



## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK POST 2020

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### How to read this report

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Care and support services are the engine of the European project. They enable people to live better, longer and healthier lives. They help persons with disabilities to have full and active lives in society. They ensure that children can have decent lives and education, for active participation in society. They provide the right guidance and support for migrants to integrate fully into society. By doing so, they also help to provide choice and options to these people's families and friends in terms of informal care and support.

This report aims at giving EASPD's recommendations in view of the discussions around the next European Union Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020.

Thanks to its members and its representation across Europe within 15000 support services, EASPD has a direct communication channel with disability services on the ground and has up to date information on the use of various EU funds and their relevance for millions of European citizens.

## Introduction

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### Who is EASPD

**EASPD** (European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities) is a European NGO network representing 15.000 social and health support provider organisations across Europe and across disabilities, working towards the promotion of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities through effective and high-quality service systems.

EASPD is a unique organisation as it bases the development of social services on a human rights framework at European level. Since the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UN CRPD) came into force, it has become the core of EASPD's policy strategy. EASPD is accredited to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and our members are committed to facilitate human rights enjoyment within the framework of the Convention and to empower persons with disabilities through effective and high-quality service systems.

EASPD is registered at the Transparency Register under the following number: 120906010805-50.

### Key figures and facts

- 80 Million citizens in Europe have a disability
- Social services directly employ over 10 million professionals in Europe
- 1.75 million new jobs were created between 2008 and 2015
- the Health and Social services sector represents a 7<sup>th</sup> of EU GDP<sup>1</sup>; a growing amount of that being the social services sector alone
- The need for social services is estimated to grow in accordance with socio-demographic changes of the population and an increase of individuals who may require some form of support in the course of their life.

### Who are social and health support services represented by EASPD

Social and health support services for persons with disabilities represented in EASPD's membership include a range of support services such as services providing support in the field of employment, education, housing, day care and respite facilities, prevention, early intervention, community based living, arts, culture, sport and leisure activities, etc. These services are essential to persons with disabilities to participate in society, enjoy their human rights and be empowered to live as independent as possible.

According to the European Commission, as well as to EASPD, "these services are a vital means of meeting basic EU objectives such as social, economic and territorial cohesion, high employment, social inclusion and economic growth".

The key role of support services is to be understood under the lens of promoting social and active inclusion, lifting people from poverty, preventing and combating discrimination and promoting overall a more equal and just society.

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<sup>1</sup>European Commission – [EU Employment and Social Situation – Quarterly Review – Supplement December 2014](#)

## 1. The relevance of the European Union for disability support services

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Service provision in the disability field has been undergoing substantial changes over the past years, and many services that were set up according to the medical-based approach to disability, are currently moving away from this model towards the human rights approach introduced by the UN CRPD in 2006, whereby needs and preferences of the individual are at the core of the attitude towards disability. These fundamental changes in the design and delivery of services are clearly yet to be fully accomplished, both in the legal frameworks and in the practice, and they represent the challenge for the service provision of tomorrow as well as for policy makers at EU and national level.

The need to initiate profound reforms in the social care systems is at the same time also urged by the changes in the demography: more and more people will be in need of a range of services, whose demand is currently not sufficiently met.

Social and health support services have since the very beginning relied on European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which are key for the development of innovation in service provision through training of staff and set up of new facilities. These include the funding of employment support for groups at risk of exclusion, inclusive education measures, inclusion projects and quality social care and support among many others.

It is also relevant to acknowledge that following years of tightened public investment towards the social sector, the ESIF funds have often replaced State investment, becoming therefore fundamental to fund the regular running of the activities.

Support services are therefore among the key players for an effective implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, as well as for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Many of the support services in the disability field are in a transition phase as service provision is being structured more and more around the needs and the preferences of the individual, becoming more person-centred and individualised. These changes are requested by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UN CRPD), which was ratified by 27 out of 28 of EU's Member States and by the European Union as well. Although yet to be fully accomplished, at policy and at practical level, they represent the challenge for the service provision of tomorrow. By bringing about its human rights model, the UN CRPD has legitimised this change of vision about disability and has become the lead model for the development of support services for persons with disabilities.

