lambsdorff

is coordinator of the EEG. Helena also works as Policy and Advocacy Officer of Inclusion Europe.

coordinator@deinstitutionalisation.com



Milena Johnová

works on support for Ukraine, deinstitutionalisation, and development of supported decision-making.

milena@inclusion.eu



Nina Vertot

is finance officer of Inclusion Europe.

nina@inclusion.eu

Members

Inclusion Europe has
78 members in 38 European countries.

The European Platform of Self-Advocates has 20 members in 18 countries.

Colored countries mark countries with Inclusion Europe member.



List of members

Albania

Help The Life Association

www.helpthelife.org
+355-44 80 33 70
info@helpthelife.org.al

Austria

Lebenshilfe Österreich

www.lebenshilfe.at
+43-1-812 26 42
office@lebenshilfe.at

Lebenshilfe Wien

www.lebenshilfe.wien
+43-1-812 26 35
office@lebenshilfe.wien

Selbstvertretungszentrum für Menschen mit Lernschwierigkeiten

www.svz.wuk.at
oselbstvertretungszentrum@wuk.at

Belarus

Lifeguide / BelAPDIiMI

www.belapdi.org
+375-17-365 03 88
info@belapdi.org

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association Sumero

www.sumero.ba
+375-17-365 03 88
info@sumero.ba

Bulgaria

BAPID – Bulgarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

www.bapid.com
+359-2- 4174419
bapid@bapid.com

National Association of Resource Teachers

www.narubg.org
+359-02-878 0234

Croatia

Udruga za promicanje inkluzije – Association for Promoting Inclusion

www.inkluzija.hr
+385-1-375 89
inkluzija@inkluzija.hr

Udruga za samozastupanje – Association for Self-Advocacy

www.samozastupanje.hr
+385-1-555 66 80
kontakt@samozastupanje.hr

Hrvatski savez udruga osoba s intelektualnim teškoćama – Croatian Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

www.savezosit.hr
+385-1-3775 470
savezosit@savezosit.hr

Cyprus

Pancyprian Parents Association for People with Mental Handicap

+357-22-31 16 85
pasygoka@cytanet.com.cy

Czechia

SPMP (ČR): Společnost pro podporu lidí s mentálním postižením – Inclusion Czech Republic
www.spmPCR.cz
+420-221-890 434
spmp@seznam.cz

Sebeobhájci Praha
420-2-219 02 74
jan.siska@pedf.cuni.cz

Rytmus
www.rytmus.org
+420-2-24 25 16 10
pavlab@rytmus.org

Denmark

Landesforeningen LEV
www.lev.dk
+45-3635 96 96
lev@lev.dk

Estonia

Vaimukad: Eesti Vaimupuudega Inimeste Tugiliit (EVPIT) – Estonian Mentally Disabled People Support Organisation
www.vaimukad.ee
+372-6 -605 067
evpit@vaimukad.ee

EVPIT Self-Advocacy Group
+372-6-455 171
evpit@vaimukad.ee

England (United Kingdom)

Learning Disability England
www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk
info@LDEngland.org.uk

Faroe Islands

Javni
www.javni.fo
+298-208090
javni@javni.fo

Finland

Kehitysvammaisten Tukiliitto r.y.
www.tukiliitto.fi
358-3-240 31
toimisto@tukiliitto.fi

FDUV
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+358-9-4342 360
fduv@fduv.fi

Steg för Steg
www.stegforsteg.fi
+358-9-40 70 70
fduv@fduv.fi

France

Association "Les Jeunes Handicapés"
www.ajh.fr
+33-5-61-91-59-64

Les Papillons Blancs de Dunkerque
www.papillonsblancs-dunkerque.fr
+33-3-28 61 78 83
contact@papillonsblancs-dunkerque.fr

Nous Aussi
www.nousaussi.org
+33-1-44 85 50 50
nous-aussi@unapei.org

UNAPEI
www.unapei.org
+33-1-44 85 50 50
public@unapei.org

Germany

Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung e.V.

www.lebenshilfe.de
+49-30/20 64 11-0
bundesvereinigung@lebenshilfe.de

Der Rat behinderter Menschen der Bundesvereinigung Lebenshilfe
+49-030/20 6411-124
ulrich.niehoff@lebenshilfe.de

Lebenshilfe Schleswig-Holstein
www.lebenshilfe-sh.de
+49 431-66118-0
info@lebenshilfe-sh.de

Greece

POSGAMEA – Panhellenic Federation of Parents and Guardians of Disabled People
www.posgamea.gr
+30-210-523 65 01, +30-210-523 0423
posgamea@otenet.gr

Hungary

ÉFOÉSZ – Értelmi Fogyatekosok Országos Érdekvedelmi Szövetsége
www.efoesz.hu
+36-1-411 13 57
efoesz@efoesz.hu

