

Dear ENO colleagues,

The European Ombudsman has recently launched an [inquiry](#) into the role of the Commission in ensuring that member state governments use EU funds with a view to promoting independent living for persons with disabilities and older persons, and transitioning away from residential care institutions. The inquiry takes place against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had devastating consequences for people in these institutions.

Given that the management of ESI funds is also the responsibility of national and regional authorities, and national and regional ombudsmen can also deal with complaints about conditions in residential institutions, the European Ombudsman would like to invite members of the ENO network to join this parallel inquiry. To this effect, please find attached the invitation addressed to ENO members (both EN and FR versions) and the letter addressed to the President of the European Commission. Should you require a translation of the invitation into any other official EU language, please let us know.

As indicated in the invitation, we would be grateful to receive your contributions by 31 March 2021. If you need any further information or clarification concerning this inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact the case handler responsible for this inquiry, Ms Maria Moustakali (in copy), who can be reached at maria.moustakali@ombudsman.europa.eu.

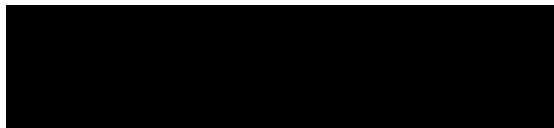
With best regards,



European Ombudsman

Angela Marcos Figueruelo

Directorate of Inquiries



Montoyer 30 Building
B-1047 Brussels
F. + 32 (0)2 284 49 14
www.ombudsman.europa.eu

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Per favore, pensa all'ambiente prima di stampare questo messaggio.



CONSIGLIO DELLA PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO

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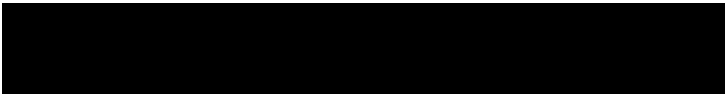


Prot. n. CPTN/0004150/P

Trento, 10/03/2021

Trento, 10/03/2021

Ms Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman



Subject: Strategic inquiry OI/2/2021/MMO into how the European Commission monitors EU funds used to promote the right of persons with disabilities and older persons to independent living

Dear European Ombudsman,

With the present communication, I would like to reply to your request sent on 12 February 2021 about the promotion of independent living for older persons and persons with disabilities.

In the Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy) the provincial Law n. 16/2010 provides for funding in order to introduce additional healthcare services to the Essential Assistance Levels and new services in the socio-health integration area.

Projects and services in support of persons with reduced autonomous living abilities are numerous, with the help of the local authorities but also of several stakeholders, such as associations, social cooperatives and foundations, in order to allow people with disabilities to fully integrate into the society and to live as independent as possible.

The locally provided assistance, with the purpose of promoting independent living, which is provided for by art. 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is divided into economic assistance for the older/disabled person and his/her family and personal assistance.

For example, by connecting to this link <https://www.trentinofamiglia.it/Politiche-familiari/Servizi-informativi/Servizi-per-persone-con-disabilita>, it's possible to consult a list of the services offered by the Province of Trento to persons with disabilities and of the offices that people can contact for information.



38122 TRENTO - Via Gazzoletti, 2 - Tel. 0461.213201

Numero Verde 800 851026 - Fax 0461.213206

Pec: difensore.civico@pec.consiglio.provincia.tn.it

www.consiglio.provincia.tn.it – email: difensore.civico@consiglio.provincia.tn.it

In autumn 2020 projects promoted by social cooperatives and associations, such as Anffas Trentino Onlus, CS4, Incontra, La Rete, Il Ponte, Iter and Eliodoro, were implemented thanks to a social fund. These new projects mostly aim to ensure that persons with disabilities, sharing an apartment in couple or in a small group and with the daily help of educators, can avoid living in residential care institutions, but also at their family home, in the interests of emancipation and semi-autonomous life.

Other projects are dedicated to job search or to enable persons with disabilities to approach and to get to know other people living in their same quarter, and, thus, to integrate into society.

The Ombudsman in 2020 was particularly concerned with “Intervento in materia di vita indipendente”, an economic assistance for persons with disabilities, aged between 18 and 64, that supports expenditure required to ensure their autonomy and personal realisation and to allow them to stay at their home.

This kind of assistance, introduced by the deliberation of Giunta Provinciale No 2224/2004 and amended in 2016 and 2017, initially consisted of an economic help, ranging from € 550,00 and € 1.500,00 a month, according to the financial conditions of the person. In the past, about 80% of beneficiaries received the maximum amount.

Thanks to the intervention of the Ombudsman, following the request for help of a woman in need, considering also the additional difficulties for disabled persons to keep their personal autonomy levels due to the pandemic outbreak, and, therefore, to avoid their relocation to residential care institutions in such a difficult period, potentially dangerous for their health, the amount has been standardised for all the beneficiaries since August 2020, providing € 1.500,00 a month (deliberation of Giunta Provinciale No 1725/2020).

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your sincerely,

IL DIFENSORE CIVICO

Dr. Giorgio Merlotti

