The impact of digitalisation on 21st century families
8 November 2016

Frank Sioen
Advocacy Officer
European Network on Independent Living - ENIL
Overview

1. What is Independent Living
2. Technology for Independent Living
3. Technology as a risk for Independent Living
4. The role of the European Union (EU)
What is Independent Living
European Network on Independent Living

- Started in Strasbourg in 1989, with 80 persons from 20 countries
- Forum for independent living organisations and allies
- Europe-wide network of disabled people
- Cross-disability organisation
- Freedom Drive
Adolf Ratzka’s Definition of Independent Living:

“Independent Living is having the same range of options and same degree of self-determination that people without a disability take for granted.”

➤ The right to make choices and have control over your own life
Technology and Independent Living
Choice and control

• The person should make the decisions not the technology
Co-production

- Disabled persons have to be involved in the development and marketing of products
- → Useful and useable products.
Design for all
Technology a risk for Independent Living
Robots as cheap and easy option

- Technology can never replace only complement personal human assistants
Privacy

• Common issue is for many new technologies
• Choice and control
Availability

• Design for all
• A Human Right (art. 4, 9 and 20 UN CRPD)
  – However even basic assistive devices are still not available to all.
The role of the European Union
Privacy Legislation

• Go beyond informed consent
• The user should be:
  – In control of which data are collected
  – Aware by who the data will be processed
• When certain data are not essential for the provision of a service the refusal to share those date should not limit the usability of the service
The European Accessibility Act

• Huge potential

• Proposed in December 2015 and now going through the Council and European Parliament

• Goal: to put in place common accessibility requirements for certain key products and services

• Easier to buy accessible products and services across Europe
• Work to be done:
  – Products and services covered not logical
    • PC but no keyboards
    • Ticketing machines but not the bus
  – built environment not covered (an accessible ATM is great,...)
• To unlock the full potential of the European Accessibility Act:
  – The Act should focus more on the implementation of the UN CRPD
  – The scope of Act should be expanded and also include built environment and transport
  – The importance of Design for all should be emphasized more clearly
• → potential is there now make sure we realise it
Thank you!

ENIL
www.enil.eu
frank.sioen@enil.eu

ENIL Brussels Office
Mundo J, Rue de l’Industrie 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: 0032 (0)2 893 25 83