

**INVOLVING DISABLED
PEOPLE IN
MONITORING
COMMITTEES**

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The European Network on Independent Living and its members

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is a **user-led network of disabled people**, with members throughout Europe. ENIL is a forum for **all disabled people**, Independent Living organizations and their non-disabled allies on the issues of Independent Living. ENIL represents the disability movement for human rights and social inclusion based on **solidarity, peer support, deinstitutionalization, democracy, self-representation, cross disability and self-determination**.

ENIL is comprised of individual and organizational members across Europe. Full organisational members are to be run, represented and controlled by disabled people.



EU Funds for Our Rights



In November 2016, ENIL launched the campaign **EU Funds for Our Rights**.

The focus of the EU Funds for Our Rights Campaign is on the role of Structural Funds in supporting the right to live independently and being included in the community, preventing discrimination and segregation, following the EU's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Key activities include:

- Providing evidence
- Awareness raising
- Practical solutions
- Building capacity
- Building alliances



Meaningful participation of DPOs under the CRPD

Article 4.3 CRPD

In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.

Consultations should include organizations representing the wide diversity of persons with disabilities, at the local, national, regional and international levels. (...)

States parties should systematically and openly approach, consult and involve, in a meaningful and timely manner, organizations of persons with disabilities. This requires access to all relevant information (...) through accessible digital formats and reasonable accommodation when required.

General Comment n° 7



Meaningful participation of DPOs in the Code on Partnership

*Specific attention should be paid to including groups who may be affected by programmes but who find it difficult to influence them, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, which are at highest risk of discrimination or social exclusion, in particular **persons with disabilities**, migrants and Roma people.*



Obstacles to participation of DPOs in monitoring committees - I

- Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) lack capacity and resources to be actively engaged in monitoring committees at national level.
- Even when present in monitoring committees, DPOs perceive that they are not being properly consulted and listened to, and they report a lack of transparency over the projects that are being financed.
- DPOs might be represented solely by national umbrella organisations, which do not reflect the full diversity of DPOs and their views. Survivors of institutionalization are particularly underrepresented



Obstacles to participation of DPOs in monitoring committees - II

« The Disability Council is represented in the Monitoring Committee, but it does not implement the partnership principle properly.

We are only informed about selected contents in these meetings (which take place about 2 times a year). The Disability Council has no possibility to approve or reject any funding. We also have no access to the funded projects, i.e. we do not even know where all the money goes.

We have already provided the responsible authorities with brief information on what could be funded in principle in the social sector from the point of view of disability law. Obviously, this information is sustainably ignored. »



Recommendations

- Increase the use of **technical assistance** to build capacity of a wide range of DPOs, including those representing survivors of institutionalization.
- Ensure that there is a **variety of representation** of DPOs in monitoring committees, outside of national umbrella organisations. Survivors of institutionalization must be consulted in all matters related to deinstitutionalization plans and strategies.
- Fulfill the requirements of General Comment 7 for **meaningful participation**, making sure that DPOs are not tokenized in consultations.
- Involve DPOs at **all stages** of planning, implementation of monitoring of ESI Funds – also outside the mandate of Monitoring Committees.



**THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING**

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