



Conference on 'Moving towards independent living and community-based care - EU funding instruments to support the development of community-based services'

Van Maerlant Building, Brussels, Belgium

17 June 2019 (9:00-17:30)

The European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion cordially invites you to the Conference on “Moving towards independent living and community-based care - EU funding instruments to support the development of community-based services”. The Conference is organised by the Framework Service contract supporting peer reviews and other mutual learning processes in the fields of employment, social affairs and inclusion and the ESF Transnational Platform.

Purpose of the seminar

The Conference is the final mutual learning event of a cycle of capacity-building seminars aimed at improving the capacity of the actors at local, regional and national levels to develop measures supporting the transition from institutional to community-based services, using EU funding instruments. The Conference will also share existing European practices in the area of independent living and community-based care. Finally, the Conference aims at improving the understanding of the European Commission and other stakeholders of the progress towards deinstitutionalisation and its main challenges. The participants will identify and exchange information on practical examples on implementing the [Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care](#), using European Structural and investment Funds (ESIF) and other EU funding instruments.

Participants

The Conference will be open to 70 participants, including representatives from local, national and regional authorities, managing authorities, service providers, independent experts, civil society organisations and representatives from the European Commission.

Event information

More than one million children and adults live in institutions across Europe. While institutions were once seen as the common way to care for vulnerable children and adults with support needs, evidence has shown that institutional care does not ensure the autonomy, independence and quality of life of individuals and thus there is a need to shift towards community care provision and social inclusion.

The EU and all its Member States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that recognizes the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community and access community-based support services. Member States have the main legal responsibility and competence for social policies and while the implementation of adequate reforms of care systems needs to take place at the national level, a more wide-ranging discussion at the EU level in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination makes a solid contribution to the development of common approaches.

In this context, several initiatives have been taken at EU level to enhance the protection and promotion of independent living, deinstitutionalisation and the prevention of (re)-institutionalisation of vulnerable people and groups at risk of social exclusion. In particular, the European Pillar of Social Rights acts as a compass towards upwards convergence helping



Member States in developing integrated and coordinated responses to the multiple needs of vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the Commission have allocated resources from various funds and instruments to support Member States in moving towards independent living and community-based care. This support will continue also in the future as the European Commission proposed relevant provisions for enhancing the transition from institutional to community-based care for the 2021-2027 programming period, such as excluding institutional care units from the provision of funding irrespective of their size, as well as the strengthening of the partnership principle.

Discussion Themes

The Conference will focus on:

- The state of play of community-based services in Europe, including key policy and strategic documents, the main actors and resources available.
- A comparative analysis of the steps taken by countries that introduced personal assistance and early intervention systems for people at risk of (re)institutionalisation.
- How to collaborate transitionally to design community-based services to support the development of services to support independent living.
- The use of EU Funding instruments, including structural and cohesion funds, to implement the Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care and identification of enabling factors.

How to register?

Registration for this Conference is mandatory, and places will be subject to availability and confirmation by the European Commission.

Please **register at your earliest convenience and no later than 7 June 2019** for the event via this link: <https://eu.eventscloud.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=200188544&>.

Once you have registered, we will contact you to confirm your registration.

Please note that the event will be held in **English**. The venue is accessible.