The EU policy approach to independent living

Policy Analysis Laboratory School

The future of the welfare state in the Western Balkans
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European Pillar of Social Rights (principles 1, 3, 9, 11, 18, 19, 20)

• 2013 Commission Recommendation on Investing in Children
• European Disability Strategy 2010-2020
• European Pillar of Social Rights
• Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
• UN Principles for Older Persons
• UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
• UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

Introduction
Concept of Independent Living

People with disabilities: People with disabilities.

Main implementation instrument at EU level: European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

Both EU and MS are separate contracting parties to the UNCRPD. EU law obliges Member States to implement the Convention to the extent that its provisions fall within the EU's competence. Interpretation guidance provided by the UN CRPD.

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Concept of Independent Living

- Children
- Children refugees (unaccompanied minors)
- Children with disabilities
- UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children with disabilities
Homeless: No policy or legislative framework at EU-level providing a definition of independent living for people experiencing homelessness; no quality standards for services, nor benchmarks for measuring progress towards such standards.

Prevailing practice is an institutional-type of response.

Right to housing enshrined in several acts: European Charter of Fundamental Rights, Social Charter of the Council of Europe.

European Pillar of Social Rights – Principle 19
Concept of independent living

EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

• Employment aspects of LTC cooperation on LTC issues in the Social Protection Committee.
  - Centered on access for all to affordable and financially sustainable high-quality long-term care.
  - LTC provision is EU Member States responsibility; MS agreed on set of common objectives.

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  - Pillar privileges home-based services and community-based services to long-term care services for persons who are reliant on care.
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• European Pillar of Social Rights – Principle 18 – affirms for the first time at EU level the right:
  - To long-term care for persons who are reliant on care.

• In most EU Member States at least a part of the responsibility for LTC is placed with the family.

• LTC tends to be far less well covered by social protection systems than health care.

• Older people / People in need of long-term care (LTC):
Key indicators and challenges

- Around 4.1 million street and shelter homeless in EU in a given year
- No single comparable comprehensive data source on total number of children residing in institutions in the EU (estimates around 400,000 – 500,000)
- No single comparable comprehensive data source on the extent of independent living of persons with disabilities

Issued „A voluntary European quality framework for social services” related to the UNCRPD article 19
Measurement of quality of services difficult; Social Protection Committee 2010.
Indicators have been developed (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights), they are:

- No comparable data on the total number of children living in institutions in the EU
- No comparable data for the extent of independent living of persons with disabilities
Policy development

Academic network of experts for disability (ANED)

Action Plan for its full implementation

European Pillar of Social Rights – new Commission will present

institutions in their country reports

countries got comments on independent living or de-institutionalisation

European Semester monitoring and recommendations – in 2018 ten

European Disability Strategy

People with disabilities:
Support to young persons aged 18+ for transition into independent living
- Children aged 0-3 not in institutions
- Support to children left behind
- Ensure access to quality services
- No expansion of institutional care settings
- Ensure adequate gate-keeping
- Poverty must not be only reason for removing children from parental care
- Strengthen prevention


Policy development

#SocialRights

European Pillar of Social Rights
New approach with «Housing first»

European Pillar of Social Rights

Homelessness

Policy development
Policy development

- Long-term care / Older people: Develop proactive and preventive responses to social protection against long-term care dependency.
Experience shows that integrated use of EU and national funds is necessary in programming. The use of European Social Fund (ESF) investments will continue the approach for all target groups. ESF+ 2021-2027 will include more focused use of the ESF to support the transition from institutional care to community-based care. A number of Member States included the transition from institutional care to community-based care in their ESIF programming (EE, LT, LV, SI, SK, CZ, HU, PL, RO, HR, EL, BG).

ESIF investments

Current period (2014-2020):

- More focused use of the ESF to support the transition from institutional to community-based care
- Based on common guidelines
Thank you!

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