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The European Union Against Social  
Exclusion

Inclusion Europe

# Inclusion Europe

The European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families

Inclusion Europe represents people with intellectual disability and their families. Organisations of self-advocates and parents from 36 countries in Europe are our members.

Inclusion Europe works with the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Inclusion Europe works in 3 main areas :

1. The fight against discrimination
2. Human Rights of people with intellectual disability
3. Inclusion of all people in society

Inclusion Europe publishes many documents and organises many conferences in Europe. We work closely together with all our members.



**Inclusion Europe**

Galleries de la Toison d'Or  
29 Chaussée d'Ixelles #393/32  
B-1050 Brussels  
Tel. : +32-2-502 28 15  
Fax : +32-2-502 80 10  
secretariat@inclusion-europe.org  
www.inclusion-europe.org

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With the support of the European Commission

**EN**

# The European Union against Social Exclusion



**Inclusion Europe**



Report

Inclusion Europe and its 50 members in these 36 countries are fighting against social exclusion and discrimination of people with intellectual disabilities and their families:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- England
- Estonia
- Faeroe Islands
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Scotland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland

Our members in English-speaking countries are:

**MENCAP**

123 Golden Lane  
London EC1Y 0RT  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: (44) 207-454.04.54

**ENABLE**

7 Buchanan Street  
Glasgow G1 3HL  
Scotland  
Tel.: (44) 141-226.45.41

**nahmi**

5 Fitzwilliam Place  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Tel.: (353) 1-676.60.35

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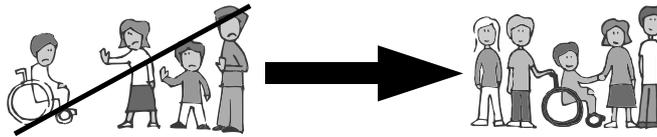
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## What is social inclusion?

Social inclusion means that people who are poor or have other problems take part in the life of society.



Social inclusion is the opposite of social exclusion.

These people should live like everybody else.  
They should have jobs.  
They should take part in social life.  
They should take part in cultural life.



To participate, people need equal chances.  
They also need the necessary money.

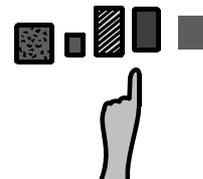
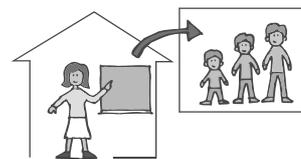


Social inclusion also means that people take part in decisions that concern their lives.  
It also means that people can claim their rights.



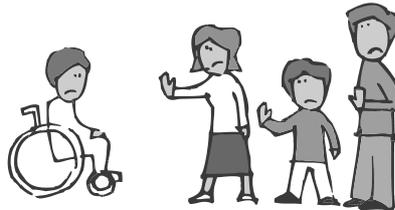
What social inclusion means for disabled people:

- A good education together with other children.
- The possibility to learn at all ages.
- The possibility to get a paid job.
- Good work or day activities for people with more severe disability.
- Having contact with other people.
- Have own choices.



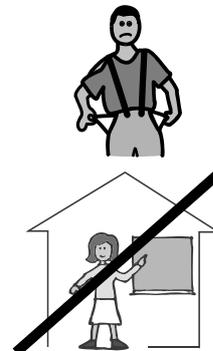
## What is social exclusion?

All people want to have friends.  
They want to take part in society.  
Some people can not take part,  
because others do not let them.



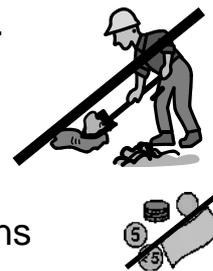
There are many reasons why this happens:

- ↪ Some people earn very little money.  
They are much poorer than others.
- ↪ Some people could not go to school.  
They do not have a good education.
- ↪ Some people can not learn new things.  
They forget things they learned.
- ↪ Some people are discriminated against.  
Discrimination is when people are treated badly  
because they are different.



These people often cannot take part in society:

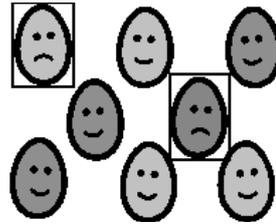
- ↪ They do not find a job and cannot work.
- ↪ They do not earn enough money  
and are poor.
- ↪ They cannot get a good education.
- ↪ They do not have control about decisions  
that concern their lives.



Exclusion is when people are not allowed  
to take part in the life of society.

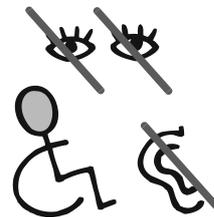
## Risks for social exclusion

Many people in Europe are at risk of social exclusion. You probably know many people who are at risk of social exclusion.



These people have a special risk to become excluded:

- People who do not have a job and people who are unemployed since a long time.
- Single mothers with children.
- Older people who live alone.
- Families with many children.
- People who cannot follow the new technologies.
- Young people who have no good vocational training.
- Children who are excluded have less chances in their further life.
- People with disabilities are also at risk.
- People who depend on long term care.
- Homeless people.
- People from other countries.

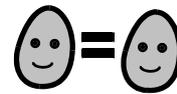


## The European Union fights exclusion

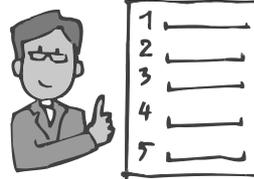
The European Union fights against poverty and social exclusion.



All people in the European Union should have equal chances.  
There should be more jobs.  
There should be better jobs for everybody.



The European Union has agreed on 5 main goals:



### 1. More employment

All people who want to work should get work.  
There should be training and employment for everybody, for example for disabled people.  
Also parents with small children should have the possibility to work.