In this regard, **the guiding role of the European Union and its financial support have made it possible to complement national resources and bring forward the needed changes in social care systems across the Europe, however, many challenges are still ahead and reforms in service delivery are to take place in the coming years.**

## 2. Challenges of disability support providers

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Shared values of dignity, equality and non-discrimination, included in all major international human rights conventions, have been embraced by European legislation and are guiding current and future policy developments. As a consequence, social welfare structures are increasingly called upon to adapt and set up new and innovative systems to support individuals, families and children. Persons with disabilities and the related services are the heart of major reforms needed in the social welfare sector across Europe. The following are among the main areas of service provision in need for reforms and/or support.

### Delivery of inclusive and community-based support systems

- **Deinstitutionalisation and the set-up of community-based care systems.**  
The concept of deinstitutionalisation embodies the transition away from isolating institutional care towards community-based care, as well as the development of a range of support and other services in the community which enable participation and inclusion, such as prevention, family support, health, education, employment and housing. This implies a fundamental reshaping of how society can provide the necessary tools to individuals to participate on an equal basis
- Deliver effective support systems to allow persons with disabilities and support needs to **access mainstream labour markets.**
- Support the inclusion of persons with disabilities and support needs in **mainstream education systems.**
- Provide support to individuals with various needs aimed at e.g. **supporting their participation to society** by removing barriers to people making their own decisions and assisting them in taking decisions about their lives.
- Delivering services aimed at **facilitating access to justice.**
- Supporting inclusion of persons with disabilities through **arts, culture, sport and leisure activities.**

### Training and retraining of staff

- Disability services face a constant need to adapt the ways they deliver their support to **meet individual needs.** This requires an understanding of human rights and how staff can support individuals requiring support to enjoy them to their full extent.

### Innovation

- **There is a need for support services to find new ways to provide support,** keeping up with developments of society and with changing needs of individuals. Concretely this means that traditional systems to support individuals such as via one-size-fits-all approaches, block treatments cannot constitute anymore acceptable and qualitative solutions. There is a need to think of how support can accommodate individual needs, contexts and resources.

### Digitalisation

- **Technologies** will fundamentally change the way in which we live, work and relate to one another. It will also change the ways we provide and receive social care and support. It will

affect the day-to-day job of staff working in the sector by potentially improving working conditions and the service itself. ICT is becoming thus an important factor in service provision. ICT within broader assistive-person-centred technologies can sensibly improve quality of life, but at the same time there is a need for both staff and users to be knowledgeable on digital numeracy.

### 3. European Union support in service delivery in rural areas

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There are pros and cons of living in urban or rural areas. When it comes to access and delivery of social care and support services for persons with disabilities, the answer is also not one-sided. Some find smaller communities more open for collaboration or more suitable to test innovative projects. Others note that small communities can be less dynamic and offer less natural support or be more prone to stigmatisation.

Availability of well-functioning public transport and accessibility of public infrastructure are major factors determining the mobility of both service users and social care/support workers. Consequently, this influences the accessibility and frequency of support. Where such public infrastructure is not developed, the provision of social care and support services becomes more expensive and time consuming.

#### What can be improved

- Legal frameworks and funding systems need to acknowledge the difference between the ways in which services are organised in urban and rural areas. Service providers and service users need support in ensuring the accessibility of services, especially in terms of funding.
- Better coordination can help to improve the regulation social care services in remote and rural territories. In addition, integration and coordination of services can be achieved by implementing the **Case management approach**.
- The **creation of networks and centralised bodies** could also help smaller municipalities to be more effective in reaching out to policy makers and making their voices. There is a general need for raising awareness of the needs of service users in remote rural areas as well as on the specificities and importance of providing person-centred support in remote rural areas. To this end, it is essential to collect more data and evidence on the needs of persons with disabilities and availability of services.
- To ensure the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in remote rural areas, the focus should be put on holistic approaches for local community development. This includes support to the development of:
  - People: e.g. training and development of local workforce, including managerial level staff and specialist; engaging local people as volunteers who could engage in social

activities with persons with support needs; provide support to informal caregivers and family members.

- Infrastructure: e.g. broadband and ICT infrastructure, accessibility of facilities, public transport, roads.
- Local enterprises: e.g. social economy actors, small-scale businesses.

