Mapping Paper

Summary overview of types and characteristics of institutions and community-based services for persons with disabilities available across the EU

**Country: Bulgaria**

**2014 and 2015**

**FRANET contractor:** **Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and Project One (Center for the Study of Democracy)**

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| DISCLAIMER: This document was commissioned under contract as background material for a comparative analysis by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) for the project ‘[The right to independent living of persons with disabilities](http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2014/rights-persons-disabilities-right-independent-living)’. The information and views contained in the document do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. The document is made publicly available for transparency and information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or legal opinion. |

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| FRA asked its research network FRANET to collect information on types of institutional and community based services for persons with disabilities available in each EU Member State. The data collection focused on the main features of the service types (the type of the structure, the provider and funder of support) and the population provided for (age group, type of impairment, level of support provided). In addition, the data collection on institutional services included information on typical size, length of admissions, and length of time that institutions/services of that type have been operating. The data collection on community-based services included information on availability of the type of CBS in the country, eligibility and user control over the support provided).  More information is available in FRA’s [Summary overview of types and characteristics of institutional and community-based services for persons with disabilities available across the EU](http://fra.europa.eu/en/project/2014/rights-persons-disabilities-right-independent-living). |

# Overview of institutional services for persons with disabilities (2014)

**Introduction and preliminary remarks**

There are several notes that need to be made at the beginning:

1. The researchers included in the table also the so called “residential community-based services” with a note after the name of the institution/service in the first column. They did that as many of them actually function as institutions and are located in the buildings or in the yards of institutions. There is no official publicly available information about the number of these types of quasi community-based services. However, NGO reports mention this:

Bulgaria, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Human Rights in Bulgaria in 2011, Annual Report, p.55 (for services for adults with mental disabilities), p.62 (for child care services for children with and without disabilities), available in English at: <http://issuu.com/bghelsinki/docs/bhc_annual_report_en_2011-1>,

Bulgaria, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, Human Rights in Bulgaria in 2013, Annual Report, p. 65, available in English at: <http://www.bghelsinki.org/media/uploads/documents/reports/annual_human_rights_report/2013_bhc_annual_report_en.pdf>.

1. The majority of institutions/community-based services that are not specifically designed to accommodate children or adults with disabilities in fact accommodate people with various types of disabilities. This applies for social care homes for children deprived of parental care for example or to social care homes for old people, or the crisis centres for children and adults. Again there is no official publicly available data about this.
2. The majority of the institutions were set up during 1960s. However, no source of information was found to be referred to.
3. In the institutions for adults the length of admission is usually till the end of their lives.

