

# 5 SUCCESS FACTORS ON THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



The EU and all its Member States are legally bound to the UN's Disability Convention. They have a duty to ensure people with disabilities can live independently in the community rather than in institutions.

**BUT WHAT ARE THE DRIVERS? WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS? AND WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?**



## COMMITMENT



### DRIVERS

- People with disabilities as self-advocates
- National & local laws, policies & initiatives
- External pressure through the EU



### BARRIERS

- Lack of & inappropriate funding
- Vested interests in maintaining the current situation
- People with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity

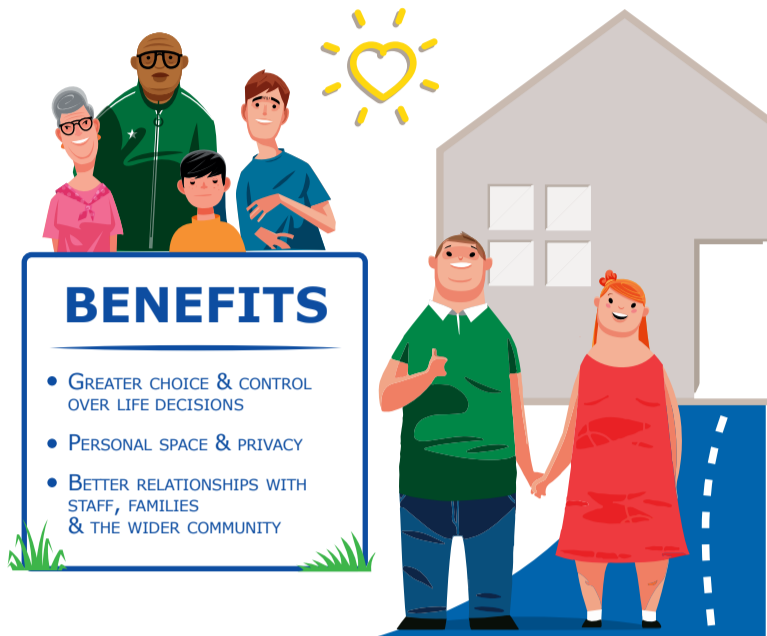


### SOLUTIONS

- Appropriate laws supporting independent living
- Adequate funding for community-based services

“What we don't need is more policy and more discussions about what the solution is. All we need is the will and the resources to implement what we've signed up for.”

# 1



## BENEFITS

- GREATER CHOICE & CONTROL OVER LIFE DECISIONS
- PERSONAL SPACE & PRIVACY
- BETTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF, FAMILIES & THE WIDER COMMUNITY



## A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE



### DRIVERS

- Forward-looking staff
- Improved perceptions of people with disabilities



### BARRIERS

- Institutional mindset among support staff
- People with disabilities have learnt to be over-reliant on support
- Family concerns



### SOLUTIONS

- Awareness raising & positive stories

“When I was a child, disability was considered scary; we were even afraid that it might be contagious. So we have made a lot of progress since then.”

# 2



## PRACTICALITIES



### DRIVERS

- Adequate & appropriate community-based services tailored to individual needs



### BARRIERS

- Insufficient choices & support
- Insufficient funding
- Short-term planning



### SOLUTIONS

- Wide range of support services catering to the diverse needs of people with disabilities

“[Deinstitutionalisation cannot work] without having community services in the town.”

# 5



## ACTIVE COOPERATION



### DRIVERS

- Engaging people with disabilities & their families
- Cooperation between sectors at the local level



### BARRIERS

- Overlaps & gaps in competences
- Poor communication among different providers
- Lack of clarity over who does what



### SOLUTIONS

- Full involvement of people with disabilities & their families

“Communities are a bit like hitchhiking; you don't need a lift from everybody, you just need one or two.”

# 3



## GUIDANCE



### DRIVERS

- Guidance to local service providers
- Information for people with disabilities and their families on community living
- Strong capacity of support staff



### BARRIERS

- Lack of information, preparation & training



### SOLUTIONS

- Training & guidance for all actors

“You can move out, but societies are not ready for people to live in. From the transport service to accepting people into the workforce and suitable accommodation.”

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