### 2. Better access for all

Everybody should have more access to their rights, to goods and to services.  
Everybody should have a decent home.  
Everybody should have the possibility to go to a doctor.  
Everybody should have access to education, culture, sport and leisure.



## The European Union fights exclusion

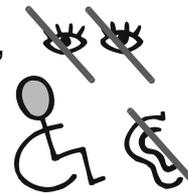
### 3. Preventing exclusion

People should not get into bad situations.  
For example not going to school  
or becoming homeless.  
It is important to support families.



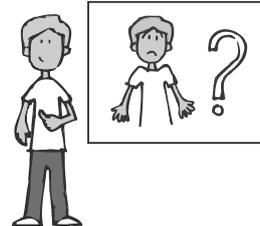
### 4. Help the most vulnerable

Some people have a special risk of exclusion,  
for example people with disabilities.  
Their social inclusion must be promoted.  
All children should be included in society.



### 5. Working together

Governments should support  
self-advocacy of people.  
People should have a say  
in everything that affects their lives.



All policies should include the fight  
against social exclusion.

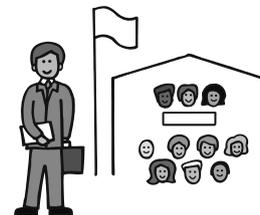
For example

- by involving all authorities.
- by having a good coordination.
- by taking care of special needs.



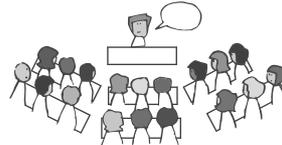
Governments should work together  
with organisations.

For example with disability organisations.



## How it works

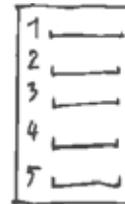
The European Union works with all the national governments against social exclusion. They have worked out the **“Open Method of Coordination”**. It works like this:



1. Everybody agrees on the same goals. Everybody agrees on how to find out if these goals have been reached.



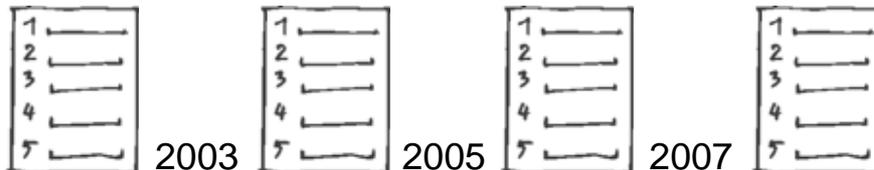
2. All governments must work out a plan how to reach the goals. These plans can be different for each country. The plans run for 2 years. They are called **“National Action Plans against Exclusion”**.



3. Every 2 years the governments report about their work. The European Union checks if the governments have done what they promised. The European Union then writes a report.



4. Every 2 years there are new National Action Plans.



## The Action Program

The fight against social exclusion must be done where the people live: in cities, towns and villages in all countries in Europe.

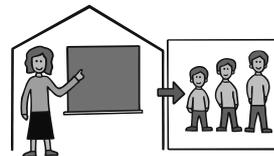


But some work can also be done by Europe. The European Commission has money for international projects. This is called the "Community Action Program to Combat Social Exclusion". It runs from 2002 to 2006.



The Action Program wants to do 3 things:

1. Understand what exclusion is. They want to compare the situation in different countries.
2. Pay for exchanges between people from different countries.
3. Train people to fight better against social exclusion.



The Action Program pays for many projects. There are also some projects for disabled people.

## Justice, Rights, Inclusion

The Action Program pays for projects. One is called : "Justice, Rights and Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disability".

The Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, Poland and Spain are working together.



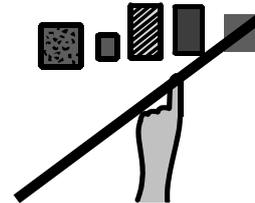
The project is about rights of people with intellectual disability.



Some people with intellectual disability do not have the right to decide for themselves.

For example

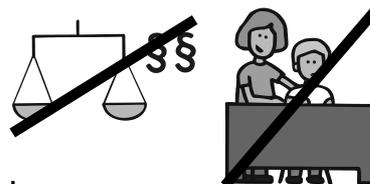
- how they spend their money,
- where they are living.



A judge takes away their right to decide these things.

Sometimes the laws about this are not good.

Often there is only very little support.



The project will write rules about this.

The rules will help to understand the rights. They will help governments to make better laws.

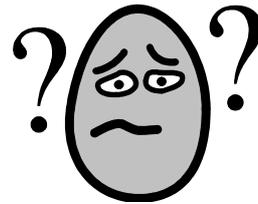


This is important to fight against exclusion.

## Whom to ask

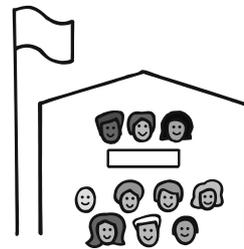
There are not many easy to read texts about the work against social exclusion. It is better to ask people to explain what is being done.

Here are some people you can ask:



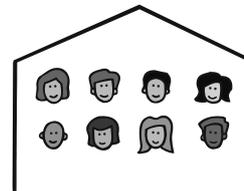
- **The government**

In each country there are people in the government who fight against discrimination. Please ask our national member for their names and addresses.



- **The national member society**

You find the names and address of our national member society on page 2 of this brochure.



- **The European Commission**

Employment and Social Affairs  
Directorate E/2  
B-1049 Brussels  
Tel.: (32)2-299.11.11  
E-mail: [empl-info@cec.eu.int](mailto:empl-info@cec.eu.int)



- **Inclusion Europe**

You can also ask Inclusion Europe for more information.

