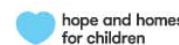


Inclusion for all: Achievements and challenges in using EU funds to support community living



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*Community Living for Europe:
Structural Funds Watch*



About the initiative

- Independent initiative
- Monitors the implementation of ex-ante conditionality 9.1 on social inclusion at MS level
- Steering Committee
- Conducts research and produces reports with findings and recommendations
- 2018 report: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Key findings

- The ESIF have catalysed a movement across Europe that has driven Member States to support communities that have been left behind
- 2.7 Billion Euro allocated to the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care and independent living

Promising practices

- Member States (8 from 12) adopted strategies or action plans to shift away from institutions
- ESIF are being used to design new services to support family and community-based living
- Member States are using ESIF to ensure that sustainable services are developed
- Member States are taking steps to change attitudes towards everyone's right to family and community-based living

Challenges

- ESIF used to reorganise or downsize institutions, rather than transition to family and community-based living
- ESIF have been made available for maintaining and investing in institutions
- Transition strategies and plans are leaving some groups behind
- Many transition strategies are not supported by clear plans that outline key objectives,

Challenges

- Strategies are not always accompanied by necessary amendments to legal frameworks and bylaws
- Insufficient investment in family and community-based services
- Member States are experiencing delays in launching calls for proposals and implementing plans
- Targets typically focus on numbers to be



Challenges: In a nutshell

- *A lack of vision is limiting transformation*
- *Too much focus on segregated services*
- *Too little invested in inclusive community services*
- *Data is still an issue*
- *Measurement of impact is needed*



Key Recommendations

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU

- No EU funds spent on institutions during the current programming period
- Guidance and support to EU staff and Member States to develop long-term strategies and design programmes to prevent and end institutionalisation, throughout the life course
- Investments under all ESIF thematic objectives should be aligned to ex-ante conditionality 9.1
- Cohesion Policy Regulations 2021–2027 explicitly exclude investment in institutions
- Transition from institutional to family and community-based care is explicitly included in 2021–2027

European Commission

- *Strategy to practice: capacity building and technical support to guide planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation*
- *Prevention of family separation and community-based services: reduce reliance on alternative forms of care and support*
- *Role of residential care: greater clarity, enhanced monitoring*
- *Leave no one behind: strategies for all groups; States must demonstrate progress*
- *Strengthen monitoring:*
 - *Transparent tracking process*

Member States

- **Family and community living:**
 - Prevention and inclusive community services
 - Include all relevant sectors
 - Avoid overreliance on residential care, creating smaller institutions
 - Communication strategy
- **Legislation:** adapted to facilitate and protect the transition process
- **Sustainability:** financial analysis and modelling; funds ringfenced and reinvested
- **Monitoring:** meaningful indicators to track the transition process
- **Strengthen capacity of civil society:** improve access to entire

THANK YOU!

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