

## QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT DIRECT PAYMENTS

*By direct payments we mean that the disabled person be granted a budget which is not considered an income and with which assistance can be paid for.*

*By the granting of a budget we mean that the beneficiary can dispose of financial means which are granted by the state or social security and which are destined for a determined objective.*

*Are as a consequence not considered “direct payments” of support needs of disabled persons: allowances of which the disabled person can freely dispose, refunds of (para)medical costs, tax reductions, etc. ...*

*Are considered “direct payments” of support needs of disabled persons: budgets granted to the disabled person (or the legal representative) to pay for support needs specific to a certain disability (assistance, support equipment, professional advice etc. ...).*

### General Questions

1. Is there, on a national level, a law that regulates direct payment?
  - If yes, go to question 5.
  - If not, go to question 2
  
2. Is there on a regional or local level a law that regulates direct payment?
  - If yes, go to question 5.
  - If there is only a pilot project, go to question 3.
  - If not, go to question 4
  
3. What are the dimensions of the pilot project or experiment?
  - How many people participate in the pilot project or experiment?
  - How long has the project been running and how long will it run?
  - What is the amount of money invested in the project? How much goes to the disabled person, and how much to the project as a whole?
  - What are the objectives of the project?
  - What are you allowed to do with the money you receive within the project?
  
4. If a system of direct payment lacks, how is the support for disabled people arranged?

- What kind of support is offered?
- Are people allowed to negotiate the support that is offered to them?
- How long does it take between the application and the actual reception of support? Is there a waiting list?
- Can people choose between different facilities?
- Are the institutions and facilities private initiatives or are they governmental? If they are private are they non-profit or commercial?
- Do people need to pay part of their support or is the support fully covered by the government?
- Are institutions supervised or controlled by the government in certain ways? How is their quality being checked upon?

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## Questions about direct payments

5. Who can and who cannot receive direct payment? How is this defined?
  - Is there a minimum or maximum age?
  - Is this budget merely meant for disabled people, or also for health care and care for elderly people?
  - Is the budget also for people with a mental disability? Is there a special arrangement for these individuals?
6. On what basis is the height of the budget determined?
  - Is this on an individual basis, depending on your specific disability and need of support?
  - Does it include the support you need on all domains of life (education, work, family, self care, activities of daily life, leisure time) or only a selection of this?
  - Does your own income have an influence on the height of your budget?
  - Does the budget cover the costs you have to make for the necessary support? Or are you expected to contribute a part yourself?
7. Does the budget go entirely to the disabled person him- or herself or their representatives? Is there a possibility that the money goes to a third party like the government, a co-operative, a care office etc.?
8. Does the direct payment come in cash or as a voucher?
9. Do you have the right to determine the content of your support? Or does the government determine what you have to use the budget for?

10. Does a Personal Assistant need to fulfill special criteria established by the government?  
E.g. does the assistant need to be unemployed for a certain amount of time, or does he/she need to have a certain certificate?
11. Can you hire family members or neighbors as a Personal Assistant?
12. Can you pay aid instruments with the budget or is this paid by a separate regulation and funding?
13. Can you yourself determine when you get your support, for example at night, during the weekends, etc?
14. Can you yourself determine where to get your support, for example at home, at work, in class, in a collective housing etc.?
15. What is the minimum and maximum budget? What is the average budget?
16. How many people receive a means of direct payment and how long does this possibility exist already?
17. How is the payment periodically arranged? Once a year, every 3 months, each month etc? Do you get this budget in advance or do you need to pay it first yourself, while the money is paid back to you afterwards?
18. Who pays the budget ? Can you give us an address or contact data?
19. Are you free to spend the budget the way you like? Do you need to prove how you spend your money and if so, how do you have to do that? Do you need to show a contract, bills etc?
20. Do you get any support from a department or organization while managing your budget, as to the difficulties you experience in being an employer, your negotiations with services? Is there a special treatment, extra support for people with a mental disability?
21. Is there a problem in finding adequate staff, personnel, or services?
22. Is there any judicial basis on which you can demand a budget?
23. Does it take a long time between the application for support and the actual reception of a budget. Is there a waiting list?

24. How do the government, the users, the institutions evaluate the system of direct payments? How are their reactions? In what way does direct payment influence the macrobudget?
  
25. Which user organizations defend the interests of people with a disability that use direct payments as support towards the government. Who collects the expertise and know-how about direct payments? Can you give us some contact details?