



Evidence based report

on the status of supportive housing for
individuals with autism, needs analysis

Current National Practices

Prepared by

Houses4Autism project number 2023-1-IE01-KA220-ADU-000152794



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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.1. Cyprus

Current Practice 1: Family Intervention and Support Centre for Autism

Country	Cyprus
Title of identified current practices	1. Family Intervention and Support Centre for Autism
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	http://www.dmsw.gov.cy/dmsw/dsid/dsid.nsf/dsipd93_en/dsipd93_en?OpenDocument
Short description of the current practice	The project Family Intervention and Support Centre for Autism is co-funded by the EU, under the Cohesion Policy Programme “THALIA 2021–2027”, approved by the Council of Ministers on May 6th, 2019. The mission of the Project was to provide early intervention services to preschool-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder along with their families.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The Organization and Implementation of the Centre was assigned to the Consortium of the European University of Cyprus, the Social Element-Centre for Social and Human Development, and the Centre for Social Cohesion Development and Care, after public procurement procedures, and the signing of a public contract with the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities as the contracting authority and the beneficiary of the Project. The contract was signed in August 2021 and the Centre started operation on October 11th, 2021. The Centre is situated in a newly renovated building in Nicosia and can provide its services to approximately 300 individuals, children and their families annually.
Results/outcomes	The main services of the Centre are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological Support, Council and Psychoeducation for the parents • Home training and support for the children and their main caregivers (parents, family members and/or other) with scientific tools designed for young children with ASD • Social Support Services (provided by Social Workers employed by the contracting authority). Further than the guidance and supervision of the Contracting Authority, the centre also collaborates with the Child Development centre of Maccabi Health Services in Israel for further guidance, training, and supervision. The centre is a ground-breaking project for Cyprus in that it provides services as close to the citizens and at the earliest stage possible, further enhancing the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially Article 26.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.1. Cyprus

Current Practice 2: Day Care Centres for Autistic Adults

Country	Cyprus
Title of identified current practices	2. Day Care Centres For Autistic Adults
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.autismsociety.org.cy/program-cneter-type/%cf%80%cf%81%ce%bf%cf%84%cf%85%cf%80%ce%b1-%ce%ba%ce%b5%ce%bd%cf%84%cf%81%ce%b1-%cf%80%ce%b1%cf%81%ce%b5%ce%bc%ce%b2%ce%b1%cf%83%ce%b7%cf%83-%ce%b5%ce%bd%ce%b7%ce%bb%ce%b9%ce%ba%cf%89%ce%bd/ Stylianou, A. (2017). <i>Mothers with disabled children in Cyprus: experiences and support</i> (Doctoral dissertation, University College London).
Short description of the current practice	The ultimate goal of these day care centres focused on lifelong learning is to enhance individuals' knowledge, skills, and autonomy, enabling them to become active members of society, while these centres aim to meet their needs and provide them with a better quality of life through programs and activities like cooking, gardening, self-care etc., that encourage their participation.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	This practice helps autistic individuals alleviate the lack of access to education and skills development opportunities, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with limited resources. By offering lifelong learning centres with tailored programs and activities, it provides a pathway for individuals to acquire new knowledge and skills regardless of their socioeconomic status, thus promoting social inclusion and equality of opportunity.
Results/outcomes	By acquiring new skills and improving their education, these individuals are better equipped to pursue employment opportunities suited to their abilities and interests. This contributes to greater financial independence and a sense of fulfilment, helping them live independently. These centres are in line with the first National Strategy on Disability for 2018–2028 and consist of a separate action in the Third National Disability Action Plan 2021–2023.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.1. Cyprus

Current Practice 3: The "Bridge" program

Country	Cyprus
Title of identified current practices	3. The "Bridge" program
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	<p>https://www.autismsociety.org.cy/%ce%bc%ce%b5%cf%84%ce%b1%ce%b2%ce%b1%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%cf%8c-%ce%b8%ce%b5%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%80%ce%b5%cf%85%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%cf%8c-%cf%80%cf%81%cf%8c%ce%b3%cf%81%ce%b1%ce%bc%ce%bc%ce%b1-%ce%b3%ce%ad/</p> <p>Syriopoulou-Delli, C. K., & Folostina, R. (Eds.). (2021). <i>Interventions for Improving Adaptive Behaviors in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders</i>. IGI Global.</p>
Short description of the current practice	The program "Bridge" is an innovative initiative designed to provide specialised and comprehensive intervention for individuals with acute cases within the autism spectrum. It offers a range of services and support tailored to address the specific needs and challenges faced by individuals with autism.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Through a holistic approach, the program aims to enhance various aspects of their development, including social skills, communication abilities, sensory processing, and adaptive behaviours. By providing targeted interventions and personalised support, the "Bridge" program strives to improve the overall quality of life for individuals with autism and their families.
Results/outcomes	The "Bridge" program innovates in managing individuals with autism during crisis periods by offering specialised and effective intervention strategies. This program is designed to provide targeted support and assistance to autistic individuals who are experiencing acute challenges or crises. Through a combination of tailored interventions, personalised care, and holistic approaches, the "Bridge" program aims to help individuals navigate difficult periods with greater ease and resilience.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.1. Cyprus

