

Inclusion Europe

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

L.N.A.H.M.R

National League of Associations for Persons
with Mental Handicap from Romania

“Together against discrimination”

People with intellectual disability and their families
in Romania

Position Paper

This paper includes
summaries in easy-to-
read language for
people with intellectual
disability.



L.N.A.H.M.R. in cooperation with Inclusion Europe has undertaken a detailed survey of the human rights situation of persons with intellectual disability and their families in Romania. On the basis of the UN Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for People with Disabilities this survey has revealed many problems and shortcomings in Romania. The findings of the survey have been presented in English and Romanian at European and National level. The main issues for Romania are:

The lack of community based support services

In Romania there are few community support services for persons with intellectual disability, especially for adults. In the last years some community-based services were developed, but mostly for children. There is a large difference between the resources allocated to the reform of services for children and the ones for adults. The reform of institutions for children is financed from the state budget and receives much larger resources from the EU, World Bank and US Government than the reform for adults.

The lack of employment for disabled persons

Although Ordinance 137/2000 of the Romanian Constitution and Ordinance 102/1999 stipulate the right to work for every person with disability, there are still a lot of barriers to overcome in order to have a proper job. There are very few supportive employment services, job seekers and job coaches to find, to give support and to lobby for employment of persons with intellectual disability. Legislation does not encourage employers to employ people with disability.

The National Strategy for Persons with Disability is still not adopted

Last year, the Governmental Strategy concerning the protection of children in difficulty was adopted. Unfortunately, the National Strategy for adults drafted two years ago by the State Secretary for Persons with Disability and NGOs is still not adopted. It is necessary to adopt a long-term plan for reforming institutions for adults and closing those who cannot be

L.N.A.H.M.R. and Inclusion Europe have collected information on the situation of people with intellectual disability in Romania.
The situation is quite bad.
Brochures were published in English and Romanian.
They include the following information:

There are only few community support services for persons with intellectual disability.
Most community-based services are for children.
There is much more money for services for disabled children than for adults.

The law says that persons with disability have the right to work.
But most disabled people do not have a job.
There is very little help to find a job and to support a disabled worker.
The law does not encourage employers to employ disabled people.

Last year the National Strategy for children was approved.
But the National Strategy for adults was not yet approved.
It is necessary to develop community

restructured. Furthermore, it is necessary to develop community services for adults on a national level in order to create continuity for the process of inclusion, started already with disabled children.

To improve the situation of persons with intellectual disability and their families in Romania, L.N.A.H.M.R. and Inclusion Europe challenge

- the European Commission

- To support the reform of institutions for adults in the same way as the reform for children.
- To pay attention in the Regular Reports on Progress Towards Accession for Candidate Countries to the situation of all disabled persons, and not only to institutionalised children.

- Members of the European Parliament

- To support the European Commission in developing programmes for the reform of the care system of people with disability in Romania.
- To highlight the disability issue in the meetings with the Romanian Government.

- the Government of Romania

- To approve the National Strategy for adults with disabilities.
- To implement the strategies for adults and children as soon as possible.

- the Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union

- To cooperate with the European Commission in developing a special PHARE programme for the reform of the care system of persons with disability.
- To cooperate with Romanian national NGOs, such as L.N.A.H.M.R

services for adults.

Children who have lived included in society can then continue to do so when they are adults.

We want the following:

The European Commission should support the reform of institutions for adults. It should pay the same attention to adults as to children.

Members of the European Parliament should offer their help to make the care for disabled persons better. They should talk with the government about disability.

The Government should agree to the national strategy for adults. It should make sure that something is done for disabled adults and children.

The “embassy” of Romania to the European Union should talk with the European Union. The European Union should give money for making care for disabled people better. The “embassy” should also work with disability organisations.

- **the Council of Europe**

- To highlight the difficult situation of children and adults with intellectual disability in all contacts with Romanian Members of Parliament and the Romanian government.

The Council of Europe should talk with the government of Romania about disability.

- **the World bank and the international donors community**

- To offer financial support for the reform of institutions for adults.
- To offer financial support for developing community-based services.

The World Bank and others should give money for adults with a disability in Romania.
They should also give money for services integrated in the community.