# **Table 1: Typology of institutions**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TYPE OF SERVICE** | **SIZE** | **AGE GROUP** | **TYPE OF IMPAIRMENT** | **LEVEL OF SUPPORT PROVIDED** | **TYPICAL PROVIDER** | **TYPICAL FUNDER** | **LENGTH OF ADMISSION** | **AGE OF INSTITUTION/ SERVICE** |
| Social care home for children deprived of parental care (Дом за деца, лишени от родителски грижи) | 11-30  (Total capacity 415[[1]](#footnote-1) places/ average capacity 20-35 places per home) | Children aged 3 to 6 | children deprived of parental care with and without disabilities (intellectual, mental and light physical) | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for children deprived of parental care (Дом за деца, лишени от родителски грижи) | 30-100  (Total capacity 1,938[[2]](#footnote-2) places/ average capacity 40-50 places per home) | Children aged 7 to 18/20 | Children deprived of parental care with and without disabilities (intellectual, mental and light physical) | Residential,24 hour support provided | local authority (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for children with intellectual disabilities (Дом за деца с умствена изостаналост) | 30-100  (Total capacity 1,302[[3]](#footnote-3) places/ average capacity 50-60 places per home) | Children aged 3 to 18 | intellectual disabilities/multiple disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years till the age of 18 | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for children with physical disabilities (Дом за деца с физически увреждания) | 30-100  (Total capacity 70[[4]](#footnote-4) places/ average capacity 70 places per home) | Children aged 3 to 18 | physical disabilities | Residential,24 hour support provided | local authority (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years till the age of 18 | Over 50 years |
| Nursing homes for medical and social care for children (Дом за медико-социални грижи за деца) | 30 -100  (Total capacity 2,258[[5]](#footnote-5) places/ average capacity 75 places[[6]](#footnote-6) per home) | Children aged 0 to 3 (in cases of on-going adoption or severe disability until the age of 8) | mixed types of disabilities | Residential,24 hour support provided | National authority – Ministry of Healthcare | National government/Ministry of Healthcare | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Foster care (Приемна грижа) (community-based service) | 1-2  (Total capacity 1,441[[7]](#footnote-7) places/ average capacity 1-2 places per foster family) | Children | all types of disabilities | Community-based service, 24 hour support provided | local authority | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | Over 10 years  i.e. 10-50 years |
| Social care home for adults with intellectual disabilities (Дом за възрастни хора с умствена изостаналост) | 30-100  (Total capacity 2,137[[8]](#footnote-8) places/ average capacity 80  places per home) | Adults | intellectual disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for adults with mental health problems (Дом за възрастни хора с психични разстройства) | 30-100  (Total capacity 1,036[[9]](#footnote-9) places/ average capacity 80 places per home) | Adults | mental health problems | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for adults with physical disabilities (Дом за възрастни хора с физически увреждания) | 30-100  (Total capacity 1,315[[10]](#footnote-10) places/ average capacity 60 places per home) | Adults | physical disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority  (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for adults with sensory disabilities (Дом за възрастни хора със сетивни нарушения) | 11-30  (Total capacity 133[[11]](#footnote-11) places/ average capacity 30 places per home) | Adults | sensory disability | Residential,24 hour support provided | local authority  (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for adults with dementia (Дом за възрастни хора с деменция) | 30-100  (Total capacity 825[[12]](#footnote-12) places/ average capacity 60 places per home) | Adults | older people with dementia | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority  (municipality) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Social care home for older people (Дом за стари хора) | 30-100  (Total capacity 5,593[[13]](#footnote-13) places/ average capacity 70 places per home) | Old people | older people with and without disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority (municipalty) | Mixed (National government/private donors[[14]](#footnote-14)) | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Centre for family-type accommodation (Център за настаняване от семеен тип) ( residential community-based service) | 6-10  (Total capacity 677[[15]](#footnote-15) places/ average capacity 6-15 places per centre) | Adults | Mixed (people with mental health problems intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities) | Residential, 24 hour support provided | Mixed (local authority/  Voluntary/ not for profit (NGO))[[16]](#footnote-16) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 10 years |
| Centres for family-type accommodation for children (Център за настаняване от семеен тип за деца) (residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 1,201[[17]](#footnote-17) places/ average capacity 10-20 places per centre) | Children | children with and without disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided | local authority/  NGO | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 10-15 years |
| Supervised house(Наблюдавано жилище) (residential community-based service)[[18]](#footnote-18) | 6-10  (Total capacity 104[[19]](#footnote-19) places/ average capacity 6 places per house) | Adults | Adults with and without disabilities impairment group not specified | Residential, Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 5-10 years |
| Shelter (Приют за лица) ( residential community-based service) | 30-100  (Total capacity 70 [[20]](#footnote-20) places/ average capacity 35 places per shelter) | Adults | Impairment group not specified, adults with and without disabilities | 24 hour support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government | Up to 3 months | 5-10 years |
| Shelter for children (Приют за деца) ( residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 60 places/average capacity 15 places[[21]](#footnote-21) per shelter) | children | Impairment group not specified, children with and without disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government | Up to 3 months | 5-10 years |
| Protected home (защитено жилище) (residential community-based service) | 6-10  (Total capacity – 1,061[[22]](#footnote-22), average capacity - 8-12 places per home) | Adults | Mixed (intellectual disabilities, mental health problems) | Residential, 24 hour support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 5-10 years |
| Transitional home (Преходно жилище) ( residential community-based service) | 6-10  Total capacity 100[[23]](#footnote-23) places/ average capacity 10 places per home) | Adults | Intellectual disabilities, mental health problems | Residential,Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not-for-profit  NGO) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 5-10 years |
| Transitional housing for children (Преходно жилище за деца) (residential community-based service) | Total capacity 134[[24]](#footnote-24) places/ average capacity 8 places | Children | Children at risk, intellectual disabilities, mental health problems | Residential, Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | local authority | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 5-10 years |