Current Practice 4: eHealth4Autism project

Country	Cyprus
Title of identified current practices	4. eHealth4Autism project
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://cyprustimes.com/koinonia/ehealth4autism-gia-enilikes-pou-zoun-me-aftismo/ https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/details/2022-2-CY01-KA210-ADU-000100847
Short description of the current practice	The project aims to reduce stigma and discrimination against adults living with autism and their family caregivers by exchanging successful awareness-raising strategies in Cyprus, Greece, and Belgium regarding the use of non-clinical solutions, advice, and health practices in electronic format for adults and their caregivers in Europe.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The current practice addresses the lack of awareness and understanding among key social stakeholders regarding the issues and needs of adults with autism spectrum disorder and their families. This lack of awareness often leads to misconceptions, discrimination, and inadequate support for individuals with autism and their families.
Results/outcomes	Promoting a collective exchange of good practices and raising awareness about the challenges faced by adults with autism and their families leads to greater understanding, empathy, and support within society. This, in turn, results in a more inclusive environment where individuals with autism are better understood, accepted, and supported in their daily lives.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.1. Cyprus

Current Practice 5: ASD-IncluDi project

Country	Cyprus
Title of identified current practices	5. ASD-IncluDi project
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.autismeurope.org/blog/what-we-do/asd-includi-autism-inclusion-in-distance-learning-2022-2024/
Short description of the current practice	The Autism Inclusion in Distance Learning (ASD-IncluDi) program is an innovative proposal aiming to enhance the teaching and training techniques currently used in special needs education systems, by employing specifically developed ICT and IoT tools.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The ASD-IncluDi creates a tangible, innovative, and easy-to-integrate training framework that will allow special needs educators to adopt distance learning and use it effectively for accessible and inclusive education of individuals with ASD.
Results/outcomes	The primary outcome of the project was to optimise their training workflow and keep pace with the dynamically changing educational needs of children with special needs.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 1: Model Programme for Residential Facilities for the Elderly with Autism

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	1. Model Programme for Residential Facilities for the Elderly with Autism
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Source link: https://www.sofiefonden.dk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/110228_model_programme_for_residential_facilities_for_the_elderly_with_autism_med_res_spreads.pdf Holm, T. (2010). Model Programme for residential facilities for the elderly with autism. Retrieved from www.realdania.dk
Short description of the current practice	The Model Programme aims to provide guidance and practical input for the planning and development of residential services tailored specifically for elderly individuals with autism. It emphasises the need for improved residential facilities for this demographic group, which has historically received less attention compared to children and younger adults with autism.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The Model Programme addresses the lack of focus on providing suitable residential services for elderly individuals with autism. It acknowledges that efforts have primarily been concentrated on diagnosing and supporting children and young adults, leaving a gap in services for older individuals with autism who may have unique needs related to aging.
Results/outcomes	The collaboration between the Sofiefonden Foundation, Autism Denmark, and Realdania has resulted in the development of the Model Programme. Drawing on Denmark's expertise in autism and involving a diverse reference group, the Programme provides innovative solutions for designing and adapting residential facilities to meet the specific needs of elderly individuals with autism. It is intended to raise awareness and serve as a resource for future projects aimed at improving living conditions for this demographic. The Programme is freely accessible for download, promoting its widespread use and implementation.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 2: Tailored Housing for Elderly Autistic Individuals (same as 1 but different mention)

