

ENIL Personal Assistance Template

Country: Norway

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<p>Background of the legislation for PA services</p>	<p>Campaigning by disability activists was essential bringing about the Norwegian legislation for PA services. Five active founders of Uloba – were especially important in this endeavor. Uloba is the main cooperative for personal assistance with a focus on citizen control. A dilution of citizen control by local governments has taken place. Profit companies are a constant threat because the medical model is ruling also in Norway. The legislation is in accordance with ENIL IL principles.</p> <p>Campaigning for personal assistance and Independent Living in Norway</p> <p>Personal assistance is a self-directed alternative to services organised by your municipality. It is personal assistance if you control a budget and thereby your life; who comes to assist you where and when.</p> <p>It all started in 1989 when one person (Bente Skansgård – bente.skansgard@uloba.no) who needed assistance together with her husband (Bjørn Hecter) and a friend and colleague (Steinar Bergh), collected information and experiences from Sweden, Denmark and Finland where personal assistance already was a reality.</p> <p>People with mobile restrictions initiated this campaigning and we belonged to the National Association of Disabled (NAD). NAD facilitated a working group on personal assistance (APA) which prepared the organisation and a group of people who could profit immensely on self-directed personal assistance.</p> <p>Bente Skansgård had meanwhile written an application for a pilot project on personal assistance. We had a positive response on that before the report on personal assistance in other countries where presented in the Department of Social Affairs,</p>
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	<p>January 1991. Conclusions in the report were; three actual employer models 1. the user, 2. a cooperative and 3. the municipality, and we calculated an estimate of 5 000 – 6 000 that would need personal assistance in Norway. (2012 we are ca 3 000)</p> <p>Uloba – co-operative on personal assistance (www.uloba.no) was established in 1991 by 16 disabled people that were curious on personal assistance. Five of us developed the co-operative and the training and counselling of Independent Living and self-direction of assistance. The founders were Vibeke Marøy Melstrøm (vibeke.maroy.melstrom@uloba.no), Knut Flaaum (knut.flaaum@uloba.no), Leif Sylling, Tone Nordli og Bente Skansgård. During the three years pilot project we organised demonstrations outside the Parliament several times. We asked for one or more important parliamentarians to come out to us and receive our claims, and communicate with us. We would of course try to attract media.</p> <p>We also organised an e-mail-action; we issued a pamphlet that we and other activists mailed around to important people in the parliament + Department of Social Affairs continuously 24 hours. (We blocked their communication and that was an unpopular move.)</p> <p>We had meetings with parliamentarians as often as we could get hold of them trying to explain the possibilities and economy in self-direction.</p> <p>Elections were used as much we could. We were going through the program for each and every political party. First trying to make them include personal assistance when the programs were under construction, and then pushing them in the election campaign to promise to improve the legislation on personal assistance.</p> <p>After 10 years of active campaigning and working hard hundreds of meetings, seminars, conferences with municipalities and the disability movement, we had personal assistance included in the frame law covering Social Services (2000). Since that we have campaigned for legislation covering an</p>
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	<p>individual right to personal assistance if you fulfil certain criteria like needing assistance for basic needs or certain amount of hours a week.</p> <p>All the time we have tried to make allies with important organisations in society like the Union, the umbrella organisation for the local governments, political parties, parliamentarians and the disability movement.</p> <p>You never communicate as equal with the State; they understand the need, but they fear expenses – and keep pressure groups on a certain distance.</p> <p>When you come to political campaigning you can always do more, and always be more dramatic in your methods if you have a really good point – stopping traffic on an important highway etc</p> <p>The collective ambition with self-directed personal aspirations and independent living is to empower all disabled people to cope in the frames they have in the surrounding you live. If people get what they need so they can be active to the extent they prefer, they need less extras – and cost less. Even the user has an important responsibility for the consumption of tax money as an equal citizen.</p> <p>The welfare state has a hard time to understand this – they want us – disabled people – to be sick patients in need of care + treatment – even though the medical approach is expensive and paternalistic.</p> <p>More info on personal assistance in Norway www.magasinet-selvsagt.no</p>
Type of legislation	The act on social security 2000, revision 2009 to formally include intellectually disabled people. New legal framework 2012, a step backwards, bringing the legislation back to the medical model. The legislation is covering all citizens.
Administrator of PA services	Cooperatives, Municipalities, Companies
Funder of services	Municipalities each having their own budget to fund the services and take the decision on assessment.
Disabilities covered	Defined needs outside of the services offered by the

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	municipal services.
Amount of hours per day/week possible	Depends on the need of the applicant and the civil servant in the municipality handling the case. It is possible to appeal to the county. The work leaders/co-owners in Uloba have an average of 47 hours/week.
Assessment of needs: tool and how often	Based on needs and the assessment team in the municipality. Confirmed once a year if the user or the municipality ask for changes.
Hourly rate funded	Depends on the administrator or the contract
Age requirement	It is hard to get personal assistance after 67 years of age
Total of Registered Users in the country	3040 in 2012