



## 1 **Resolution on Human and political rights for the people with disabilities in** 2 **Europe: The Right for Independent Living all over Europe now!**

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4 People with disabilities, just like everybody else, have the right to choose  
5 where, under what circumstances, and with whom they want to live. They are  
6 entitled to receive the necessary support to participate on an equal footing  
7 with other citizens in society. This is called the *'Independent Living'*  
8 principle which encompasses all spheres of life. The idea behind Independent  
9 Living is also one of the core elements of the UN Convention on the Rights of  
10 Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) which was adopted by the United Nations in  
11 2006 and has been ratified by many European countries. However, European  
12 countries and the European Union are far from making the proclaimed rights of  
13 the Convention a reality. [The New EU Disability Strategy 21-30 clearly states the need to develop independent  
14 living and reinforcing community-based services, promising that the Commission will support national,  
15 regional and local authorities in their efforts for deinstitutionalisation and independent living, including  
16 through the 2021-2027 shared management funds, the Renovation Wave, the Renovation Component of the  
17 Recovery and Resilience Plans, and the Technical Support Instrument.](#)

18 The EU has yet to align the 1976 Electoral Law with the [UNCRPD](#), Convention of the  
19 Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is also the case for many countries in  
20 the rest of Europe where accessibility barriers remain and millions of people  
21 with disabilities are being prevented from participating in elections and from  
22 becoming a candidate for office. Likewise, democratic exercises, such as the  
23 Conference on the Future of Europe, remain inaccessible to people with  
24 disabilities.

25 ~~All n~~National and European institutions should commit to supporting the fight for the  
26 right of disabled people ~~to be able~~ to live ~~a life~~ where they can exercise  
27 political rights and freedom of movement, [as well as exercise personal autonomy and agency both in the  
28 public and but which also extends to the private](#)  
29 spheres [including the right to their and the rights to](#) own body as more people with disability are being  
30 subjected to violence, sexual harassment or to forced sterilisation<sup>[1]</sup> and  
31 cannot exercise the right to marry.

32 According to a recent survey, EU funds have been used to build up group homes in  
33 many EU Member States<sup>[2]</sup>. The mainstream approach is to organise the lives of  
34 people with disabilities around institutions and there is no real motivation to  
35 outline plans for deinstitutionalisation. Yet many institutions for people with  
36 disabilities are like cages with invisible bars. Thus, it is time to shift to  
37 the perspective of people with disabilities themselves as regards their own  
38 lives. Progressing from segregation to an inclusive society ~~must~~ [should](#) be a political  
39 ~~goal priority~~ for all EGP member parties, [and the prioritization and consideration of the perspectives as well  
40 as the lived experiences of the people with disabilities is long overdue. It is their life after all.](#) As a solution to  
41 the way forward, we the  
42 European Greens see de-institutionalisation as the key element for the  
43 emancipation of people with disabilities<sup>[3]</sup>.



44 In concrete terms, the resources applied for building new institutional  
45 facilities should rather be reallocated to enable independent and self-  
46 determined living of people with disabilities. A shift from a welfarist mentality that deprives people with  
47 disabilities of autonomy to a social inclusion through administrative simplification, removal of architectural,  
48 sensory, and cultural barriers, and enhancement of services to support people with disabilities and their  
49 families, is needed. The right to independent living  
50 is a fundamental freedom that is best facilitated by creating and fostering  
51 schemes of personal assistance for people with disabilities. Such support -  
52 personal assistance for people with disabilities - in the housing, educational,  
53 working environments and leisure time plays an important part in facilitating  
54 societal inclusion. Moreover, these personal assistance schemes should be under  
55 the control of the disabled individuals themselves. This would also manifest the  
56 principle "Nothing about us without us" which has been a core principle for the  
57 international disability movement for decades.

58 However, the The ideal of *Independent Living* goes much further than housing issues, however.  
59 One key aspect is the possibility to participate in the general labour market.  
60 Hence, the working environments of people with disabilities should also be de-  
61 institutionalised. In particular, since disabled people are notoriously  
62 underemployed, there is an urgent need for supporting schemes to make workplaces  
63 and social protection frameworks accessible for all, including unemployment  
64 benefits or and sick leave as well as sick pay. Furthermore, employment possibilities for people with  
65 disabilities should be in the form of permanent employment where possible, with equal pay to enable an  
66 independent life, and with equitable rights and benefits. As disabled people are at heightened risk of poverty,  
67 the EU and national governments must implement income policies to guarantee a living income for all and  
68 ensure equity of opportunity in education, training and employment. These social investments generate fair  
69 chances for  
70 societal inclusion for people with disabilities. In general, legal frameworks  
71 must not support institutions over independent living, inclusive learning and  
72 working in the general labour market.

73 Obviously, the demands for Independent Living for people with disabilities need  
74 to be accompanied by a holistic view of the accessibility of society in general.  
75 The exclusion of people with disabilities is higher in countries with a lower  
76 GDP; even in these same countries, marginalisation is more severe in smaller  
77 cities, rural mountain areas or islands. Therefore, we the European Greens call  
78 for:

79  the creation of a budgetary fund dedicated to regulatory and control bodies for medico-social  
80 accommodation, housing and support services mandated for home help supported by the EU  
81 ecolabel

82  Decision-makers to implement all articles of the UNCRPD as well as the  
83 articles in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which  
84 bring together the most important personal freedoms and rights enjoyed by  
85 EU citizens into one legally binding document. In particular, we call  
86 for:

87  Political, union rights as well as the right to organise in  
88 patient/interest groups without political, law, and/or economic  
89 barriers to action – such as removing economic disability support



90 and/or prohibitive action and also the goal of removing existing  
91 accessibility hindrances to exercising those rights as far as  
92 humanly possible;

93  The right to their own body;

94  The right to freedom of movement and of residence;

95  Access to personal assistance

96  The alignment of the 1976 Electoral Law of the European Union with  
97 the UNCRPD.

98  Raising the awareness of disability issues both among the members of green parties as well as in  
99 activists in its member  
100 parties the general debate. The concerns and issues of people with disabilities are important to will  
101 always be taken seriously in the  
102 Green family which means that and we will always strive for towards improving the accessibility in  
103 every reaspect  
104 of all our activities organizations.

105  A strong EU disability card that guarantees a common recognition of national disability statutes and  
106 linked access to support and services in order to guarantee the freedom of movement for persons  
107 with disabilities within the EU.

108 [1] Forced sterilisation is currently practised in 13 countries in Europe: as of  
109 September 2022, these are Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia,  
110 Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal and Slovakia. Three  
111 countries carried the explicit authorisation to forcibly sterilise minors:  
112 Czechia, Hungary and Portugal. In Belgium, France and Hungary, it is included as  
113 a requirement for admission to residential institutions.

114 [2] ENIL's Shadow report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the  
115 Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European Union: [https://enil.eu/wp-](https://enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ShadowReport_EU_Final_140222.pdf)  
116 [content/uploads/2022/03/ShadowReport\\_EU\\_Final\\_140222.pdf](https://enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ShadowReport_EU_Final_140222.pdf)

117 [3] The term 'institutionalisation' refers here to the circumstance of having  
118 particular facilities specifically for the accommodation, education and labour  
119 of disabled people.