

Inclusion Europe

The European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families
L'Association Européenne des Organisations des Personnes Handicapées Mentales et leurs Familles

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This document is about the rules of the European Platform of Self-advocates.
Some words in the text are in **Bold**.

This means that they are explained at the end of the document.

Rules of the European Platform of Self-Advocates

1. The **European Platform of Self-Advocates** is part of Inclusion Europe.
2. Organisations of **self-advocates** from different countries can become members of the European Platform of Self-Advocates.
3. In these self-advocates organisations, only persons with intellectual disability take decisions.
4. These organisations may work in a city, a region or a country.
5. Before we welcome a new self-advocates organisation, Inclusion Europe will ask information about this organisation to its members.
6. Members of the European Platform of Self-Advocates are also members of Inclusion Europe.
7. The European Platform of Self-Advocates meets at least once a year before the General Assembly of Inclusion Europe.
8. Each country in the European Platform has 1 vote.
Each member coming from the same country has the same number

of votes.

For example: 2 members come from Finland, each member has 0.5 votes.

9. Each member of Inclusion Europe pays a **fee** for 1 year.
The General Assembly of Inclusion Europe decides about the fee per country.
The fee is different for each country.
10. If they are several members coming from 1 country, the members can decide themselves how to divide this fee.
Inclusion Europe has a minimum fee per member.
11. The European Platform of Self-Advocates **elects 1 Chairperson and 4 representatives.**
The Chairperson and the 4 representatives form the **Steering Group.**
They come from different countries and support persons can help them.
12. The Chairperson and the representatives are elected for 2 years.
They can be elected 3 times and work for a maximum of 6 years.
13. The Steering Group chooses 2 representatives amongst its members.
The Chairperson and these 2 representatives are **nominated for election** to the Board of Inclusion Europe.
14. The Chairperson of the European Platform of Self-Advocates will be proposed as **vice-president** of Inclusion Europe.
The other representatives of the European Platform of Self-Advocates can also be elected for other **functions.**

15. Each member of the European Platform of Self-Advocates can send 1 **representative** to the **General Assembly** of Inclusion Europe. The representatives are not allowed to **vote** but they can ask to speak.
16. The European Platform of Self-Advocates has 5 votes at the General Assembly of Inclusion Europe.
The Chairperson of the European Platform will tell the President of Inclusion Europe before the start of the meeting who will have the right to vote.
17. During the meeting of the European Platform of Self-Advocates, **support persons** can help the self-advocates. Support persons are not speaking for themselves, they are only there to help the self-advocates.
18. The **Director** of Inclusion Europe can participate at the meetings of the European Platform of Self-Advocates as **observer**. He is not allowed to take decisions.
19. You can become member of Inclusion Europe if
 - a) only self-advocates take decisions in your organisation
 - b) your organisation exists since at least one year
 - c) your group meets regularly at least once a month
 - d) at least ten self-advocates are members of your organisation
 - e) your organisation is legally registered in your country
20. However, for the groups who are not registered, exceptions can be made.
 - a. These groups must fulfil all other conditions for membership
 - b. If they are accepted by the General Assembly, they must nominate one person who will speak for them.
 - c. This person becomes individual member of Inclusion Europe.

- d. This person represents the self-advocacy group in EPSA.
- e. The membership of this person will be terminated when the self-advocacy group says that they do not support him/her any more.
- f. Groups of self-advocates thus represented in Inclusion Europe have the same rights as other self-advocates members. They also have to pay the membership fee.

21. To become a member of the European Platform of Self-Advocates organisations have to send to the President of Inclusion Europe:
- 1. The name and address of the organisation.
 - 2. The names of the Board members.
 - 3. A list of their members.
 - 4. Information about their activities.
 - 5. A copy of their **constitution**.

Dictionary

Board:	Persons who take decisions about the work and the budget of an organisation.
Chairperson:	Person who runs the meeting.
Constitution:	A list of laws which decide how an organisation is run.
Director:	Person who organises the work of Inclusion Europe.
Elect:	To choose a person.
Election:	When you choose a person it is called an election.
European Platform of Self-Advocates:	The organisation of self-advocates through Europe.
Fee:	Amount that an organisation has to pay to become member of Inclusion Europe.
Functions:	What a person does in an organisation. For example: president is a function.
General Assembly :	Meeting which is organised once a year where the members of Inclusion Europe discuss about the activities and the accounts of the year ended.
Nominate:	To put someone forward for election.
Observer:	Person who participate at a meeting but he is not allowed to take decisions.

- President: Person who runs the work of the European Platform of Self-Advocates.
- Representative: Person who speaks for the European Platform of Self-Advocates
- Self-advocates: Persons with intellectual disabilities speaking for themselves and fighting for their own rights.
- Steering Group: A small group of self-advocates who work on the activities of the European Platform of Self-Advocates between its meetings.
- Support Person: Person who helps self-advocates in their work and meetings.
- Vice-President: Person who helps the President in his work.
He replaces the President when he cannot participate at a meeting.
- Vote: When persons choose to agree or disagree on a decision.
If you vote for a decision that means that you agree.
If you vote against a decision means that you disagree.