

ENIL Personal Assistance Survey

Country/region: Netherlands

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PART 1: KEY INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

LEGISLATION/POLICY	
Is there legislation covering personal assistance (PA)?	NO
Is PA currently provided on a pilot basis?	NO, but people can hire a personal assistant if they have obtained a personal care budget. The personal care budget system has no basis in legislation (yet). Personal care budgets were introduced some 20 years ago.
What is the total number of registered PA users in the country?	NO registration.
Has this number increased, decreased or stagnated (eg due to waiting lists) in the last 5 years?	The number of people using personal care budgets has risen until 2014. Since then the number is decreasing due to budget cuts.
Does everyone, regardless of type of impairment, have access to PA?	Only people who are given a personal care budget may decide to use that to hire personal assistants. Budgets can be considered for people with all kinds of impairments. Providers may judge a person's ability to manage a budget.
Does everyone, regardless of age, have access to PA?	YES
Are there restrictions on what PA can be used for?	YES If I may rephrase this question to: are their restrictions on what the budgets can be used for:

	<p>Yes, there are many restrictions. If a PA is hired, she/he may only provide care as described in specific functions: for instance in helping going to the bathroom, providing medicine, providing safety. Assistance during leisure activities is formally forbidden, unless a care budget is provided for this specific purpose.</p> <p>An assistant may assist in school but only for specific care functions. The PA may not assist in educational activities.</p> <p>Providing transport is restricted.</p>
CHANGES IN LEGISLATION/POLICY	
Have there been any changes in legislation/policy restricting the use of PA in the last 5 years?	<p>YES</p> <p>See above. These restrictions have been implemented during the last 5 years.</p>
Have any other limitations been introduced that prevent/restrict PA use in the last 5 years?	<p>YES</p> <p>Long-term care, including the personal care budgets, for disabled people was until 2014 mainly based on the General Exceptional Medical Expenses Act (AWBZ) and there were national eligibility criteria, national executive organisations and national financing.</p> <p>As of 2015 large parts of the care has been decentralized to municipalities and some of the care to care insurance companies. Both municipalities and care insurance companies may decide on their eligibility criteria, tariffs and the conditions for the budgets. The result is that especially disabled children and people with physical disabilities have greater difficulty in obtaining personal budgets.</p>
If negative changes/restrictions have taken place in the last 5 years, what were the reasons (eg structural, financial etc.)?	<p>The reasons were financial: decentralisation to municipalities and insurance companies is meant to provide care arrangements at a lower cost.</p>
ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS	
Who carries out eligibility assessments for PA?	<p>Partly national organizations, partly municipalities and partly care insurance companies.</p>

How often are assessments repeated?	This can be from once every year to every 5 years.
Is there a specific assessment tool that is used?	NO
FUNDING	
How are PA services funded?	By the state: YES, partly By the regional or local authority: YES, partly And also by care insurance companies
Is PA a means tested service?	YES All individuals will pay a contribution and the contribution is means tested.
What is the maximum number of PA hours per day/week that can be approved?	There is no maximum number of hours. There is a financial maximum.
What is the hourly rate that is funded?	This varies from below 10 euro per hour to around 80 euro for very specific work.
Are direct payments/personal budgets available for funding PA?	YES, see above
What is the total number of direct payments/personal budget holders in the country?	In 2013 around 123.000
Are family members allowed to be paid as PAs?	YES, but against a maximum hour rate of 20 euro.
PROVIDERS AND SUPPORT	
Is there a choice of providers of PA services?	YES Anyone can be hired with a personal budget.
If PA can be provided by user-cooperatives, do they have to be accredited?	YES
Are PA users provided with training on how to manage	NO

their assistance?	
Are people with intellectual disabilities allowed to manage their own assistance?	YES
Are support services such as peer support/peer counselling/IL training provided by user organisations funded by the state or the local authority?	NO

PART 2: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide background information about the introduction of PA into legislation/policy (which actors were involved in advocating for PA, was there inspiration drawn from a certain country, which public stakeholders were needed to set it up, which challenges arose in the process of developing the legislation/policy, what resources were needed)?	The Netherlands has no system or policy for PA. We only have a system for personal budgets.
Are there any current challenges in implementing the PA legislation/policy?	See above
Has the legislation/policy on PA led to empowerment of disabled people, setting up of CILs or cooperatives etc.?	See above
Is PA used in the process of de-institutionalisation (to help people leave institutional care)?	NO
Was any research carried out in the country on the costs of PA? If yes, please provide links or attachments.	There was research on the costs and results of the system of personal budgets.

If **family members** are allowed to work as PAs, is this considered problematic or beneficial?

Both! It depends individually.