

The Deinstitutionalization Reform

The abolition of institutions and county health care services for persons with developmental disabilities (Helsevernet for Psykisk Utviklingshemmede/HVPU) and the normalisation of living conditions for people with developmental disabilities are referred to as the **Deinstitutionalization Reform**. The reform was implemented from 1991 to 1995. According to the Temporary Deinstitutionalization Act, the municipalities, county authorities and the State were given full responsibility for providing services to the developmentally disabled in accordance with the general division of responsibility that applied to the rest of the population.

The main goal of the Deinstitutionalization Reform was to discontinue institutional care for people with developmental disabilities and to improve and normalise the living conditions of people with developmental disabilities. Important priority areas for improving the lives of the mentally challenged were housing, health, work, income, education and participation in leisure and cultural activities. People with developmental disabilities should have the opportunity to live independently and live an active and meaningful life together with others in their community.

Specialised care for people with developmental disabilities was discontinued as of 1991, and the responsibility for care was transferred from the county authorities to the municipality, which is responsible for providing necessary help and assistance on the same basis as to the rest of the population. The institutions were given some time to deinstitutionalize older practices – a so-called deinstitutionalization period – depending on the size of the institution, and all were to be transferred to their municipality by 1st of June 1996.

Source: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld-st-45-2012--2013/id731249/?ch=2>