

Your rights as citizens

Access to Rights and Justice
for People with Intellectual Disabilities



Inclusion Europe



Report

Inclusion Europe and its 47 members in these 34 countries are fighting against discrimination:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia (FYROM)
- Moldova
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

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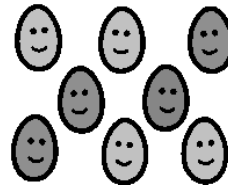
How to get your rights

All people who have the nationality of a country are called citizens.



For example, people who have the Belgian nationality are all Belgian citizens.

All citizens of a country have rights and duties.



Some duties are for example:

- The duty to follow the laws of a country.
- The duty to pay taxes.



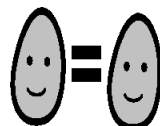
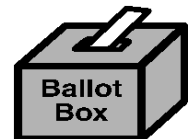
This brochure is about your rights.

All citizens have equal rights.

Some of the citizen's rights are:



- The right to vote and to be elected.
- The right to receive support and protection from the police when you need it.
- The right to be treated equally in court.



There are 2 ways to get your rights.



1. Going to the public administrations.

The public administrations are responsible for all applications to the state.

For example, that is where you have to go to get benefits when you have a disability.



2. Going to courts.

The courts are responsible for all situations where you have to fight for your rights.

This brochure explains how this should work.

This is important for you in order to get your rights.

Access to public administrations

Public administrations are the offices where people work for you and your country.

For example, the Town Hall or the police office are public administrations.



Knowing about your rights



To get your rights, you must know about them.

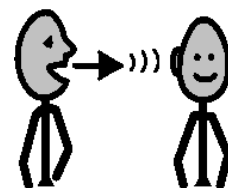
Your country should make sure that you know about your rights in every situation.



Someone should explain your rights to you.
These explanation should be in plain
and easy to understand language.
You should not have to pay
to get information about your rights.



Inclusion Europe believes that
there should be somebody
in every public administration
who could explain your rights.



Better access to public administrations

When you go to a public administration
it is sometimes difficult.

The people there may not understand
what you want.

You may not understand
what you have to do.



Inclusion Europe wants to make that better.

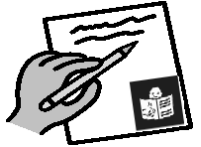
Public administrations should be
more accessible for everybody.

Your country is responsible

to make public administrations more accessible.



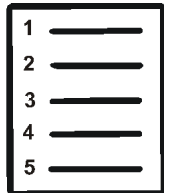
- You have the right to receive papers that you can understand.
- You have the right to be listened to when you have questions.
- You have the right to get help. This help should be free.



An example:

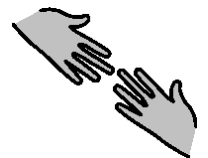
Often you have to fill a form to get your rights.

For example, you may have to fill a form to get some extra money.



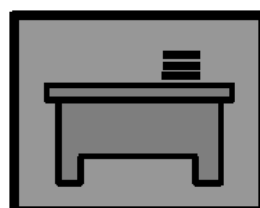
These forms are often difficult to understand.

If you have difficulties to fill a form, someone should help you to fill it in.



This person should also help you to find the right officer to talk to.

This person can also go together with you to the right desk.



Access to Courts and Justice



The courts are the places where justice is being given to everyone. Courts are also a part of the public administration. They should follow the same rules as explained above.



You can go to the court in 3 different situations:

1. When somebody has done something bad to you.
2. When you have done something bad.
3. If you do not agree with another person or with a decision of a public administration.



How to get to court

- When somebody has done something bad to you, you are called a victim. Then you can complain to the police. The police may take the other person to Court. It is the duty of a Court to protect the victims.
- Sometimes you can go to court if you have some problems with another person. Or you can go to court if you do not agree with a decision of a public administration.



In that case you are not called a victim, but a plaintiff.

As plaintiff, you have to find a lawyer who helps you at court.



- If you have done something bad, the police may take you to court. You then always have the right to have a lawyer. You can ask for a lawyer already at the police station. If you are guilty, the Court will decide about your punishment.



Many times, it is better to solve a problem that you have with another person outside of the court. You can also ask your lawyer to find such a solution.

How does it work at Court?

At court, 2 persons are very important for you: the judge and your lawyer.

The judge

The judge is a person who knows the law very well. He has to make sure that everyone respects the law. The judge leads all meetings at Court.



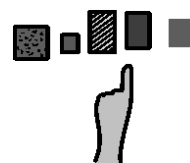
He has to find out what really happened.
Then he has to decide about the case.
Sometimes other judges or other persons
help him.

You cannot choose the judge
who will hear your case.



Your lawyer

In court you will not be alone.
A lawyer will go with you.
You can choose your own lawyer.



A lawyer is a person who will help you
to explain your story.

A lawyer is the person who will defend you.
You do not have to pay for the lawyer
if you don't have enough money.



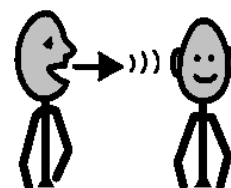
Sometimes it is not easy to speak to your lawyer.
Most lawyers are not used
to talk to people with intellectual disabilities.



Inclusion Europe would like to help
people with intellectual disabilities
to have good lawyers.



Your lawyer should tell you
how things will happen at court.
Your lawyer should tell you
how many times you will see the judge.



Your lawyer should tell you what you have to do and what you have to explain. Your lawyer should help you to understand what the judge is saying.



The hearing

The first task of the Court is to find out what really happened. This is called the hearing.



A judge will ask you many questions and will listen to you.

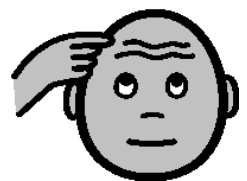


The judge will also ask questions to other people. Your lawyer should help you to understand all this.

The judge will then think about everything he has heard. He will take his decision about the case. This decision is called a judgment.



A judgment is something that everybody must follow.



It is very important that you understand the judgment.



You should ask the judge and your lawyer to explain it to you.

Inclusion Europe

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

Inclusion Europe represents people with
intellectual disabilities 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 disabilities
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

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