ÉFOÉSZ Self-Advocacy Group
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+36-1-411 13 57
efoesz@efoesz.hu

Iceland

Landssamtökin Þroskahjálþ
www.throskahjalp.is
+354 5889390
throskahjalp@throskahjalp.is

Ireland

Inclusion Ireland
www.inclusionireland.ie
+353-1-855 98 91
info@inclusionireland.ie

Israel

AKIM Israel
www.akim.org.il
+972-3-766 22 22
info@akimisrael.com

Italy

Anffas Italy
www.anffas.net
+39-06-321 2391
nazionale@anffas.net

Lithuania

VILTIS – Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with Mental Disability
www.viltis.lt
370 (8) 5 26 15 223
viltis@viltis.lt

Luxembourg

APEMH
www.apemh.lu
+352-379.19.11
apemh@apemh.lu

Ligue HMC
www.ligue-hmc.lu
+352-30 92 32-1
direction-secretariat@ligue-hmc.lu

Malta

INSPIRE – The Foundation for Inclusion

www.inspire.org.mt
+356-21 89 00 00
info@inspire.org.mt

Malta Federation of Organisations of Persons with Disability (MFOPD)

www.mfopd.org
+356-770 755 55/ +356 270 755 55
mfopdmalta@gmail.com

Movement in Favour of Rights for Persons with Disability – Down Syndrome Association

+356-214 485 70 / +356 992 294 18
marthesemugliette@gmail.com

National Parents' Society of Persons with Disability

www.npspd.org
+356-27 371 582
npspdsociety@gmail.com

Netherlands

Inclusie Nederland

www.inclusienederland.nl
+31-30 236 30 00
info@inclusienederland.nl

Vereniging LFB

www.lfb.nu
31-30 236 37 61
info@lfb.nu

Norway

NFU – Norsk Forbund for Utviklingshemmede

www.nfunorge.org
+47-22-39 60 50
post@nfunorge.org

NFU Self-Advocacy Group

+47-22-39 60 50
helene@nfunorge.org

Poland

PSONI: Polskie Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Osób z Niepełnosprawnością Intelektualną – Polish Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability

www.psoni.org.pl
+48-22-848 82 60
zg@psouu.org.pl

Portugal

FENACERCI

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+351) 21 711 25 80
fenacerci@fenacerci.pt

Romania

Ceva de spus

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contact@cevadespus.ro

Pentru Voi

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+44-141-226 45 41
pentruvoi@pentruvoi.ro

Russia

Перспектива / Perspektiva

www.perspektiva-inva.ru
+7 (499) 725 39 82
office@perspektiva-inva.ru

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ENABLE Scotland

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+44-016-987-37-000
enabledirect@enable.org.uk

ENABLE ACE COMMITTEE

www.enable.org.uk
+44-016-987-37-000
enable@enable.org.uk

Slovakia

**ZPMPVSR: Združenie na pomoc ľuďom
s mentálnym postihnutím v SR**

www.zpmpvsr.sk
+4212-63 81 49 68
zpmpvsr@zpmpvsr.sk

Slovenia

**ZVEZA SOŽITJE – The Slovenian
Association for Persons with
Intellectual Disabilities**

www.zveza-sozitje.si
+386-1-436 97 50
info@zveza-sozitje.si

**Center for training, work and
protection Dolfka Boštjančič, Draga**

+386 1 420 26 00
center.draga.ig@center-db.si

Spain

Plena Inclusión

www.plenainclusion.org
+34-91-556 74 13
info@plenainclusion.org

**GADIR – Grupo de Apoyo a la
Dirección Plena Inclusión**

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info@plenainclusion.org

Som Fundació Catalana Tutelar

www.somfundacio.org
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informacio@somfundacio.org

Dincat

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info@dincat.cat

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FUB

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+46-8-50 88 66 00
fub@fub.se

Inre Ringen Sverige

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+46-8-508 866 00
inre-ringen@fub.se

Switzerland

INSIEME

www.insieme.ch
+41-31-300 50 20
sekretariat@insieme.ch

Ukraine

**All-Ukrainian NGO Coalition for
Persons with Intellectual Disability**
www.intelldisabilities-coalition.com.ua
vgo.coalition@gmail.com

Wales (United Kingdom)

All Wales People First
allwalespeople1st.co.uk/
admin@allwalespeople1st.co.uk

European Organisations

**Down Syndrome Education
International**
www.down-syndrome.org/en-gb/
+44(0)23-9285-5330
enquiries@downsend.org

Special Olympics Europe Euroasia
www.specialolympics.eu
+353-1-633 67 64
mbraycich@specialolympics.org

Easy to read dictionary



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.



Bank

A place where you can keep and take out money



Charter of Fundamental Rights

A paper that says what basic rights every person has.
For example, the right to freedom, the right to education.