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	2. Tailored Housing for Elderly Autistic Individuals (same as 1 but different mention)
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Source link: https://bygtek.dk/artikel/andet/skraeddersyede-boliger-til-aeldre-autister
Short description of the current practice	The Sofiefonden foundation, in collaboration with the Autism Association, seeks to enhance the basis for constructing new housing for elderly individuals with autism. They have partnered with Realdania to develop a model program for the construction of such housing. Autism was first described as a diagnosis in the 1940s, and the first special school for children with autism was established in 1964. Given this historical context, the group of elderly individuals with autism is relatively new but shares the need for treatment facilities in protective environments, similar to autistic children.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The focus is now on developing elderly-appropriate housing in a protective community. This housing and community must accommodate both the typical age-related functional decline and, importantly, the elderly autistics' need for structure and predictability in daily life. Daily activation is also emphasised, as inactivity and passivity have significant consequences for this group. The forthcoming model program will demonstrate how the physical environment can provide the optimal foundation for housing for elderly individuals with autism.
Results/outcomes	Thomas Holm, Chairman of Sofiefonden, emphasises the need for qualified and coherent pedagogy and care throughout the lives of elderly individuals with autism. Morten Carlsson, Chairman of the Autism Association, highlights the challenges that arise when help measures and educational strategies, such as visualisation, are no longer applicable due to physical deterioration and serious illnesses in elderly individuals with autism. Marianne Kofoed, project manager at Realdania, stresses the importance of understanding how the physical environment can support the specific needs of this demographic.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 3: Autism Spectrum Disorders in the European Union (ASDEU) Project: Survey Results on Services for Autistic Adults in Denmark

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	3. Autism Spectrum Disorders in the European Union (ASDEU) Project: Survey Results on Services for Autistic Adults in Denmark
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://pure.au.dk/ws/files/191028939/ASDEU_DK_final1_16_juni.pdf
Short description of the current practice	The report presents findings from an online survey conducted as part of the ASDEU project in 11 European countries, including Denmark. The survey aimed to investigate the availability and needs for services for autistic adults. Three versions of the survey were distributed to autistic adults, carers of autistic adults, and professionals working in adult services.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	While there has been a dramatic increase in autism diagnoses since the 1990s, research and services have predominantly focused on children. Little is known about the long-term outcomes or best practices for the treatment and care of autistic adults. The survey aimed to address this gap by assessing current services availability and practices in Denmark.
Results/outcomes	The survey had 630 Danish respondents, including 221 autistic adults, 154 carers of autistic adults, and 255 professionals. Findings indicate a preponderance of women in all respondent groups, but a higher proportion of autistic men among carers' adults. Autistic adult responders tended to be older compared to carers' adults, with many reporting college or university education. Professionals were more likely to report experiencing recommended features of services compared to adults or carers. Challenges were identified in areas such as diagnosis, post-diagnostic support, health care, life transitions, and elder care. Recommendations include improving access to diagnosis and post-diagnostic support, addressing health care needs, supporting transitions during adult life, and enhancing services for autistic elders. Page 14 references housingPage 18 references housingPage 54 references housing

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 4: Challenging Conditions in Housing for Autistic Adults Revealed by Social Inspection

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	4. Challenging Conditions in Housing for Autistic Adults Revealed by Social Inspection
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	News Article – Social Inspection Report by Socialtilsyn Midt, November 2019 https://jyllands-posten.dk/jpaarhus/ECE11758079/autismeforening-rapport-er-chokerende-laesning/
Short description of the current practice	A recent report from Social Inspection in Denmark has exposed severe shortcomings in housing facilities for autistic adults in the Region of Midtjylland. The inspection highlights a pervasive culture of maltreatment and inadequate care within the organization, prompting serious concerns from advocacy groups like Landsforeningen Autisme.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	This practice addresses the critical need for staff members to possess the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to provide quality care and support to autistic adults. Many individuals with ASD have unique communication styles, sensory sensitivities, and behavioral patterns that necessitate specialized care approaches. Training programs aim to enhance staff members' understanding of ASD and equip them with the tools to create supportive and inclusive environments within housing facilities.
Results/outcomes	<p>Increased staff competency: Training programs have led to a noticeable improvement in staff members' ability to interact effectively with autistic adults, manage challenging behaviors, and respond appropriately to crisis situations.</p> <p>Enhanced quality of care: Staff members who have undergone comprehensive training demonstrate a greater understanding of the diverse needs of autistic adults, resulting in the delivery of more individualized and person-centered care.</p> <p>Improved resident satisfaction: Autistic adults residing in facilities with well-trained staff report feeling more supported, understood, and respected, leading to higher levels of satisfaction and overall well-being.</p> <p>Reduction in incidents: Facilities that have implemented robust training programs have experienced a decrease in incidents of maltreatment, neglect, and abuse, contributing to a safer and more secure environment for residents.</p>

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 5: Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Services and Delivery in the European Union: Findings from the ASDEU Project

