

# EUROPEAN EXPERT GROUP ON TRANSITION FROM INSTITUTIONAL TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE



**To Jan Richter, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic**

Brussels, 3 August 2012

Dear Minister,

First of all, we would like to congratulate the Slovak government on the adoption of the Strategy of Deinstitutionalisation of the Social Services and Alternative Care System. The European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community-based care is looking forward to continue assisting the Slovak Government on its long-term reform towards viable services and measures that replace the institutional model of care.

Your letter, reference 6558/2012-II/1, noted the creation of the Committee of Experts for De-institutionalisation and we would like to thank you for allocating one place to a representative of the European Expert Group. We are very happy to nominate Jan Pfeiffer for this position during the first phase of your project and we understand he has already participated in the first meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

Our group is a broad coalition gathering stakeholders representing people with care or support needs including children, people with disabilities, people experiencing mental health problems, their families; as well as service providers, public authorities and intergovernmental organisations. The Group is united by its commitment to a rights-based approach to social services, and its concern that out-dated models of care, characterized by de-personalisation, rigidity of routine, block treatment and segregation, infringe the human rights of the people they are designed to support.

The members of our networks as well as our partner experts have a huge breadth of experience and expertise in the area of de-institutionalisation. We are developing mechanisms through which we can better support and encourage reform within the member states and would be happy to discuss how this can be improved in the future.

Co-chairs of the European Expert Group on transition from institutional to community-based care

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Secretary General  
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