



## **European Expert Group**

on the transition from institutional  
to community-based care

### **Preventing institutionalisation through EU funding- the role of the new MFF**

#### **EEG study session**

[Register here](#)

**17 June 2025, 14:00 to 16:00 CET**

This study session organised by the European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care will take place in the afternoon of 17 June 2025. It will bring together EU and national policy-makers, managing authorities, civil society organisations, service providers, and people with lived experience to explore how EU funding can be used more effectively to prevent institutionalisation and support inclusive living.

Despite long-standing commitments, over 1.5 million people in Europe remain in institutions, often due to the lack of accessible, community-based services and preventative support for families. While EU funds have supported major progress in some countries—such as closing institutions and developing personal assistance and housing services—challenges persist. In some cases, EU funding has even contributed to maintaining institutional settings.

The study session will focus on three key areas: misuse of EU funds that have prolonged institutional care, positive national practices in redirecting funding toward independent living (with a case from Bulgaria), and the need for strong monitoring systems to track the use and impact of EU investments. Speakers include representatives from the European Commission, Eurofound, and civil society organisations working directly with affected groups.

The aim of this study session is to discuss how EU funding under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) can better support the transition to community-based care for persons with disabilities, children, and people experiencing homelessness—ensuring that reforms are rights-based, data-driven, and aligned with EU policy commitments such as the Guidance on Independent Living and the European Child Guarantee.

**You can register by following this link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_BT4e19GqRSuEXVJwCy1jyw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BT4e19GqRSuEXVJwCy1jyw#/registration)

# **Preventing institutionalisation through EU funding - the role of the new MFF**

17 June 2025, 14:00-16:00 CET

## **Programme**

**14:00-14:10**

### **Welcome and introduction**

Kadri Soova, EEG Co-chair, Director of Mental Health Europe

**14:10-14:25**

### **Introduction on the Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community**

Olga Martinez de Briones, Policy officer, European Commission

**14:25-14:55**

### **Block 1: Framing the session**

#### **Presenting the EEG's position on EU-funding**

Milan Šveřepa, Chief executive, Inclusion Europe

#### **Examples of the misuse of EU funds**

Ines Bulić, Director, European Network for Independent Living (ENIL)

### **Q&A**

**14:55-15:15**

### **Block 2: Steering EU investment towards community-based care and support**

#### **Practice from the ground - Positive examples of how EU-funding is shaping the transition from institutional to community-based care in Bulgaria**

Desislava Georgieva, Head of the Programming and Contracting Department at the Managing Authority of ESF+ in Bulgaria

### **Q&A**

**15:15-15:40**

### **Block 3: Strengthening monitoring mechanisms**

#### **Monitoring the impact of EU funds for deinstitutionalisation**

Daphne Ahrendt, Senior research manager, Social policies unit – Eurofound

#### **Q&A**

**15:40-15:50**

#### **Closing remarks**

#### **Call to action: What EU funding must look like in the future**

Helena Lambsdorff, Coordinator, EEG

---

### **European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care (EEG)**

*The European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care (EEG) is a broad coalition gathering stakeholders representing children and their families, people with disabilities and their families, people experiencing homelessness, people experiencing mental health problems, service providers, public authorities and UN organisations. The EEG advocates to replace institutionalisation with family- and community-based support and provides expertise on this transition. It focuses on how EU funding, law and policy should be used to facilitate DI, in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. It facilitates development of quality family- and community-based support which respects human rights of all people with care or support needs, is person-centred and empowering.*

#### **Contact:**

Helena Lambsdorff - EEG coordinator:

[coordinator@deinstitutionalisation.com](mailto:coordinator@deinstitutionalisation.com)