#### 4. The role of the European Union in the development of support service systems

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The provision of services is not specifically a competence of the European Union; however, the European Union substantially contributes to their development through:

- **Regulatory and policy frameworks** - e.g. the European Semester, the European Pillar of Social Rights, Fiscal consolidation measures, the Research and Innovation Agenda, the State Aid Regulation, Public Procurement Directive, etc.
- **Funding streams** - made available to attain the objectives of the European Union, e.g. the European Structural and Investment Funds.

In the field of support services for persons with disabilities the European Union has an even more relevant role having ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and must therefore abide to its requirements.

**The development of stable and sustainable support services cannot take place without strong legal and financial frameworks.** Central to this is the responsibility of public authorities to ensure that sufficient public funding is directed towards the financing of services – either directly or indirectly – to ensure both their high quality and their continuity.

Over the past few years, the cuts to public funding for social services in most, if not all countries in Europe, have significantly hindered innovation on more enabling forms of support and care. This has led to 2 major consequences for social services:

- 1) to be compelled to adapt their support schemes in order to welcome more users with lower budgets, thus placing additional pressure on the quality of the service.
- 2) to set aside the innovations developed in the past 20 years and reinstall outdated models of support at the expense of quality and individualisation of support.

The financial contribution of the EU to the development of support services has always been crucial to the following aspects:

- **unlock potential of more disadvantaged regions**
- **support the much needed development of innovation** in service delivery
- **develop skills and competencies of individuals, as well as to financially support different types of services.** The outcomes of such investments are yet to be measured, but the exchanges among the EASPD members in Europe has mostly given a positive evaluation on the role played by the European Union and its funds.

## 5. The role of EU funding programmes

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Overall EU funding programmes contribute to different aspects of disability services development.

Below is an analysis of how various EU funding programmes contribute to positive developments for disability services. A description of how they are used and what are their main outcomes follows.

### European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

**Positive contribution:** The funding contributed to the shift from institutional to community-based care and support settings and strengthened job creation and professional development in the social care and support sector

**Critical aspects:** The monitoring on the expenditure of the funds by the managing authorities is not always effective to lead to the achievement of the results expected and the take-up of funds by the sector has proved to be often difficult and complex; especially for smaller service providers

**Management:**

- Access to funding is often too difficult for smaller organisations with limited resources
- Delays in payments prevent organisations with limited resources to access the funds in an effort to not incur into debts or situations putting the viability of the organisation at risk

### Erasmus+

**Positive contribution:** Support to the development of training programmes for staff and users.

**Critical aspects:**

- The 4 blocks structure (VET, higher education, school education and adult education) does not always lead to coherent outcomes and objectives. In-service training – especially training addressed to managers – is not always easy to be classified under one of 4 blocks structure (VET, higher education, school education and adult education)
- There is a high focus on employability to the detriment of other equally important education skills. This prevents to ensure a comprehensive lifelong learning approach
- The decentralisation management for some of the actions can create additional burden as interpretation of the common rules and/or reporting approaches can differ from agency to agency

**Management:** Simplified costs options actually simplify procedures for the EC/Agencies but not really for beneficiaries, as they are required to report using simplified costs but real costs-based reporting needs to be maintained for accounting and auditing purposes

### Horizon 2020

**Positive contribution:** it is essential to boost research and H2020 contributes to the development of innovation. The 2-steps application procedure and the H2020 participant portal have facilitated the access to smaller organisations with limited resources such as NGOs

**Critical aspects:**

- The current policies addressing societal challenges in the field of social services do not properly address the support services perspective but only a care/health approach.



Research schemes are poorly addressed to the social care sector, which leads to an overall medicalisation of research questions related to support systems.

