

People's right to live independently



Case study
report: **Italy**



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Introduction



The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights has been looking at the situation of people with disabilities in Italy.



They have been studying:

- People who live in **institutions**



An **institution** is where people with disabilities live together in a large place away from other people.



- What it is like to live in an **institution**



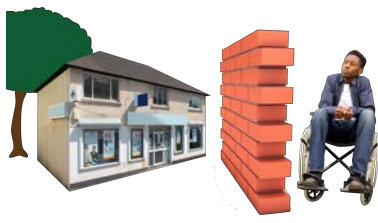
- What it is like to live in the **community**



The **community** is where all different people live close to each other. They live close to their families and friends.



- What helps more people with disabilities live in the community



- What is stopping people with disabilities from living in the community



- What should be done about it



This is the report of the study.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights



This report has been written by the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**.



We help to make sure everyone in the **European Union** can use their rights.



The **European Union** are a group of 28 countries in Europe who work together.



Fundamental rights are things that everyone has.



For example, the right to vote and the right to get married.

How we did it



A group of people working for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights did the study in Italy.



They spoke with many different people including:

- People with disabilities



- Their families



- Social workers



- Politicians



We asked people what it is like to live in an institution and the community.

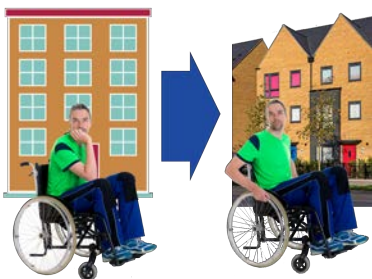
Italy



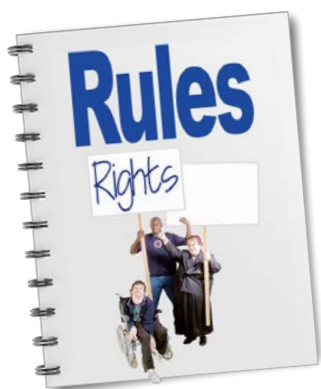
In Italy some people with disabilities live in institutions.



Most people with disabilities live in the community.



Some people with disabilities have moved from institutions to live in the community.



There are rules in Italy saying people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.



There are rules saying children with disabilities should go to school with other children.



There are rules that say people with disabilities have the right to work.



There are rules saying people with disabilities should not live in institutions anymore.



They should live in the community instead.

Living in an institution



People said that living in an institution is very different from living in the community.



In institutions:

- Every day is the same



- People cannot decide what to do each day



- It is difficult to make friends outside the institution



- It is difficult to have privacy



- Help is available at the institution so it is easy to use.

Living in the community



In the community people can decide what to do each day.



It is easier to:

- Make friends



- Decide what you need and what you like.



- Get the help you need. You don't have to share your support with other people.

It is better for people with disabilities to live in the community because:



- They have more freedom



- They can make decisions about themselves



- They can learn new things



- They can meet other people. They feel less lonely.



- They can make choices about their lives



People with disabilities who live in the community are happier. They have a better life.

What helps more people with disabilities to go and live in the community?



People told us lots of things that help:

- Rules that say people with disabilities have the same rights as anyone else.



- People working in institutions who want to help people with disabilities live in the community.



- It is easy for people with disabilities to find a job.



- The government makes a plan to help people with disabilities live in the community.



- People working to help people with disabilities work together more.

This helps to make more services for people with disabilities.



- Politicians understand that living in the community is very important for people with disabilities.



- People with disabilities and their families tell other people that people with disabilities have rights.



- People with disabilities can get the help they need in the community.



- Staff get information about how to help people with disabilities live in the community

What is stopping more people with disabilities from living in the community?



Rules

Sometimes rules don't work.

The government needs to make easier rules.



Some people don't like change

Some people working in institutions don't want to change things.



They don't want some people with disabilities to live in the community.

Jobs

It is difficult for people with intellectual disabilities to find a job.



Families of people with disabilities say that the government does not do enough to help.



Not enough information

People don't have enough information about helping people with disabilities to live in the community.



Families need help

It is difficult for families to help people with severe disabilities at home.



They need more help.

Some families say people with severe disabilities feel more protected in institutions.

Attitudes



An **attitude** is the way that people think about something.



Some people have a bad attitude about people with disabilities. They don't want to talk with them.

They don't want to meet them.

Different types of people

Some people think that moving from an institution to live in the community is not good for:



- People with intellectual disabilities
- People with severe disabilities
- People with disabilities who have lived in institutions for a long time



Some people with severe disabilities say they feel safe in institutions.

They don't want to move to live in the community.

What to do next?



People had lots of ideas about how to help people with disabilities to live in the community.



To help people with disabilities to move from institutions to live in the community we need:

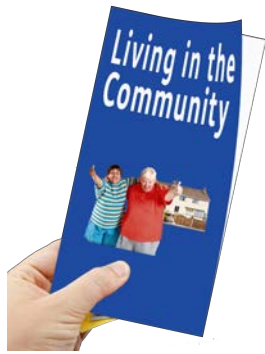
- More help from the government
- More information
- More money



We also need:

- People who work with people with disabilities to speak to each other more
- People working in different parts of government to work together more
- People to speak more about the rights people with disabilities have





More information

People need to get more information so they can help people with disabilities to live in the community.



More money

Sometimes there is not enough money. We need more money to help people with disabilities to live in the community.



Jobs

We need to help people with disabilities to find a job.

Some people are afraid of hiring people with disabilities.

Speak up more

We need people with disabilities and their families to speak up more.

We need:

- To ask people with disabilities what they think about living in the community.





- To ask them what they think the government should do to help them live in the community.
- To help people with disabilities to speak up for themselves.

Help during the move

We need help for people with disabilities who move from institutions to live in the community.



It is a big change for people with disabilities and their families.

Better services

Different people with disabilities need different kinds of help.



People with disabilities need to get the right help for them.



The government needs to make sure everyone can use the services they need.

For more information

If you need more information please contact us by:



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