

European Coalition for Community Living

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Public

EUROPEAN COALITION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

Membership Rules

1. Mission Statement

The European Coalition for Community Living (ECCL) is a Europe-wide initiative working towards the social inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting the provision of comprehensive, quality community-based services as an alternative to institutionalisation.

ECCL’s vision is of a society in which people with disabilities live as equal citizens, with full respect for their human rights. They must have real choices regarding where and with whom to live, choices in their daily lives and real opportunities to be independent and to actively participate in their communities.

ECCL advocates for and monitors progress towards de-institutionalisation in Europe, campaigns for, and provides information on, the development of comprehensive, quality community-based services and de-institutionalisation.

ECCL uses the following definition of the term “institution”:

“An institution is any place in which people who have been labelled as having a disability are isolated, segregated and/or compelled to live together. An institution is also any place in which people do not have, or are not allowed to exercise control over their lives and their day-to-day decisions. An institution is not defined merely by its size.”

2. Membership

All organisations and individuals concerned with community living and de-institutionalisation of persons with disabilities can become members of ECCL. Members must subscribe to the mission statement of ECCL. Members will promote the policy and mission of ECCL.

Members have the opportunity to:

- Contribute to the development of ECCL policy positions/papers and activity plans;
- Participate in ECCL monitoring and lobbying activities;
- Participate in ECCL working groups, meetings and conferences;
- Publish news about their own relevant activities in the ECCL Newsletter;

- Receive the ECCL Newsletter and other ECCL publications;
- Benefit from other ECCL activities, as available and relevant;
- Translate and publish ECCL documents into other languages, provided credit is given to ECCL in all translations and publications.

Founding members of ECCL are Autism Europe, the Center for Policy Studies of the Central European University, the European Network of Independent Living, Inclusion Europe, Mental Health Europe and the Open Society Mental Health Initiative.

3. Structure

The founding members of ECCL form the Management Committee. The Management Committee determines the policies, positions and activities of ECCL. Upon receipt of proposals from ECCL members, the Management Committee may consider additional policies, positions and activities. Only persons designated by the Management Committee can represent ECCL. The Management Committee may create working groups and other structures as necessary to promote and further ECCL's work. The Management Committee meets at least three times annually.

4. Annual meeting

ECCL will convene at least one annual meeting to which all members are invited. The purpose of the annual meeting is to provide opportunities for discussion on how to promote ECCL objectives at the European, national and local levels.

5. Travel and subsistence costs

ECCL will generally not be in a position to cover any travel or subsistence costs related to participation in its work or at its meetings. In certain circumstances, costs may be reimbursed, e.g. for speakers at conferences and other events, subject to the prior agreement of the Management Committee.

6. Annual contributions

ECCL members are requested to pay their annual contributions according to the structure indicated below. Payment requests will be sent to all members by 1 March each year. Payments should be received by 1 June. If payment is not received by that date, one reminder will be sent with a final deadline of 15 September of the same year. If payment has not been received by then, the membership will be automatically terminated and the member will be informed accordingly.

The Founding Members of ECCL represented in the Management Committee pay separate annual contributions to ECCL as per an agreement concluded between them. They do not pay additional annual membership contributions.

	Annual Fee (in EUR)	
	EU Member States*	Non EU + new EU Member States
Non governmental organisations (of and for disabled people)	100	60
Service provider organisations and others	200	60
Individuals	50	50

* With the exception of new EU Member States.

7. Termination of membership

Decisions about termination of membership will be made by the Management Committee. Reasons for a termination include:

- Failure to pay the annual contribution.
- Support for policies or actions that are in conflict with the ECCL mission statement or published ECCL policy.

An organisation or individual that has been informed by ECCL that its membership will be terminated has the right to make a presentation of the case to be heard by representatives of the Management Committee.

8. Dissolution of ECCL

The Management Committee can decide to dissolve the ECCL at any time, and for any reason. In that event, any remaining assets constituting annual membership contributions shall be paid to the European Disability Forum with the provision to use the funds to promote the work for more and better community-based services for disabled people.