| Crisis centre for children victims of violence or trafficking in human beings (кризисен център за деца жертви на насилие и трафик) (residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 145[[25]](#footnote-25) places/ average capacity 10-15 places per centre) | Children | Victims of violence or trafficking in human beings with and without disabilities | Residential, 24 hours support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit NGO) | National government/Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Up to 6 months | 8 years |
| Crisis centre (кризисен център за възрастни жертви на насилие и трафик) (residential community-based service) | 6-10  (Total capacity 45 [[26]](#footnote-26) places/ average capacity 10 places per centre) | Adults | Victims of violence with and without disabilities | Residential, 24 hours support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy /NGOs | Up to 6 months | 10-15 years |
| Centre for short term accommodation (Център за временно настаняване)  (residential community-based service) | 30-100  (Total capacity 625[[27]](#footnote-27) places/ average capacity 40-50 places per centre) | Adults | Homeless people with and without disabilities/Impairment group not specified | Residential, 24 hour support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Up to 3 months | 10-15 years |
| Social centers for vocational training (социално учебно-професионален център) | 30-100  (Total capacity 447 [[28]](#footnote-28) places/ average capacity 60-65 places per centre) | Children and Adults (aged 14 to 35) | Intellectual, mental health problems and sensory disabilities | Residential, Daytime support provided, no night time staffing but the services are residential | National and local authority/  NGO | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Over 2 years | 10-50 years |
| Mother and baby units (Звено майка и бебе)  (residential community-based service) | 6-10  (Total capacity 75[[29]](#footnote-29) places/ average capacity 7-8 places per unit) | Mothers with babies | Children and mothers at risk with and without disabilities | Residential,24 hour support provided | Mixed (local authority/not for profit NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Up to 6 months | 5-10 years |
| Center for Public Support (Център за обществена подкрепа)  (not residential community-based service) | 30-100  (Total capacity 4,037[[30]](#footnote-30)p laces/ average capacity 30-60 people serviced in each) | Adults and children | Adults and Children with and without disabilities at risk | Daytime support provided, mainly consultation and therapeutic work | Mixed (local authority/not for profit NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | 3 months up to 1 year | 5-10 years |
| Center for work with children from the street (Център за работа с деца на улицата) ( not residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 231[[31]](#footnote-31) places/ average capacity 18 places per centre) | Children | Children with and without disabilities at risk | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not for profit NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 5-10 years |
| Centre for social rehabilitation and integration (Център за социална рехабилитация и интеграция) (not residential community-based service) | 30-100  (Total capacity 2,277[[32]](#footnote-32) places/ average capacity 30 - 40 places per centre) | Adults | Mixed (intellectual disabilities, mental health problems , physical disabilities) | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not for profit NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 10-15 years |
| Centre for social rehabilitation and integration for children (Център за социална рехабилитация и интеграция за деца)  (not residential community-based service) | 30-100  (Total capacity 1,205[[33]](#footnote-33) places/ average capacity 30 – 40 places per centre) | Children | Mixed (Intellectual disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities) | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 10-15 years |
| Day care centre for old people (Дневен център за стари хора)  (not residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 1,304[[34]](#footnote-34) places/ average capacity 20-30 places per centre) | Old people | Old people with and without disabilities | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not for profit NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 10-15 years |
| Day care centre for children with disabilities (Дневен център за деца с увреждания)  (not residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 1,947[[35]](#footnote-35) places/ average capacity 20-30 places per centre) | Children | Mixed (Intellectual, mental health problems, physical disabilities) | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | local authority/  NGO | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 10-15 years |
| Day care center for adults with disabilities (Дневен център за възрастни хора с увреждания)  (not residential community-based service) | 11-30  (Total capacity 1,740[[36]](#footnote-36) places/ average capacity 20-30 places per centre) | Adults | Mixed (Intellectual disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities) | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | local authority/  NGO | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 10-15 years |
| Day centre for children and adults with disabilities (Дневен център за деца и възрaстни с увреждания)  (not residential community-based service) | 30-100  (Total capacity 358[[37]](#footnote-37)/average capacity 50 places per centre) | Children and adults | Mixed (Intellectual disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities) | Daytime support provided, no night time staffing | Mixed (local authority/not for profit  NGO) | National government/ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy | Mixed lengths of admission | 10-15 years |
| Psychiatric hospitals (Психиатрични болници) | Over 100  (Total capacity 2,465[[38]](#footnote-38)/average capacity 200 per hospital) | Children and adults | Mental health problems | 24 hour support provided | National authority/  Ministry of Health | National government/Ministry of Health | Mixed lengths of admission | Over 50 years |
| Special boarding school for children with intellectual disabilities (Помощни училища за деца с умствена изостаналост) | 30-100  (Total capacity 3,376[[39]](#footnote-39)/average capacity 70 places per school) | Children aged 7 to 16 | Intellectual disabilities, mixed types of disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided for 9 months of the year | National authority/Ministry of Education and Science | Ministry of Education and Science | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| Recreation boarding school (Оздравителни училища) | 30-100  (Total capacity 519[[40]](#footnote-40)/average capacity 65 per school) | Children aged 7 to 16 | Chronic health conditions/ disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided for 9 months of the year | National authority/Ministry of Education and Science | Ministry of Education and Science | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |
| School for children with deviant behaviour (Училища за ученици с девиантно поведение) | 30-100  (Total capacity 338[[41]](#footnote-41)/average capacity 42 per school) | Children aged 7 to 14 | Children with deviant behavior with and without disabilities | Residential, 24 hour support provided  for 9 months of the year | National authority/Ministry of Education and Science | Ministry of Education and Science | Over 2 years | Over 50 years |

