

ENIL Personal Assistance Survey

Country/region: Belgium/Wallonia

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Contact Person: Lassoie Corinne, info@eva-bap.be

ENIL Contact Person: Dilyana Deneva, dilyana.deneva@enil.eu

PART 1: KEY INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

LEGISLATION/POLICY	
Is there legislation covering personal assistance (PA)?	<p>YES</p> <p>On regional level: 14/05/09 "BAP" decree of Wallonia government.</p> <p>However, it will disappear on 1 January 2017, integrated in a new autonomy insurance also covering the needs of the elderly</p>
Is PA currently provided on a pilot basis?	NO
What is the total number of registered PA users in the country?	450
Has this number increased, decreased or stagnated (eg due to waiting lists) in the last 5 years?	Increased till 2013 but now stagnated due to waiting lists (no budget).
Does everyone, regardless of type of impairment, have access to PA?	Normally YES but priorities established following the assessment and available budget, exclude some of them.
Does everyone, regardless of age, have access to PA?	<p>Normally YES but priorities established following the assessment and available budget, exclude people who have another institutional response as for example the children who go to school</p> <p>So people aged 65 with a high level of loss of Autonomy (or recorded AWIPH before 65 and if linked with initial disability not the age).</p>

Are there restrictions on what PA can be used for?	NO
CHANGES IN LEGISLATION/POLICY	
Have there been any changes in legislation/policy restricting the use of PA in the last 5 years?	YES The budget is fixed: 7500 € for day – 14.500 € to support day and night without assessing the real needs of the person. Objective: to help as many people for basic needs.
Have any other limitations been introduced that prevent/restrict PA use in the last 5 years?	NO The granted budget is the only limitation!
If negative changes/restrictions have taken place in the last 5 years, what were the reasons (eg structural, financial etc.)?	Financial
ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS	
Who carries out eligibility assessments for PA?	The agent of the administration.
How often are assessments repeated?	Before the fixed model, possible evaluation each year or on demand if changes in circumstances
Is there a specific assessment tool that is used?	YES Use of the Canadian evaluation rubric (SMAF) to determine the level of autonomy, the existing resources and their stability.
FUNDING	
How are PA services funded?	By the state: YES By the regional or local authority: YES We can buy all existing services, not always adapted unfortunately.
Is PA a means tested service?	YES Yes at the beginning of the experiment, when budgets were much higher and permit the specific employment of assistants.

What is the maximum number of PA hours per day/week that can be approved?	It depends on the budget you receive and the cost of existing services. It allows between 14/18 hours per week house services.
What is the hourly rate that is funded?	–
Are direct payments/personal budgets available for funding PA?	NO more
What is the total number of direct payments/personal budget holders in the country?	450
Are family members allowed to be paid as PAs?	NO
PROVIDERS AND SUPPORT	
Is there a choice of providers of PA services?	YES Public and private services, municipalities, individuals (interim), AWIPH services and institutions (we cannot be direct employer).
If PA can be provided by user-cooperatives, do they have to be accredited?	
Are PA users provided with training on how to manage their assistance?	NO Specifically. People can benefit from a coordinator of choice: Service Administration, disability association.
Are people with intellectual disabilities allowed to manage their own assistance?	YES –NO... The coordinator / the service is supposed to follow his choice
Are support services such as peer support/peer counselling/IL training provided by user organisations funded by the state or the local authority?	NO Our organization could not grow enough and the administration focused on the training of coordinators and professionals.

PART 2: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<p>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)?</p>	<p>Belgium - Wallonia has a long tradition of institutionalization and a very paternalistic attitude. This has changed a lot but we are now facing a budget problem, crisis. But also having to respond to the ageing of the population. We are unaware if the new system will be put in place. We regret the absence of a global plan, which meets the urgent requests for the institution because there are still no real alternative.</p>
<p>Are there any current challenges in implementing the PA legislation/policy?</p>	<p>Financial</p>
<p>Has the legislation/policy on PA led to empowerment of disabled people, setting up of CILs or cooperatives etc.?</p>	
<p>Is PA used in the process of de-institutionalisation (to help people leave institutional care)?</p>	<p>No, we are not in a person's recognition approach as a citizen but rather try to bring some help to as many people as possible.</p> <p>There are correct services and positive initiatives as "respite" services but remains insufficient and paying. Not an affordable solution and an answer to all.</p>
<p>Was any research carried out in the country on the costs of PA? If yes, please provide links or attachments.</p>	
<p>If family members are allowed to work as PAs, is this considered problematic or beneficial?</p>	<p>No</p>