- Current policies are very much focused on urban areas. Rural areas, especially remote rural areas, deserve a special attention in light of the current demographic challenges
- The programme is still very much addressed to “traditional” research actors (e.g. academia) and to organisations with already well-developed research capacities. Future programmes should also pay attention to build research capacities of civil society for a real community-driven research. As a proposal: the Marie Curie programme could be made open to non-academic actors

**Management:** The 2-steps application procedure should be extended to all actions under H2020 programme

### Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

**Positive contribution:** Provides essential funding for European networks to raise EU issues with their grassroots organisations and allows them to address local priorities at EU level. It also supports social economy enterprises to get better access to loans

**Critical aspects:**

- Strong focus on employability and less on social innovation
- The call topics reflect very well European policy priorities so the programme is not always attractive to grass root level organisations.
- The funding related to the disability field is limited
- The 500,000€ threshold in the EaSI guarantee limits access to larger loans by the sector

**Management:** the programme should follow also a two stages process and use H2020 participant portal

### Creative Europe

**Positive contribution:** Strong focus on social inclusion, addressing also the needs of persons with disabilities

**Management:** The high co-financing makes the funding only eligible to selected organisations with sound financial capacities

### EuropeAid

**Positive contribution:** Very positive focus on the human rights agenda and on innovation to promote enjoyment of human rights

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

EU funds contribute enormously to the developments of the sector in many fields and many projects could not have been implemented without the EU funds and programmes either due to the lack of funding available at national, regional or local level or due to the rigidity of existing funding which prevent innovation and work in partnership.

We do somehow notice that EU funds are often not used to their full extent due to a lack of information about EU funding opportunities and the complexity of the application process and financial management.

Among the main obstacles identified are:

**On the access of funds:**

- There is not a common application online system for all EU funding programmes
- A lack of clear information and communication on EU funding opportunities and specifically on what and how funds can be used
- The difficulty in combining EU and own contribution, often due to management of funds with different rules and procedures
- The criteria for the composition of consortiums are sometimes artificial (e.g. an equal number of partners from each country for Interreg projects)
- Delay in the implementation of programmes at local level
- A lack of centralised, consistent and ongoing support to applicant organisations

**During the funding period (and sometimes some years after):**

- for organisation involved in different programmes it is difficult to align their accountancy system to all of the diverse rules
- Complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays
- Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances. There is a need for more and bi-directional communication with the project officer managing the grant

**After the end of the funding period:**

- Difficulty to ensure the sustainability of projects when the financing period ends.
- A quantitative assessment of results (e.g. number of beneficiaries) with less focus on qualitative assessment which is as relevant
- Insufficient use of results of projects

## **OUR PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF FUNDING PROGRAMMES**

- We would recommend having a central organism to bring together all project results for all funding programmes and see what is there to avoid duplications and improve scaling up
- Synergies could be useful in terms of adopting similar rules and procedures, e.g. financial and technical reporting, eligibility of costs, common application portal, documents to be submitted, rules, etc. They could be risky if the merging of the programmes results in reduced funding for certain topics and making the focus too broad.
- There is a need for more and bi-directional communication with the project officer managing the grant.
- Decentralisation vs central management of programmes should be carefully assessed: decentralisation helps to bring the EU to grass roots level but there is a risk of lack of coherence in implementing the programmes. Moreover, truly cross-border and pan European actions may lose the needed attention.

## **6. The role of EU financing schemes**

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Investment into quality social care and support has decreased throughout the European Union. This is at a time when demand for such services are increasing dramatically. On the long run, such an



approach is not sustainable; at least not if we are to ensure universal access to affordable, accessible, adaptable and available care and support services.

Public expenditure is crucial. More can be done to increase public income through better and fairer tax collection and ensure that all contribute fairly. A better prioritisation of public expenditure towards quality social care and support is also important. Such policies will be essential if we are to keep and strengthen the European social model. The alternative will be a more unequal, less inclusive and less productive society. This would guarantee little future to the European project as we know it.

The size of investment required means nonetheless that a re-think is necessary. New instruments and tools will be needed to help make the most of public investment and ensure the presence of quality community-based care and support services, with well-paid staff. The sheer volume of the increase in demand for social care and support in the future, in particular for the elderly, will mean that complementary private investment instruments can help to better manage -not replace- public investment into the sector. This is particularly the case to help provide capital to build, innovate and implement community-based social infrastructure.

In this regard, initiatives such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), could facilitate the take up of loans by the social services sector and therefore contribute to developing the much needed quality care and support services for all people in Europe. Yet, to date, only 4% of EFSI has been dedicated to Social Infrastructure, with under 1% going into social services; despite its key role towards jobs, growth and achieving a social Triple A for Europe.