**Table 2: data sources**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TITLE/ REFERENCE** | **ORGANISATION COLLECTING DATA** | **YEAR OF DATA COLLECTION** | **PERIOD COVERED BY THE DATA** | **METHODOLODY FOR DATA COLLECTION** | **GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF DATA COLLECTION** | **SERVICE SCOPE OF DATA COLLECTION** |
| **Please include: title of the survey, data set, study, report, administrative document etc, including full reference with URL if available** | **Name of organisation/ institution that collected the data.**  **Type of organisation e.g. government ministry, local authority, national statistical office academia, NGO** | **Year when data was collected** | **Time period covered by the data/ report** | **Desk research, questionnaire, visits to institutions, design, sampling, administrative data** | **Local authority area, region, federal state, national** | **Services for people with mental health problems, services for people with intellectual disabilities, services for older people, services for children, large residential homes etc** |
| Annual report of the Activity of the Social Assistance Agency for 2013 (*Годишен отчет за дейността на Агенцията за социално подпомагане за 2013)*, available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf> | The Social Assistance Agency | 2013 | 1 January -31 December 2013 | Administrative data | National | Children, adults and older people with mixed disabilities |
| 2007 Annual Report, Human Rights in Bulgaria, available at: <http://www.bghelsinki.org/media/uploads/annual_reports/2007-en.pdf> | Bulgarian Helsinki Committee | 2007 | 1January – 31 December 2007 | Desk Research and Questionnaire and Visits | National | Children and adults with intellectual disabilities and adults with mental health problems |
| Number of children raised in institutions ([Брой деца, отглеждани в специализирани институции към 31 декември в сравнителен план 2001 -2012 г.](http://sacp.government.bg/media/cms_page_media/23/DECA%20V%20INSTITUCII%2001-12_2.doc))  Homeless children – shelters, day care centers, and homes for short term accommodation – up to 31.12.2012, available at <http://www.sacp.government.bg/programi-dokladi/statistika/> | State Agency for Child Protection | 2001-2012 | 2001-2012 | Administrative data | National | Children with disabilities |
| Medical care and nursing homes for children (Домове за медико-социални грижи за деца) available at:<http://www.nsi.bg/bg/content/3340/%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BCe%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE-%D1%81%D0%BE%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B6%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%86%D0%B0> | National Statistical Institute | 2001-2013 | 2001-2013 | Administrative data | National | Children with disabilities |
| Crisis centres for children in Bulgaria for 2013 (Кризисните центрове за деца в България през 2013) , available at:<http://www.bghelsinki.org/>media/uploads/documents/reports/special/2014-krizisni\_centrove.2013.pdf | Bulgarian Helsinki Committee | 2013 | 2013 | Desk Research and fieldwork research (consisting of visits on spot, reviewing documents about the placement of the children and individual interviews of staff and residents) in all crisis centres | National | Children with and without disabilities |
| Letter (dated 09 March 2012) from the Minister of Education and science about information for the preschool and school education (писмо от 9 март 2012 от министъра на образованието и науката относно предучилищно и училищно образование), available at: <http://www.parliament.bg/pub/cW/20120327052437DOC270312-005.pdf>. | Ministry of Education and Science | 2012 | 2011 | Administrative data | National | Children with disabilities |