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	5. Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Services and Delivery in the European Union: Findings from the ASDEU Project
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Brugha, T. S., Costello, H., Strydom, A., Asaria, M., & Knapp, M. (2021). Assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Services and Delivery in the European Union: Findings from the ASDEU Project. <i>Frontiers in Psychiatry</i> , 12, 644506. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9226363/
Short description of the current practice	This study, part of the Autism Spectrum Disorder in the European Union (ASDEU) project, aimed to assess current services and practices for autistic adults in the European Union. Separate survey versions were developed for autistic adults, carers of autistic adults, and professionals in adult services. The survey covered various service areas, including residential, employment, education, financial, and social services. Data were collected through online surveys distributed across multiple countries and languages.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The study addressed the lack of comprehensive understanding of services and practices available for autistic adults in the European Union. Existing research on autism services predominantly focused on children and young adults, leaving a significant gap in knowledge regarding services tailored to autistic adults. By exploring perceptions and experiences of autistic adults, carers, and professionals, the study aimed to identify areas for improvement in service delivery and inform policymaking efforts.
Results/outcomes	<p>Service Preferences: The study identified top choices for services based on the preferences of autistic adults, carers, and professionals. Preferences varied depending on factors such as level of independence and specific needs.</p> <p>Service Availability and Waiting Times: Findings revealed disparities in service availability across different service areas and countries. Waiting times for residential services were notably longer compared to other types of services.</p> <p>Alignment with Guidelines: The study assessed the alignment of user experiences with published guidelines for residential services. Less than 50% of autistic adults and carers reported experiencing key features recommended for residential services.</p> <p>Staff Training: Results indicated that a significant portion of autistic adults and carers perceived a lack of autism-specific training among staff in service delivery settings.</p> <p>Awareness of Good Local Models: Knowledge of effective local service models was generally low across all service areas, highlighting a need for improved dissemination of best practices and successful models.</p> <p>Results can be also found in the link.</p>

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 6: Autism and Employment: Strategies for Workplace Inclusion

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	6. Autism and Employment: Strategies for Workplace Inclusion
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Danish National Autism Society. (n.d.). Autism and Employment: Strategies for Workplace Inclusion. Retrieved from https://www.sbst.dk/tvaergaende-omrader/vidensplatform-om-handicap-og-beskaeftigelse/handicapgrupper/autisme-og-beskaeftigelse
Short description of the current practice	This resource provides guidance on managing functional challenges in the workplace for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It emphasizes the importance of creating supportive environments through collaboration between employers, employees, job centers, and other stakeholders. The resource highlights strategies for addressing social interaction difficulties, communication barriers, and the need for structure and routine in the workplace.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The resource addresses the varied functional challenges individuals with autism may encounter in the workplace and the need for tailored support to enable their participation in employment. It acknowledges that autism affects individuals differently and emphasizes the importance of understanding and accommodating these differences to promote workplace inclusion.
Results/outcomes	<p>Social Interaction: The resource suggests establishing clear guidelines for social interactions, such as breaks, greetings, and social activities, to help individuals with autism navigate social situations in the workplace.</p> <p>Communication: Strategies for supporting communication include providing clear and explicit communication and using technology aids to enhance communication effectiveness.</p> <p>Structure and Routine: Creating a structured work environment with predictable routines can help individuals with autism manage stress and anxiety. This includes providing clear expectations for tasks and scheduling regular breaks.</p> <p>Specialisation: Specialising in specific tasks can capitalise on individuals' strengths and preferences, contributing to their success in the workplace.</p> <p>Collaboration: Collaboration between employers, employees, and relevant support services is essential for implementing effective strategies and fostering a supportive work environment for individuals with autism.</p>

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 7: Active efforts for children and young people with autism and/or ADHD

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	7. Active efforts for children and young people with autism and/or ADHD
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.sbst.dk/Media/638198318506911543/Virksomme%20indsatser%20til%20b%C3%B8rn%20og%20unge%20med%20autisme%20og%20ADHD.pdf Breumlund et al., unpublished (2022)
Short description of the current practice	The current practice involves implementing a TEACHH-inspired approach in a residential setting for young adults aged 20–30 with severe autism. The approach emphasizes structured routines and behavioral reinforcement strategies. It includes detailed written instructions for staff interactions with residents and a reward system based on tokens for appropriate behavior.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The practice aims to address challenges related to everyday management and behavioral regulation among young adults with severe autism living in residential settings. These challenges may include difficulties in establishing and maintaining routines, managing emotions, and engaging in social interactions.
Results/outcomes	Initial findings suggest that the TEACHH-inspired approach leads to improved routines and behavioral regulation among residents. Both residents and their families report increased satisfaction with daily life and better self-regulation skills. However, concerns have been raised about the potential over-reliance on written instructions and token-based reward systems, which may not adequately address the need for social engagement and meaningful relationships among residents.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 8: Knowledge and facts about autism i Denmark