As highlighted in the EASPD report "[Investing in Care and Support, a European Imperative](#)", this limited use of the EU Investment Plan by the social care sector can be explained by three main factors:

- Misconceptions and poor communications
- Expertise gap and lack of capacity
- Unsuitable tools and instruments.

The report launched by the [High Level Taskforce on Social Infrastructure](#) also highlighted many of these challenges.

If the European Union is to be successful in helping the Social Care and Support sector access the EU Investment Plan to innovate and improve their services, the next MFF should look at addressing these challenges.

## 7. EASPD Recommendations to EU institutions for next MFF

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- 1. *The EU budget should support the development of innovative services in line with the UN CRPD***  
Disability services need financially sustainable resources to be viable and provide quality support in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The ESIF funds are key to provide additional resources meant to pilot innovative schemes of support, training for staff or adapt the services towards individualised ways to support persons with support needs.
- 2. *The UN CRPD principles should be streamlined across all EU funding and financing programmes***  
With the ratification of the UN CRPD by the European Union is it essential to set a coherent approach for its implementation across all funding and financing programmes of the European Union. This will allow to ensure coherence of approaches and a horizontal pick up of its principles in all legal and financial frameworks.
- 3. *Simplification of the accession and management of funds should support their access to all organisations***  
Often the administrative and technical burden linked to the access and the management of ESIF funds of the current programming period make their usage very difficult for smaller organisation with poor resources and little technical administrative capacity. This prevents not only their access to the funds, but at the same time it also hinders the scaling up of innovation that is very often developed in smaller structures.  
Simplification on the use of the funds should therefore be in place for both managing and contracting authorities to ensure a smooth, more effective and efficient use of EU funds.
- 4. *The EU should maintain high on its agenda its leading role in pushing forward the reform of social care systems (i.e. deinstitutionalisation and transition to community-based case)***  
The needed changes in disability service provision towards the human rights model and an individualised and inclusive model of support require investment in infrastructures and in human capital ensuring a qualified and skilled workforce. The current structure of the ESIF funds allows to meet these objectives by combining the European Social Fund - targeting the training of human resources - with the European Regional Development Fund - which funds investment in infrastructure.
- 5. *There is a need to continue and strengthen the shift from an only financial perspective to quality-effectiveness***  
The provision of individualised services that can address specific needs of individuals requires financial support that takes into consideration quality elements in the delivery of the support. When quality criteria are not explicitly referred to in the requirements of the funding tool, the delivery of services could likely be taken over by cheaper providers that may compromise over quality requirements. Focusing on the quality of care and support services will also lead to improved social and therefore economic return.  
Also, a long-term perspective in the drafting of social policies and in funding is essential. Stable legal frameworks in funding allow long-term planning and support based on long-term objectives. Quality services are based on active and meaningful users' involvement. Tailored investment, targeting innovation in service provision, should promote and incentivise active cooperation with users through e.g. co-production methodologies.

## **6. Stability and sustainability of financial frameworks**

The most common problem faced by social services for persons with disabilities in Europe is the insecurity about funding which leads to a decrease of the quality of services they can offer.

The lack of stability not only hinders a more individualised planning of support, but also limits the possibility to build stable and durable relation with other stakeholders as well with the users which should instead become more empowered through their interaction with support services.

## **7. Facilitate access to loans for social services**

More and more social service providers are exploring different forms of financing to develop specific social innovation and infrastructure projects. This includes access to good loans.

The European Fund for Strategic Investments must not be seen as a replacement of the essential contribution European Structural and Investment Funds make towards the sector. Nonetheless, as social infrastructure remains a target for EFSI the EU Investment Plan, it is essential that the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ensures that EFSI is able to facilitate access to loans for social services. The EASPD report and the High Level Taskforce on Social Infrastructure have made several recommends which help improve such access to decent loans.

It is important to ensure that EFSI is used to invest in high quality, community-based and individualised social infrastructure projects, rather than outdated and segregating models. As such, the new MFF should ensure that ESIF conditionalities are also applied to EFSI investments, especially when it comes to social infrastructure.