# Overview of community-based services for persons with disabilities (2015)

**Table 3: community-based services for persons with disabilities**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of community-based service**  *Please provide the name of the type of service in the national language and a translation into English*  *Please indicate if the types of services presented below are given a different name in your country* | **Yes/ No**  *Please indicate if this type of service is available in your country* | **Profile of the users**   * *age (children, adults or older persons)* * *type of disability (physical disability, intellectual disability, psycho-social disability, deaf or hard of hearing, blind)* | **Explanatory information**  *For each type of service, please provide a short description of:*   * *the type and level (i.e. 24 hour, daytime, weekends, etc.) of support the service provides;* * *location of the service (i.e. city, town, rural areas);* * *who is eligible for the service* * *who is typically the provider and funder of services (i.e. national government, local government, municipality, NGO, private company, etc.)?* | **Extent to which support is self-directed**  *For each type of service, please provide information about the extent to which users control the support provided. Can individuals using the service:*   * *recruit and manage staff providing support;* * *determine the activities for which support is needed;* * *determine how the budget for services and supports is used;* * *choose types of equipment and adaptations to meet their needs?* | **If data are available, please specify number of services operating in the country and the number of users**  *Please provide a full reference for this data, including information about the period covered by the data.*  *Please indicate, if data is available, if there has been decrease / increase in the last five years* |
| **Direct payments / personal budgets/individual budget**  (cash payment enabling service users to employ personal assistants or freely choose using various service providers) | No | - | - | - | - |
| ‘**Personal assistant’** (*личeн асистент*) - provided under the National Programme Assistants for People with Disabilities.  The aim of the service is to provide employment for unemployed people in order to relieve the situation of families with a person with disabilities who needs constant care.[[42]](#footnote-42) |  | Personal assistant service users can only be:  - Children under the age of 18 with permanently reduced work capacity or type and level of disability that requires for them to have assistance;  - Children or adults leaving an institution for people with disabilities;  - Adults of low socio-economic status with 90 % and above reduced work capacity or type and level of disability that requires for them to have assistance. [[43]](#footnote-43) | 24-hour service. Provided both in cities and rural areas. It is particularly important for rural areas, small towns and villages where there are few or no other CBSs.[[44]](#footnote-44)  Providers can be municipalities, NGOs and private companies registered with the Social Assistance Agency, and the Regional Directorates of the Social Assistance Agency.[[45]](#footnote-45) | The ‘personal assistant’ service requires that the user’s will and preferences are established in advance and included in the user’s personal plan and taken into consideration by the provider.[[46]](#footnote-46) The plan is written in plain language comprehensible to the user.[[47]](#footnote-47) The user has the right to make a justified and reasoned request for their personal assistant to be changed.[[48]](#footnote-48) The personal assistant is necessarily an unemployed relative of the user. The methodology provides for one exception – caregivers do not necessarily need to be relatives if the beneficiary is an adult or child with disabilities leaving institutional care.[[49]](#footnote-49) Thus, the user is limited to choose their personal assistant and the extent to which the service is self-directed depends on the relationship between the user and the carer. | There are currently 2,639 adult users and 1,001 children users.[[50]](#footnote-50)  The waiting lists for personal assistance services are long due to the lack of sufficient funding for personal assistance services to meet the needs of people with disabilities throughout the country.[[51]](#footnote-51) |
| **‘Social assistant’** (*социален асистент*) - provided under the National Programme Assistants for People with Disabilities. A type of personal assistance. The aim of the service is to provide employment to unemployed people to meet the daily needs of people with disabilities and severely ill people living alone, including organising activities for their social inclusion.[[52]](#footnote-52) |  | People with disabilities eligible to apply for the Social assistant service are people with 90 % or above type and level of disability, who require assistance, children up to the age of 18 with permanently reduced work capacity, who require assistance, severely ill people living alone who experience difficulties taking care of themselves, or adults or children with disabilities leaving institutional care.[[53]](#footnote-53) | 20 hours per week for people with reduced work capacity of 90 % or above who require help; 16 hours per week for children who have 50 % or more possibility for social adaptation, who require assistance; 12 hours per week for seriously ill people living alone who experience difficulties looking after themselves; 10 hours per week for adults and children leaving institutional care.[[54]](#footnote-54) Children and adults leaving institutional care users of the personal assistant service can also use a social assistant twice a week for up to 3 hours.[[55]](#footnote-55)  People with disabilities can receive additional support beyond the above-mentioned hours for which they have to pay between BGN 0.17 (€0.09) and BGN 0.34 (€0.17) per hour depending on the user’s income level.[[56]](#footnote-56)  Provided both in cities and rural areas.  Providers can be municipalities, NGOs and private companies registered with the Social Assistance Agency, and the Regional Directorates of the Social Assistance Agency.[[57]](#footnote-57) | The ‘social assistant’ service requires that the user participates in all decision-making processes concerning his/her way of life.[[58]](#footnote-58) The user’s personal plan is developed with the user’s participation. If this is not possible, the user is represented by a relative or a guardian or custodian.[[59]](#footnote-59) The plan is written in plain language comprehensible to the user.[[60]](#footnote-60) The user has the right to make a justified and reasoned request for their personal assistant to be changed.[[61]](#footnote-61) | There are no data with regard to the number of users of social assistance users due to the fact that it is not funded by the national budget. Instead, the service is project-based and funded under the ESF.[[62]](#footnote-62)  The waiting lists for personal assistance services are long due to the lack of sufficient funding for personal assistance services to meet the needs of people with disabilities throughout the country.[[63]](#footnote-63) |
