

INFOSHEET SLOVENIA

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YHD and 'handiworld'

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS INFOSHEET

The goal of the Expertise Center Independent Life is the gathering of expertise on direct payments in Flanders and Europe.

A first report entitled “Direct payments in care. Actual situation in 8 European countries” was published in February 2008. It contained an overview of the way in which direct payments are organized in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Norway and Finland.

We would have liked to extend the research to all European countries, but we lack the means to that end. That is why we have asked some experts in the field of direct payments to give a brief overview of the current situation in their respective home countries. As a support we have used a questionnaire. Thanks to the people that have responded to our emails we have been able to gather this extra information.

As a result this text does not pretend to be exhaustive. The idea is to just give information about the most important initiatives of direct payments in different European countries.

Elena Pecaric, from the organizations of YHD,(the Association of the theory and culture of Handicap) and handiworld gave us the following information:

CURRENT SITUATION SLOVENIA

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Is there, on a national level, a law that regulates direct payment?

No there isn't.

2. Is there on a regional or local level a law that regulates direct payment?

No, there isn't.

3. If a system of direct payment lacks, how is the support for disabled people arranged?

- **What kind of support is offered?**

Regarding people living in their homes, not in the institutions, there is in legislation a right to “assistance at home” – it is organized by municipalities and implemented by public or private organizations. The maximum amount of hours is 20 per week, but in practice, rarely anyone receives that much, due to the lack of funding, lack of staff, etc.

Users also have to pay for it, how much depends on the service provider, subsidies from municipality etc and can be from 3-4 € per hour. People with very low income don't have to pay.

This service has a wider spread net in the towns and cities, but is very difficult to obtain in the rural areas. It works in a way, that service coordinators direct "assistants" to the users and give them instructions. Users don't have the power to choose who will work for them and usually they have to negotiate the time of service provision. You can choose to have it in the morning for example, but when the "assistant" will come, depends on other factors, so it can be that they will be coming sometime between 7 and 10 a.m. This service was designed primarily with older people in mind, but disabled people use it too.

Other services are services provided by disability organizations, there is our personal assistance project, and some of the national organizations (organized by the diagnosis) run their "assistance" projects, which are again more centered to towns and cities.

There are still many disabled people living in residential institutions (away from towns) and homes for elderly people, many live at home, dependent from their relatives (parents, spouses).

- **Are people allowed to negotiate the support that is offered to them?**

As the number of providers and services is so small, you can basically just decide between having or not having it, when you are living at home. If you are going to an institution, decision about which institution, depends on in which region your permanent residence address is.

- **How long does it take between the application and the actual reception of support? Is there a waiting list?**

There are waiting lists for basically all services and support. Length varies.

- **Can people choose between different facilities?**

In practice not, as they are on the waiting lists, they take what is offered to them.

- **Are the institutions and facilities private initiatives or are they governmental? If they are private are they non-profit or commercial?**

They are private and public. When they are private, they are usually non-profit.

- **Do people need to pay part of their support or is the support fully covered by the government?**

When a person is institutionalized the difference between real cost and persons income is covered by the government or municipality. People in institutions are allowed to keep only a minimum amount of money for their personal needs.

If a person lives at home, they are entitled to “assistance allowance”, which is intended for paying the services, but the reality is, that usually disabled people are poor and this money is seen just as another source of family income

- **Are institutions supervised or controlled by the government in certain ways?
How is their quality being checked upon?**

They are supervised and controlled by the social inspection. There are rules and regulations that institutions (public or private) have to follow, set by the Ministry for Labor, Family and Social Affairs.

QUESTIONS ON DIRECT PAYMENTS

There is no direct payment scheme in Slovenia