

Statement about the implementation of Article 19 CRPD in the Czech  
Republic  
for the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
by JDI Union for Deinstitutionalisation

In response to the recommendations of the Committee expressed in its Concluding Observations on the Initial Report of the Czech Republic in 2015, Jednota pro Deinstitutionalizaci (JDI) - Union for Deinstitutionalisation would like to provide a brief overview of the current situation with regards to the implementation of Article 19 CRPD.

The Concluding Observations on article 19 included the following key recommendations:

*The Committee urges the State party to step up the process of deinstitutionalization and to allocate sufficient resources for the development of support services in local communities that would enable all persons with disabilities, regardless of their impairments, gender or age, to choose freely with whom, where and under which living arrangements they will live, in line with the provisions of article 19 of the Convention.*

*The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to ensure that policy processes for deinstitutionalization, including the development of the National Plan on Promoting Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2015–2020, have a clear timeline and concrete benchmarks for implementation that are monitored effectively at regular intervals. In particular, the Committee urges the State party to abolish the placement of children under 3 years of age in institutionalized care as soon as possible.*

**Description of the situation:**

There are currently about 80,000 people living in the Czech Republic in residential care facilities, of whom 63,000 live in large residential facilities.

In the Czech Republic, disadvantaged people (people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, children affected by social exclusion and children with disabilities, elderly people) and their carers are still widely offered institutional care, mostly long-term residential care facilities. These large-capacity facilities are often located in remote areas outside the community and without available public transport, in old mansions or monasteries on the outskirts of the republic, where people with disabilities can then spend a predominant part of their life, and where they are deprived of their privacy, dignity, life in

the community, family and friends, education and work opportunities as well as the ability to exercise their basic human rights.

Children with disabilities are still placed in residential institutions, including children under 6 years of age. In addition, children, often with severe disabilities, are still placed in homes for people with disabilities together with adults<sup>1</sup>.

At present, community-based services do not have sufficient capacity support families with children with disabilities.

About 37661<sup>2</sup> children per year are taken away from their parents or family (mainly for economic or housing related reasons). Only some of them return to their family.

Finally, it is not rare that collective facilities for 50 or 150 people newly open in the Czech Republic, despite the recurrent political statements in favour in DI.

### **Detailed figures:**

In the Czech Republic, about 80 000 people live in residential services, including children, of which 79%<sup>3</sup>, i.e. 63,200<sup>4</sup> people live in large residential care facilities.

There are 1 298 large residential care facilities, in which 76 564 persons live. Until 2003, the facilities were directly controlled by the State (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) and they are now mainly established by the regions. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs still runs 5 large residential care facilities.

There are 209 homes for people with disabilities (DOZP) where 12,000 adults and 411 children live<sup>5</sup>. Out of them, there are about 520 clients in homes for people with disabilities living in services of community-based type.

There are 57 weekly centres, where 779 people live.

There are 514 homes for elderly people, where 37,247 people live.

There are 307 homes with special regime (for people with dementia and other age-related chronic diseases) where 17 784 people live.

There are 211 asylum homes (short-term housing for people in difficult social situation associated with the loss of housing.), where 7,111 people live.

---

<sup>1</sup> See page 12 of the report by Lumos published in 2018, Children with disabilities in institutional care in the Czech Republic, available at:

[https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/DOZP\\_vyzkumna\\_zprava\\_lumos.pdf](https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/DOZP_vyzkumna_zprava_lumos.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Annual statement on the performance of social and legal protection of children for the year 2017

<sup>3</sup> Statement of the Social Services Department of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs 2018

<sup>4</sup> Statistical Yearbook of MPSV 2016

<sup>5</sup> See page 6 of the report by Lumos published in 2018, Children with disabilities in institutional care in the Czech Republic, available at:

[https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/DOZP\\_vyzkumna\\_zprava\\_lumos.pdf](https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/DOZP_vyzkumna_zprava_lumos.pdf)

In addition to the social sector, there are children living in institutional care run by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Education. Those establishments are infant care institutions (now called children's centres), children's homes and diagnostic centres. All together they include about 7,000 children<sup>6</sup>. There are no official statistics about children with disabilities living outside of their biological families, but the estimation is between 1000 -1300 children (about 3% of 36 000 children with disabilities, 2% living in residential care<sup>7</sup>).