| **‘Assistants for independent living’** (*асистенти за независим живот*). A type of personal assistance. This service is provided by the Sofia Municipality and is not funded out of the national budget. It is the only assistance service in Bulgaria recognised by the European Network on Independent Living as a personal assistance service.[[64]](#footnote-64) |  | The people eligible to apply are adults with disabilities, who experience difficulties in their social inclusion and looking after themselves.[[65]](#footnote-65) Children over the age of 5 with 50 % and above type and level of disability.[[66]](#footnote-66) | Provided 24 hours, up to 300 hours per month.[[67]](#footnote-67) Available only in the capital city, Sofia. Provided by Sofia municipality.  NGOs argue that personal assistance services offered in Bulgaria are not sufficient to ensure the equal participation of people with disabilities.[[68]](#footnote-68) | The user can choose their assistant and the activities for which he/she receives support.[[69]](#footnote-69)  It is uncertain to what extent the users can control the service in practice, as the care is more often than not provided by relatives of people with disabilities on whom the users are dependent. | In 2014, there were 898 users (520 adults and 378 children) and 943 assistants for independent living.[[70]](#footnote-70)  The waiting lists for personal assistance services are long due to the lack of sufficient funding for personal assistance services to meet the needs of people with disabilities in Sofia.[[71]](#footnote-71) |
| **‘Family-type residential centre for children and youth’** (*Център за настаняване от семеен тип за деца и младежи*)  A type of residential service. |  | Children between the ages of 3 and 18 and young people between the ages of 18 and 29 with different types and level of disability who cannot live in their families and need support for independent living.[[72]](#footnote-72) | 24-hour care and can be provided by the state, municipalities, NGOs or private companies.  The service is opened in towns or villages with functioning health, educational and social services and opportunities for cultural and sports activities.[[73]](#footnote-73) | The placement of children and youth takes into consideration their preferences, their age and development level, as well as the opinion of their legal representative unless it contradicts the child’s or young person’s interest.[[74]](#footnote-74) The service provision requires the child’s or young person’s active participation.[[75]](#footnote-75) | There are currently 182 family-type accommodation centres in the country, which have 796 adult users and 1,186 children users.[[76]](#footnote-76) |
| **‘Family-type residential centre for adults’** (*Център за настаняване от семеен тип за лица*)  Type of residential service. |  | Adults of different ages, genders and types and level of disability who are either leaving institutional care or at risk of institutionalisation.[[77]](#footnote-77) | 24-hour care and can be provided by the state, municipalities, NGOs or private companies.  The service is opened in towns or villages with functioning health, educational services, other CBSs and opportunities for cultural and sports activities.[[78]](#footnote-78) | The user’s personal plan is developed in accordance with their will, preferences and personal goals. [[79]](#footnote-79) The provider creates opportunities for users to freely express their opinions, to make independent decisions and to participate in discussions concerning the everyday life and rules in the centre.[[80]](#footnote-80) | There are currently 182 family-type accommodation centres in the country, which have 796 adult users and 1,186 children users.[[81]](#footnote-81) |
| **‘Transitory home’** (*преходно жилище*)  A type of residential service. | Yes. | Adults or children in risk with various types of disabilities who are preparing to leave institutional care.[[82]](#footnote-82) | 24-hour care and can be provided by the state, municipalities, NGOs or private companies. The service is provided on the territory of the institution of the care leavers, either in a separate building or in the same one.[[83]](#footnote-83) | There is no reference to self-directed support.[[84]](#footnote-84) | There are currently 38 transitional homes with 96 adult users and 109 children users.[[85]](#footnote-85) |
| ‘**Protected home’** (*защитено жилище*)  A type of residential service. |  | Adults with psychosocial disabilities, who have spent a big part of their lives in institutional care, or in exceptional cases, people, including with disabilities, at risk of institutionalisation.[[86]](#footnote-86)  There is no limitation with regard to the type of disability included in the methodology. However the document provides for the group to be accommodated in one protected home (between 6 and 10 persons) according to their needs and level of disability. | All residential services provide 24-hour care and can be provided by the state, municipalities, NGOs or private companies.  4) The service is provided in houses or flats in smaller or bigger towns and villages.[[87]](#footnote-87) | The Methodology recommends that the service users are stimulated as co-authors of their personal development plans in order to regain their confidence and to feel secure in a supportive environment. [[88]](#footnote-88) | There are currently 124 protected homes with 1,051 users.[[89]](#footnote-89) |
| ‘**Monitored home’** (*наблюдавано жилище*)  A type of residential service. |  | Young adults leaving institutional care, transitional home or protected home and are preparing to live an independent life.[[90]](#footnote-90) | 24-hour care. The service can be provided by the state, municipalities, NGOs or private companies.  The service is provided in houses or flats in smaller or bigger towns and villages.[[91]](#footnote-91) | There is no reference to self-directed support.[[92]](#footnote-92) | There are 19 Monitored homes with 75 users .[[93]](#footnote-93) |
| **Residential services - additional comments:** According to NGOs, the only difference between institutions and community-based residential services are the smaller groups and the better material conditions.[[94]](#footnote-94) Despite the standards and methodologies, in practice the majority of service-users remain dependent, isolated and socially excluded.[[95]](#footnote-95) In particular, in the cases where the legal representative of the child or young person is the director of the CBS, there is no representative of the child or young person outside of the service to ensure that the rights and best interest of the child or young person are guaranteed in practice.[[96]](#footnote-96)  In addition, human rights organisations have observed that there is lack of spaces in the new services, and there are long waiting lists. The rate of closing down of institutions is not followed by the rate of opening of community-based services.[[97]](#footnote-97) Methodologies for CBSs for adults with disabilities do not present the social services as activities aiming to support people with disabilities’ possibilities to lead an independent life, but rather as institutions offering a set of pre-determined activities.[[98]](#footnote-98) The methodologies of residential community-based services for adults do not provide for possibilities to the users to choose activities and services.[[99]](#footnote-99) In practice, there are often no activities that develop users’ independent living skills.[[100]](#footnote-100) Most activities take place within the building where the service is provided, which is a precondition for continuing social isolation.[[101]](#footnote-101) Finally, the residential CBSs for children also tend to be separate services rather than support the children’s access to general services.[[102]](#footnote-102) | | | | | |