## **8. Complementarity of different funding schemes and tools**

The past economic crises and the recovery which has not yet fully taken place, led many support services to explore different forms of funding. Next to grants – such as those of the ESIF funds – the need for loans became all the more relevant.

The EU should be careful in not locking the development of the social sector by limiting its relevance in the EU agenda in only a selection of instruments. Grants will be needed for the development of the sector, but loans and public procurement schemes could complement the accession of funds by support services. For quality development of the sector, it will be essential to develop and maintain an equal standard of principles and requirements, conform with EU principles and values as well as with international Conventions such as the UN CRPD to which the EU became a party of.

## **9. Management of EU funding programmes eligible to support services**

The management of the future EU funds should overall address the following issues:

- Aim at mainstreaming the UN CRPD across different fields and areas of life
- Simplified procedures to access and to manage funds so as to open opportunities to organisations with smaller resources and ensure thereby a more inclusive access of funds.
- Social inclusion as crucial to set the right environment which enables the success of active inclusion policies
- Focus on decentralised issues to better reach out to all regions and support services in Europe
- Ensure more coherency in the management of the funds with common rules across DGs and funding programmes
- The decentralisation of funding leads to incoherent approaches in addressing topics of EU relevance
- Focus on operating costs rather than unit costs which put the survival of organisations under threat.



**10. The use of EU funds to support service delivery in rural areas**

Persons with disabilities in remote rural areas of all presented countries have same rights and entitlements for support services as persons in urban areas. However, the quality and the spectrum of available services is not at the same level. A wider choice of services, a higher concentration of specialists and easier public accessibility in urban areas allows for more flexible and person-centred services tailored to individual needs and circumstances.

The development of support services in rural areas should be prioritised in EU funding programmes to ensure equal access and availability of services to individuals and to prevent massive gentrification of urban areas which consequently lowers the quality of life of all residents.

**11. The merging of funding instruments should not be done to the detriment of those programmes addressed to people.** The protection and enjoyment of human rights needs to be properly resourced if Europe is to guarantee equal opportunities and stronger social inclusion for all.



## Conclusions

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At a time when **demand for social services is increasing**, when staff shortages in the sector are growing, when services are evolving from segregating to community-based and when assistive technologies are changing the ways services are provided, public authorities have to ensure that quality social services are accessible, adaptable, affordable and available to all people in need of such support and on an equal basis.

The changes in Europe's demography, will rapidly lead to the need for a whole new range of services that are either not in place yet and/or do not meet the demands of aging population with more and more support needs.

**Grant or subsidy-based systems for social service providers are and should remain the main funding mechanism** for the day-to-day provision of social services. This is essential given the unique role public investment brings towards ensuring the continuity and sustainability of high quality social services.

Next to strong legal frameworks recognizing the need for users to benefit of support tailored to their individual needs, the financial aspects are essential to the viability of services. Four areas in particular are dependent on sustainable funding: human resources, development and introduction of innovation, the running of services and infrastructure.

**The European Structural and Investment Funds support the development of the disability sector** by delivering staff training, development of innovation in service provision and promoting social inclusion for persons at risk of disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion. For what concerns infrastructure, loan-schemes such as the European Fund for Strategic Investments, can be a very positive instrument to further promote the development of the social sector.

**All funding programmes provide for essential contributions** to the development of the sector. The European Union has hereby provided unique and exceptional opportunities to address various issues of relevance to service provision in the disability sector, in particular, when it comes to the transition to community based care and support services.

**The most common problem faced by social services for persons with disabilities in Europe is insecurity about funding**, which hampers long-term budgeting and planning of activities and slows down if not stops the investment into innovative models of service provision. Short-term funding also creates additional workload for the staff, who by focusing on fundraising activities, divert resources from the core business of supporting service users.

**EU funding will be essential for the development of the support services sector in Europe, in urban and especially in rural areas** where services are scarcer and less developed.

**While "old" Member States will require funding to implement innovation, "new" Member States will still need funding to run basic support services** and ensure inclusion and participation to those most in need of support.

***EASPD calls for the EU to develop a sound multiannual financial framework, based on key values and principles of the European Union, accessible to all social stakeholders and comprehensive enough to cover the different needs of the social services sector as outlined in this briefing.***



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