# European Disability Forum

# **Use of Structural Investment Funds to promote the CRPD in the period 2014-2020**

*The information in this document was collected as part of EDF’s participation in the* [*Community Living for Europe: Structural Funds Watch (CLE:SFW) initiative*](https://communitylivingforeurope.org/)*.*

## **Investment in the transition from institutional to community-based care in the Member States**

€2.7 billion has been made available through ESIF to support the transition from institutions to family and community-based living. Below you can see the specific ESIF investments made in a number of Member States where the transition from institutional to community-based care is deemed to be the most pressing.

### Bulgaria - €242 million

Budgeted activities include: projects aimed at the deinstitutionalisation of children, young people, adults with disabilities and older people. At least €96 million has been allocated to projects, with a further €16.3 million spent on deinstitutionalisation of social services for children with disabilities.

### Croatia - €126.5 million

Budgeted activities include: transformation of 18 state institutions into homes for adults and children with disabilities and prevention of institutionalisation of children and youth for 14 state institutions. €126.5 million was made available through three separate calls for proposals launched in 2016. Due to low uptake, the three calls were closed in February 2018.

### Czech Republic - €151.7 million

Budgeted activities include: “support of the process of transformation of residential services and support for community-based services resulting from the transformation”. €3.5 million has been awarded to date.

### Estonia - €174.5 million

Budgeted activities include: reorganising large-scale institutions for people with disabilities and creating community-based services, increasing the availability of childcare services for children with and without disabilities (such as childcare facilities to help parents return or go to work or support services for children with disabilities, including in education)44 and home adaptations for people with disabilities.

### Greece - €235 million

As Greece has not yet completed its deinstitutionalisation strategy, ESIF are not available for the transition to community-based care. It has however been used in projects which contributed directly or indirectly to the deinstitutionalisation process (for example, €97.5 million has been spent on day care centres alone, for children, people with disabilities and older people).

### Hungary - €117.1 million

Budgeted activities include: establishing independent living settings, such as apartments or houses; developing supportive methodological materials to improve the efficiency and the quality of the services; and the creation of a National Health Care Provision Centre to improve the access to and the quality of psychiatric and addiction-related services.

### Latvia - €91 million

Budgeted activities include: individual needs assessment of people with mental health problems, ‘children with functional disorders’ and their family members, children and young people in extra-familial care; community-based social services for persons with mental health disorders and children with functional disorders, including day care centres, group housing, dwellings and specialised workshops for people with mental disabilities; increasing the number of foster families and guardians and information and education measures to change community attitudes. Latvia and Lithuania INTERREG Programme: ERDF: €51.6 million allocated.

### Lithuania - €77.5 million

Budgeted activities include: creating community-based children care homes and children day centres; the expansion of infrastructure for people with mental health problems; protected housing, social rehabilitation, psycho-social assistance, social competences formation, temporary respite, daycare, personal social worker, family counselling, integrated assistance at home, crisis management and other social services.

### Poland - €883 million

Budgeted activities include: care services and specialist care services in the place of residence; services in support centres; home and care services in family-support houses or social welfare homes for up to 30 people, residence, rental of care and support equipment; transportation to the workplace or support centre, development, testing and implementation (including dissemination) of service standards, including verification of staff training standards for assisting and caring services for older people.

### Romania - €285.86 million

Budgeted activities include: development of day care services in the community, recovery centres, day centres for the development of independent life skills, counselling centres for children and young people, youth assistance programmes, support for access to or maintenance on the labour market.

### Slovakia - €230 million

Budgeted activities include: support of home care services for older people, developing human resources for the deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities, and improving the infrastructure of community-based services. €8 million were allocated to a national deinstitutionalisation project, but it has yet to start implementation.

### Slovenia - €45 million

The Slovenian Ministry of Health is implementing several projects that focus on deinstitutionalisation and tackling inequalities in health, totalling approximately €45 million. Although considered to have fully fulfilled ExAC 9.1 since the adoption of the Partnership Agreement, Slovenia has yet to launch any calls for proposals in support of deinstitutionalisation.

## **Evidence of how ESIF programmes are impacting the number of people in institutions**

Evidence points to a reduction in the numbers of people in large-scale institutions, however, there is a lack of information on the outcomes of transition for those affected. In addition, it is not always clear what alternatives to institutions have been supported, which gives rise to concerns, for example, of an over-reliance of residential care and insufficient investment in community services to make a meaningful transition to independent community living.