| **Home care service** (*домашен социален патронаж*). This service is provided to people over the age of 65 and people with disabilities who experience difficulties to organise their daily lives alone or with the help of relatives.[[103]](#footnote-103) It includes food delivery, monitoring of the health condition and help with receiving medical care, cleaning, provision of heating materials, repair work, provision of clothes, shoes and bedding, leisure-time activities, purchase of food and other necessary goods paid by the users, administrative, financial and legal services.[[104]](#footnote-104) | Yes. | Provided to people over the age of 65 and people with first and second degree disabilities who experience difficulties in organising their daily lives alone or with the help of relatives. [[105]](#footnote-105) | It is a daytime service, provided in cities and rural areas by municipalities, NGOs or private companies. | There is no information regarding the extent, to which the service can be self-directed. Given that the service is not funded out of the national budget (delegated service), there is no methodology developed by the Social Assistance Agency (SAA) (*Агенция за социално подпомагане*, АСП) regulating the provision of the service. | There are no data with regard to the number of users of home care service due to the fact that it is not funded by the national budget. Instead, the service is project-based and funded under the ESF.[[106]](#footnote-106) |
| **Day care centre for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities** (*дневен център за деца и младежи с умствени и физически увреждания*) |  | Children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. | The services are daytime, provided in bigger towns by municipalities, NGOs and private companies. | There are no provisions or guidelines regulating to what extent the support is self-directed. | There are 200 day care centres in Bulgaria with 3,073 adult users and 2,302 children users.[[107]](#footnote-107) |
| **Social rehabilitation and integration centre for children and adults** *(център за социална рехабилитация и интеграция за деца и възрастни)*  A type of day-care centre. |  | Children and adults with various types and degrees of disabilities.[[108]](#footnote-108) | The services are daytime, provided in bigger towns by municipalities, NGOs and private companies.[[109]](#footnote-109) | The user’s personal plan is drafted with the user’s participation, where this is possible and appropriate. [[110]](#footnote-110) | There are currently 42 social rehabilitation and integration centres in the country with 2,735 adult and 1,408 children users. [[111]](#footnote-111) |
| **Community support centre** *(център за обществена подкрепа)*  A type of day care centre. |  | Families and their children at risk of institutionalisation.[[112]](#footnote-112) | The services are daytime, provided in bigger towns by municipalities, NGOs and private companies. [[113]](#footnote-113) | The service-users have the right to choose and direct the services they receive, including the service-provider.[[114]](#footnote-114) | There are currently 106 centres for community support with 5,207 children users. [[115]](#footnote-115) |
| **Day-care centres – general comments:** There is lack of services for children with disabilities living in small towns and villages in the country as well as transport links to the regional cities.[[116]](#footnote-116) Moreover, 10 of the existing day-care centres provide week-care for children and adults with disabilities.[[117]](#footnote-117) | | | | | |
| **Family support / Respite care**  (provides supports to carers in their caring role and allows them to have a break, may be formal or informal, and may be provided in the home or out of the home) | No | - | - | - | - |
| **Foster care** (where children are placed in the domestic environment of a family that is not their own) | Yes | Children who temporarily cannot or should not live with their parents, including children whose parents cannot provide adequate care and children and newborn at risk of institutionalisation.[[118]](#footnote-118) | The service can be provided by municipalities, Social Assistance Directorates, NGOs and private companies.[[119]](#footnote-119) | - | In March 2015, there were 2,304 children in foster care. The overall number of foster families is 2,362.[[120]](#footnote-120)  There is no disability disaggregated data in relation to foster care.  Children with disabilities are one of the five priority groups for foster care. The service is also available for children with disabilities accommodated in institutions. |
| **Informal support**  (help provided by another person close to the user - family members, relatives and friends - without any official forms of support) | Non-institutional care and support for people with disabilities in Bulgaria is provided informally and most often by family members. | - | - | - | - |
| **Peer support/counselling** (provided by non-professionals with the counsellor and the client having equal status, and sharing experience and assistance in gaining independence and self-confidence) | No | - | - | - | - |
| **Circles of support**  (informal group of people close to the user to whom she/he can turn for support) | No |  |  |  |  |
| **Crisis intervention and emergency services**  (various activities aimed at supporting an individual or a family to overcome a  difficult situation, for example,: individual and family counselling, crisis resolution teams (usually rapid support for people living in the community who are experiencing  a mental health crisis) and emergency foster care where children at risk of neglect or abuse) | Yes | Foster care can be provided as an emergency measure to children at high risk.[[121]](#footnote-121) Crisis centres are also available to children and women victims of domestic abuse and trafficking.[[122]](#footnote-122) | - | - | There are currently 20 crisis centres, with 44 adult users and 106 children users.[[123]](#footnote-123) There are no disability-disaggregated data.  In March 2015, there were 2,304 children in foster care. The overall number of foster families is 2,362.[[124]](#footnote-124) |
| **Befriending**  (service provided by trained volunteers to help overcome isolation and enable full involvement in the community and social life) | No | - | - | - | - |

1. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане)), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.15, available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. All data about the capacities in the 2013 Annual report of the Social Assistance Agency, quoted in this research concern the period 1 January-31 December 2013. All hyperlinks were accessed in August 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.15, available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.15. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.15. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Bulgaria, National Statistical Institute (Национален статистически институт), statistics available at <http://www.nsi.bg/bg/content/3340/%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BCe%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE-%D1%81%D0%BE%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B6%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%86%D0%B0>. The capacity as of 31 December 2013 was 2,258. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.16. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>.

   Bulgaria, National Statistical Institute (Национален статистически институт). In 2008 the total capacity was 2,771, in 2009 – 2,681, in 2010 – 2,455, in 2011 – 2,319, in 2012 – 2,087, in 2013 – 2,258 children, available at: <http://www.nsi.bg/bg/content/3340/%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B5-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BCe%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%BE-%D1%81%D0%BE%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B6%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D1%86%D0%B0>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.17, available at <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.20 available at <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Private donors sometimes are foundations, sometimes the residents or their relatives donate money. There is not any publicly available information about this. However, the main funding authority is the state. There are completely private homes for old people funded only by their pensions. But it is not clear whether the social assistance agency counts them in its annual reports. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21-22. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Some of these services are managed by the municipality and funded by the state through the municipality, others are outsourced by the municipality to ngos that manage them and receive the same funding from the municipality. Voluntary services are not provided by ngos in the sense that people with disabilities use them without payment. Ngos work with people with disabilities when the state funds them. Adult clients pay fees from their disability pensions for the use of the services. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.14. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Not intended to be a service for people with disabilities, but used by both people with disabilities and people without disabilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p,21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане),, 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.14. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане),, 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане),, 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.14. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.14. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>.

    Bulgaria, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, The Crisis Centres for Children in Bulgaria in 2013, (*Кризисните центрове за деца в България през 2013г*.), p.6, available at <http://www.bghelsinki.org/media/uploads/documents/reports/special/2014-krizisni_centrove.2013.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане), 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.21. available at: <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Bulgaria, Social Assistance Agency (Агенция за социално подпомагане),, 2013 Annual Report (*Годишен отчет за дейността на АСП, 2013*), p.14. available at : <http://www.asp.government.bg/ASP_Files/APP/GODISHEN%20OTCHET%20ASP%20-%202013-.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
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