Children with disabilities placed in homes for people with disabilities face several discriminations due to the absence of legislative provisions. In homes for people with disabilities the size of an educational group is not legally anchored. For children in facilities run by the Ministry of Education, this is somehow limited by law (Section 4 of the Act 109/2002 Coll.<sup>8</sup>). Similarly in homes for people with disabilities, it is not legally determined who should work with children and as consequences, those who work with children usually have received very basic training. In children's homes, the legislation provides for compulsory education of workers (see paragraph 2) § 16 of Act No. 563/2004 Coll. on pedagogical staff)

With regards to short-term stays in institutional care, they are related mainly to people with psychosocial disabilities. In the case of children, placements in psychiatric hospitals are often repeated creating frustration and harm because of the separation with their families, their peers and their normal life. Repeated placements in psychiatric hospital have a strong stigmatizing effect.

Last but not least, there are 65 facilities for children requiring immediate help (ZDVOP)<sup>9</sup>. In 2017 there were 614 fully occupied beds, where 1760 children were screened during the year<sup>10</sup>.

---

<sup>6</sup> This calculation is done by Lumos in 2018 on the basis of data from the Ministry of Education and the number of children in infant care institutions. The number of children in institutional care in October 2017 was as follows: children's homes - 4,262 children and youngsters adults; children's homes with school - 696 children; educational institutions - 1004 children; diagnostic institutes - 383 children.

According to the Lumos survey at the beginning of 2018, a total of 649 children were found in infant care institutions.

<sup>7</sup> See page 9 of the report by Lumos published in 2018, Children with disabilities in institutional care in the Czech Republic, available at:

[https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/DOZP\\_vyzkumna\\_zprava\\_lumos.pdf](https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/DOZP_vyzkumna_zprava_lumos.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Section 4 of the Act 109/2002 Coll.on the realisation of institutional education or protective education in educational establishments and on preventive educational care in educational establishments and on the amendment of other acts

<sup>9</sup> ZDVOP are not included in the social services system

<sup>10</sup> Based on a calculation by Lumos on the basis of data obtained from individual regions of the Czech Republic and Statement of performance of child protection authority in 2017

## Questions:

- What are the progresses achieved from 2015 to lower the number of people in institutional residential care?
- When and where the government will enshrine DI in a legally binding document, such as a law (and not only in strategies and other non-binding documents)?
- What does the government do to end, without further due, the institutional residential care of children with disabilities among adults, which provides them absolutely unsatisfactory conditions?
- What steps are being made to end the placement of children under 3 years old in institutions?
- What are the government plans to expand and make available a network of community-based social services (instead of institutional care)?
- What are the plans Czech Republic to accelerate the deinstitutionalisation process<sup>11</sup>?
- What steps are made to prevent institutionalisation of elderly people, whose number is rapidly growing due to the demographic trends?

## **About us:**

Jednota pro Deinstitutionalizaci (JDI) - Union for Deinstitutionalisation [www.jdicz.eu](http://www.jdicz.eu). JDI is a platform of Czech NGOs, including DPOs, and individuals<sup>12</sup> who are sharing the common goal to move towards a systemic social change in the field of social services, social cohesion and equal opportunities and human rights for people with disabilities - and want to actively promote deinstitutionalisation of social services.

*List of members organisations of JDI*

[Asistence o.p.s](#)

[Rytmus – od klienta k občanovi, o.p.s](#)

[Fokus ČR](#)

[Quip z.u.](#)

[Jinak o.p.s](#)

[Inclusion Czech Republic](#)

[Lumos Foundation ČR](#)

[Instand](#)

[CPT: supporting deinstitutionalization](#)

[Jurta](#)

[Rytmus Východní Čechy, o. p. s.](#)

[Agentura Osmý den](#)

[TUDYTAM](#)

[Czech Society for Inclusive Education](#)

[Společnost pro ranou péči](#)

[Vteřina poté](#)

---

<sup>11</sup> According to yearbooks, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, we can estimate that if the transformation progressed and the number of people in large residential services goes down at the same rate as present, the transformation of only existing institutional facilities would end in the year 2046, most people who now live in institutions and want change will not live with it - calculation by Quip, available at <https://www.kvalitavpraxi.cz/aktuality/ochrana-prav/pocet-lidi-v-pobytovych-socialnichsluzbach-stale-roste/>

<sup>12</sup> The list of individual members and organisations can be found on the website of JDI: <http://jdicz.eu/o-jdi/clenove-jdi/>