### Bulgaria

The number of children placed in large-scale institutions has decreased by 86%, from 6,730 children in 2009 to 906 children at the end of 2017. However, there are concerns with the overuse of ‘Family-Type Placement Centres’. It is likely that some of the children and adults placed in these centres could live with families or independently in the community, with some support. Regular reviews of placements should be mandatory, and efforts should continue to be made to reunite children with their family, including the provision of support services to birth and extended families. Reports suggest that current services are underfunded. In some cases, there are insufficient staffing levels, staff do not have the training and support needed, and children and adults would benefit from further assistance and alternative models of care.

### Croatia

The number of children living in institutions decreased by 50.7% between 2015 and 2017 (from 2,873 to 1,459). Programmes are now in place that offer support to 2,301 children separated from their parents, who are now living in foster care. Since 2011, 717 adults with disabilities have moved from large scale institutions to supported living arrangements (group homes of up to 20 residents). According to the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, out of 32 institutions in Croatia, 29 are in the process of transformation– 15 homes for persons with disability and all 14 homes for children and youth.

### Czech Republic

Has invested 2014–2020 ESIF to support the deinstitutionalisation of residents from 47 institutional care homes. This led to the development of new residential services with a total capacity of 996 beds, to day care centres with a total capacity of 143 places and to 10 institutions for adults with disabilities being closed. Since 2014, 1,563 people with disabilities have been moved out of large institutional care services. Efforts need to be continued, as approximately 16,000 persons with disabilities and 8,000 children remain in institutions.

### Estonia

During the 2007–2013 programming period, a total of 550 service places in ‘care villages’ for people with intellectual disabilities and mental health conditions. Another 1,400 service places in care villages, as well as in other types of service units (e.g. shared flats) are to be created by 2023. It has been argued that ‘care villages’ replicate an institutional culture and do not fulfil the criteria for community-living. Moreover, 1,068 children remain in institutions, out of which 45 are under the age of 3.

## **Some of the ways ESIF have been used to plan community-based care, to foster inclusion in education and in employment**

### Czech Republic

The Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is implementing ‘Life as any other’ which focuses on providing methodological support for deinstitutionalisation (budget €1.57 million). Both the Ministry and civil society report that it has helped create a complex range of methodological materials which can be used to support the deinstitutionalisation of social care.

### Romania

ESIF were used to develop a comprehensive plan for the transition from institutional to community-based care for children. The aim of the project was “to achieve common procedures and methodologies at the level of the central and local public administration authorities in order to make their activity more efficient in ensuring the transition from the institutional care of children to their care in the community”.

### Estonia

With ESIF support, the Estonian Agrenska Foundation established 13 respite services for people with severe intellectual disabilities and improve services in eight-day care centres where people receive training in developing life skills. This supports young adults with disabilities to remain at home, with the possibility, when need ed, for 24-hour care. The programme also provides respite care for families. The total budget is €518,824 – €441,000 through ERDF and state co-funding, with municipalities and organisations covering the remainder (€77,824).

### Croatia and Slovenia

CROSSCARE aims to develop cooperation between Croatian and Slovenian services, to ensure an integrated approach to domiciliary care that includes medical and social care services. The project is based on partnership and cooperation between local authorities. It will be underpinned by the transfer of knowledge, practices, approaches and methods. The programme will involve eight local authorities cross-border, with a view to: upskilling the workforce (153 employees), increasing resources and delivering high-quality medical and social care. It is funded through ERDF and national funds (total €1,095,401 (931,091 ERDF + 164,310 national)).

### Slovakia

Support of Home Care Services ran between November 2015 and April 2018, as a continuation of activities developed in 2014–2015 (funded with ESIF 2007–2013). The project was run by the Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. It received €49.9 million and aimed to increase the availability of home-based care for more care-dependent persons; to sustain and support their independence within familiar community-based settings and prevent their placement into residential care facilities; and to increase sustainable employment in the sector.

### Hungary

The National Federation of Disabled Persons’ Associations (MEOSZ) is implementing a €2.2 million project aimed at facilitating the social inclusion of people with reduced mobility by providing access to Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tools – such as laptops, tablets, alternative mouse switching devices etc and a nation-wide network of support for AAC. The Hungarian Association of People with Intellectual Disabilities is also currently running a €2.6 million project aimed at providing support for 1,200 people with intellectual disabilities in using AAC, including through teaching users how to use various tools, supporting them to find what best suits them and how to renting devices.

### Poland

The Safe Future project aims to improve the range and quality of activities for adults with intellectual disabilities (OzNI) and to increase their safety by developing a comprehensive environmental support model based on support circles. The project received €100,000 over a four-month period.

### Slovakia

The Ministry of Education launched a call for proposals to provide subsidies for teaching assistants to support inclusive education.

### Latvia and Lithuania

Through a cross-border cooperation programme, both countries have invested €700,000 in a project called SalesLabs to develop employability skills. The overall objective is to improve how skills are matched to labour market needs. The project includes supporting people with disabilities to intergrate into the labour market.



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