



BUNDESINITIATIVE DAHEIM STATT HEIM



LIVING AT HOME OR SUPPORTED LIVING INSTEAD OF INSTITUTIONS

Inclusion in Germany: “Daheim statt Heim“: The closing of institutions and implementing of inclusion for older people and people with disabilities „Daheim statt Heim“ (“living at home or supported living instead of institutions”) is a federal initiative facilitated by Silvia Schmidt in December 2006. Silvia Schmidt is member of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and a representative and a delegate for people with disabilities in the German Parliament. The initiative is getting more and more popular and supported by professionals, experts, representatives of associations of disabled people, and politicians from a range of parties in the Parliament. The initiative “Daheim statt Heim” contains a petition, which is already signed by more than thousand people (incl. associations with more than 500 000 members). The petition demands the closing of long-stay institutions, foster homes etc. for the older and disabled people. Too many people in Germany are living in specialized institutions. Instead of institutions more and more people with disabilities and the older people want to live in their own homes (e. g. supported living). Therefore we don’t need institutions but community-based services for older and disabled people. We need community care and supported livings.

The initiative depends on personal needs and human rights (e. g. self-determination and participation) and is similar to processes towards community living in western countries (e. g. Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain, USA, Canada). It depends on the Disability Action Plan (DAP) of the European Commission and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The right of self-determination and participation is also an issue of the German law (SGB IX) of 2001. SGB IX focusses self-determination and participation. A key feature is the possibility for people with disabilities to use a personal budget (a direct payment system). An important issue of the initiative is to make the human rights of older people and of people with disabilities core concern of the state and social services.

A key aim is to provide older people and people with disabilities with the opportunity to live independently in the community, in small group homes (with a maximum of 5 persons) or individual housing, with adequate support based on each person's needs. Support for older people and the disabled must be based on the individuals’ views and needs. The Evangelical Foundation Alsterdorf and the Evangelical Foundation Hephata Mönchengladbach are examples for best practice. A central demand of Daheim statt Heim is the closure of long-stay institutions, in which people who have been labelled as dependent are inappropriately isolated, segregated or compelled to live together. The initiative also demands the shifting of funds from long-stay institutions to community-based services, and legislative reform to support this. Another key message is that deinstitutionalisation and the promotion of at-home-care should in no way go hand in hand with cost reduction on the part of the State. On the contrary, providing people with quality alternatives to institutional care and promoting their integration into social life could trigger higher costs. An indicator for state expenses must be the needs of each individual. Furthermore, according to Daheim statt Heim, deinstitutionalisation must not be limited to those people with mild disabilities. It is unacceptable that only those individuals are offered an opportunity to live in the community, while people with more severe disabilities and a higher need for care are left behind in long-stay institutions. On the contrary, the initiative calls for deinstitutionalisation to start with people with more severe disabilities. To conclude, Daheim statt Heim aims to promote integration in the widest sense. Integration and inclusion must be initiated from the very first years of life. Inclusion is not only about housing opportunities, but also about individuals’ social life and their working environment. Participation should be promoted in all sectors of life under the motto: nothing about us without us. To sign the petition, please visit www.bundesinitiative-daheim-statt-heim.de

Bundesinitiative Daheim statt Heim - c/o Silvia Schmidt, MdB - Platz der Republik 1 - 11011 Berlin
Tel.: 030/ 200 669 72 - Fax: 030/ 22 77 66 27 - www.bundesinitiative-daheim-statt-heim.de - info@bi-daheim.de

Förderverein der Bundesinitiative Daheim statt Heim e.V. - Klarenbachstraße 9 - 10553 Berlin
Vereinsregister: Amtsgericht Berlin-Charlottenburg VR 27440
Bankverbindung: Konto 626 83 79 00 - BLZ: 100 708 48 Berliner Bank
Finanzamt für Körperschaften I, Berlin: Steuernummer: 27/665/34221