Climate change

When nature is damaged because of human actions.
For example, pollution, heavy rains, forest fires.



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.



COVID-19

A virus that spread all around the world.
A lot of people got sick.

People could not meet each other,
work at the office or go to school.



Degree

When you finish school or university you
get a paper that shows your grades. It's called a degree.



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.



Democracy

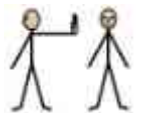
When everybody has the same right to be heard.
When everybody has the same right to vote and
to stand for elections.



Disability

A person who is not able to do some things,
because it is hard for the person.

For example, a person has no legs cannot walk.
Or a person who has a reading difficulty cannot
understand a hard text.



Discrimination

Discrimination means that you are treated worse than
others or that you do not get the chances you deserve.

It is discrimination when it happens
because of your disability.
It can also happen to other people.

For example, people who have a different skin colour.
Or older people.



Easy-to-read

Easy to read is information that is written in a simple way so that people with intellectual disabilities can understand.

It is important to use simple words and sentences. If there are words that are difficult to understand, an explanation is provided.

The text needs to be clear to see, for example, black writing on a white background is good.

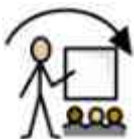
It needs to be well-spaced.

Easy-to-read often uses pictures to explain what the text talks about.

Someone with an intellectual disability needs to check the information is easy to understand.

Easy-to-read documents often have this logo, so it is easier to find them.

There are rules on how easy-to-read should be done.



Educate

Educate means to teach.

It means to make sure people have access to training so they can learn new skills.



Employment

Employment is when a person works and gets paid for their work.

It is usually based on a contract between the worker and the person who provides the job.

This person is the employer.



EPSA

The European Platform of Self-Advocates is made up of organisations of self-advocates from different countries in Europe.

We call it EPSA for short.

It is a part of Inclusion Europe.



European Commission

The European Commission works with the European Parliament.

The European Commission suggests laws for the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to discuss.

It also makes sure that the laws that have been decided upon are being followed by the member states.



European Convention on Human Rights

A paper that says the rights every person has. For example, the right to live, the right to speak your mind. The paper is respected by all countries in Europe.



European Parliament

The European Parliament is a place where important decisions of the European Union are made. For example: laws.

The Members of the European Parliament (in short, MEPs) make these decisions and speak for all the people who live in the European Union.

Every five years,
the people who live in the European Union
vote for their country's MEPs.



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.



Gender

The gender says if you are female or male.

Some people do not see themselves as either female or male.

They call themselves non-binary.



Government

A government is a group of people that make decisions on how to run a country. For example,

- about where the money is spent,
- about public transport,
- about schools,
- about hospitals.

Every few years there are elections to vote for a new government.



Guardianship

Guardianship allows some people to make life choices for others.

The person who makes choices for you is your guardian.

Your guardian can decide things for you, like where you live.

Sometimes, people under guardianship are not allowed to vote, get married, or take care of their kids.



Healthcare

Healthcare is the services given to someone who is ill or who needs to take care of their health.

Healthcare involves going to the doctor, getting medicine and getting support for health problems of the body or the mind.



Independent living

Independent living means that people with intellectual disabilities live in the community and have support to do what they want.

They also can:

- choose with whom and where to live
- decide how they want to spend their time
- have the same experiences as all other people

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 78 members in 38 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.



Internship

A place where you work for a short time and helps you to find what kind of job you want to do later.



MEPs

The members of the European Parliament are the politicians who sit in the European Parliament. We call them MEPs for short.



NGO Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations, or NGOs are generally defined as nonprofit and independent of governmental influence.



Organisation

A group of people who work for the same thing.



Report

A paper that says what researchers find about a topic.
For example: Inclusion Europe and
Antwerp Management School
worked on a report about employment for people with
intellectual disabilities.



Researcher

A person that finds things about a topic and
makes a report about the topic and the findings.



Rights of people with disabilities

A right is a rule that makes sure people
are protected and they can have and do
what they need to live a life with respect and safety.

Rights of people with disabilities are rules
that are about the lives of people with disabilities.

For example, the right to get an education,
or the right to live.



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.



Special education schools

Schools for people with disabilities.



Support person

A person that helps people with disabilities to do things.

For example: doing grocery shopping or understanding a hard document.



Training

A class often given at work where people learn new things.



Volunteer

A person that works and helps for free.

For example: taking care of animals at a shelter.



Vote

Voting means choosing the politicians who represent us and make decisions for us.

You can vote in different areas.

For example:

- in your town or city
when you elect a new mayor in your country
- when you elect a new president
- or at the European elections,
when you choose the new
Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).



Working conditions

Working conditions is the working environment and the circumstances of the job.

This includes the working hours, legal rights and responsibilities.

Working conditions also include the work that a person does with their body or their mind.

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**Co-funded by
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