

ENIL Personal Assistance Survey

Country/region: Switzerland

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PART 1: KEY INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

LEGISLATION/POLICY	
Is there legislation covering personal assistance (PA)?	YES The law on an “assistance CONTRIBUTION” has been introduced to the “invalid insurance law” 2012.
Is PA currently provided on a pilot basis?	NO
What is the total number of registered PA users in the country?	1213
Has this number increased, decreased or stagnated (eg due to waiting lists) in the last 5 years?	Increased
Does everyone, regardless of type of impairment, have access to PA?	YES & NO Participation conditions for children, persons with cognitive or mental impairments are very restricted, as are the amounts they can receive. Persons above 65 or victims of accidents are totally excluded (as they are excluded from the “invalid insurance”).
Does everyone, regardless of age, have access to PA?	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children with medium or low assistance needs• Persons above 65

Are there restrictions on what PA can be used for?	YES & NO There are no restrictions on the ACTIVITIES, but restrictions as to WHO can provide assistance (no relatives, no professional organizations).
CHANGES IN LEGISLATION/POLICY	
Have there been any changes in legislation/policy restricting the use of PA in the last 5 years?	YES Administrative controls have been raised constantly over the 3 years in which assistance "contribution" exists.
Have any other limitations been introduced that prevent/restrict PA use in the last 5 years?	NO
If negative changes/restrictions have taken place in the last 5 years, what were the reasons (eg structural, financial etc.)?	We suspect that the responsible agency has hired too many staff members, expecting a much larger demand than actually occurred. This staff seems to be bored and invents all kinds of new administrative hurdles to justify their work place.
ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS	
Who carries out eligibility assessments for PA?	"Experts" of the invalid insurance.
How often are assessments repeated?	We don't know yet...but also on demand by the user.
Is there a specific assessment tool that is used?	YES An intricate digital form called FAKT.
FUNDING	
How are PA services funded?	By the state: NO By the regional or local authority: NO Both: NO By the "invalid insurance" - an obligatory insurance covering all Swiss.
Is PA a means tested service?	NO

What is the maximum number of PA hours per day/week that can be approved?	Theoretically 8 hours per day, plus a fixed amount for the night (approx. max. 2 hours). However, in order to be eligible, one must receive payments called “impotence allowance”, the amount of which is subtracted from the “assistance contribution”. So, in practice adults can receive a max. of 6 hours a day plus max. 2 hours per night. Nights are defined as between 22 and 6 o'clock and assistance is only funded if life-threatening situations (eg. breathing etc.) can be claimed. Toileting is no reason for night assistance.
What is the hourly rate that is funded?	32.90 CHF – approx. 30 Euro – whereby 2.90CHF are reserved to cover holiday payment. If highly specialized.
Are direct payments/personal budgets available for funding PA?	YES
What is the total number of direct payments/personal budget holders in the country?	1213
Are family members allowed to be paid as PAs?	NO
PROVIDERS AND SUPPORT	
Is there a choice of providers of PA services?	YES & NO: only self-employed personnel is allowed.
If PA can be provided by user-cooperatives, do they have to be accredited?	No user cooperatives allowed.
Are PA users provided with training on how to manage their assistance?	YES, if they wish so – we provide user groups. However, there is almost no demand.
Are people with intellectual disabilities allowed to manage their own assistance?	YES However, usually it is their family in the role of custodian.
Are support services such as peer support/peer counselling/IL training	YES, we provide and are partially funded by the government.

provided by user organisations funded by the state or the local authority?	
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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)?	PA financing was introduced after a coalition of members of parliament (brought together by our activists) forced the “invalid insurance” by law to conduct a “representative pilot study” with 250 participants. As this study showed that satisfaction of the users was extremely high at less than the costs of institutionalization, the new payment was introduced – however with worse conditions than in the pilot study.
Are there any current challenges in implementing the PA legislation/policy?	Administrative hurdles are very high on the user and prevent many (especially people with low needs) to use this payment. Persons with high need do not get enough. We continue to fight for a) access to assistance for all types of impairment, b) higher or no limits to amount of hours c) better payment of assistance d) allow relatives as assistance and e) a more humane need assessment and less administrative work.
Has the legislation/policy on PA led to empowerment of disabled people, setting up of CILs or cooperatives etc.?	The other way round: the existence of (our) CIL has led to PA. However, the usual “service provider organizations” steal our counseling business by providing “wall to wall services” that do not empower but “take care” of the person.
Is PA used in the process of de-institutionalisation (to help people leave institutional care)?	The possibility exists in the law but is very rarely used as fears of the high amount of administration frightens people away.
Was any research carried out in the country on the costs of	YES All research:

<p>PA? If yes, please provide links or attachments.</p>	<p>http://www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/iv/00023/03205/03276/index.html?lang=de</p> <p>Specific to the costs:</p> <p>http://www.bsv.admin.ch/themen/iv/00023/03205/03276/index.html?lang=de&download=NHZLpZeg7t,lnp6I0NTU042l2Z6ln1acy4Zn4Z2qZpnO2Yuq2Z6gpJCDeX92hGym162epYbg2c JjKbNoKS n6A--</p>
<p>If family members are allowed to work as PAs, is this considered problematic or beneficial?</p>	<p>Not allowed (because then women would be paid for their family care work – this is the fear of the politicians).</p>