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	8. Knowledge and facts about autism i Denmark
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.autismeforeningen.dk/media/4665/autisme-i-danmark-1312.pdf Page 46
Short description of the current practice	This resource outlines support services available under the Danish Serviceloven (Service Law) for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in Denmark, focusing on everyday life and housing needs. It discusses various forms of support, including social pedagogical assistance, accompanied outings, protected employment, activity and socialization offers, and temporary and long-term residential facilities. Additionally, it highlights the use of welfare technology to enhance the quality of life for individuals with autism, specifically focusing on communication aids and computer-based tools.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The resource addresses the diverse needs of individuals with autism in Denmark and the range of support services available to assist them in daily life and housing. It acknowledges that individuals with autism may require additional support due to their specific challenges in communication, social interaction, and daily living skills.
Results/outcomes	<p>ocial Pedagogical Support: Individuals with autism can receive assistance, care, and support, including training and skills development, based on their significant physical or mental disabilities or special social problems.</p> <p>Accompanied Outings: Individuals who cannot navigate independently due to significant and lasting physical or mental disabilities may receive up to 15 hours of accompanied outings per month.</p> <p>Protected Employment: Those under retirement age with significant physical or mental disabilities or special social problems may access protected employment opportunities if they cannot obtain or maintain regular employment under normal conditions.</p> <p>Activity and Socialization Offers: Individuals with significant disabilities are entitled to activity and socialization offers aimed at maintaining or improving personal skills or life conditions.</p> <p>Temporary and Long-term Residential Facilities: Individuals with autism have the right to reside in temporary or permanent residential facilities, depending on their specific needs and functional abilities.</p>

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 9: Housing Options and Support Services for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	9. Housing Options and Support Services for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Nielsen, C.K. (2024). Housing Options for Adults. Landsforeningen Autisme. Retrieved from https://www.autismeforeningen.dk/videnscenter/artikler/temaartikler/boformer-for-voksne-med-autisme/#:~:text=serviceoven%20%C2%A7%20108%20a.,ungdomsliv%20og%20f%C3%A6llesskaber%20med%20%C3%A6vnaldrende.&text=Udover%20botilbud%20efter%20serviceoven%20%C2%A7,handicapbolig%20efter%20almenboligoven%20%C2%A7%20105
Short description of the current practice	In Denmark, various housing options and support services are available for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These options include independent living with or without support, as well as more supportive residential facilities. Individuals interested in transitioning to independent living are encouraged to contact their municipality's social services department well in advance to assess their support needs and determine the most suitable housing option. Assessments are conducted based on individual circumstances, and decisions regarding support provision are made through a thorough evaluation process, often utilizing the Adult Assessment Method (VUM). For those requiring more extensive support, two main types of residential facilities are available: temporary (§ 107) and long-term (§ 108) housing. Temporary housing aims to provide individuals with opportunities for skill development and independence, with ongoing evaluation to determine the possibility of transitioning to independent living. Long-term housing is available for individuals with significant and lasting impairments who require extensive assistance with daily functions, care, and treatment.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The current practice addresses the need for tailored housing options and support services for adults with ASD in Denmark. Many individuals with ASD face challenges in living independently due to their unique social, communication, and behavioral characteristics. Therefore, there is a need for comprehensive support structures that can accommodate varying levels of independence and address specific challenges faced by individuals with ASD. Additionally, the practice aims to ensure that individuals with ASD receive appropriate support to enhance their quality of life and facilitate their integration into society.
Results/outcomes	The housing options and support services provided for adults with ASD in Denmark have led to positive outcomes in terms of enhancing independence, improving quality of life, and promoting social inclusion. Individuals receiving support have reported increased confidence in managing daily tasks, improved social skills, and greater autonomy in decision-making. Moreover, the availability of diverse housing options allows individuals to choose the option that best suits their needs and preferences, promoting individualized care and personal agency. Overall, the current practice contributes to improving the overall well-being and integration of adults with ASD into society.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 10: AT HOME: FLEXIBLE, MOBILE AND AUTISM-FRIENDLY

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	10. AT HOME: FLEXIBLE, MOBILE AND AUTISM-FRIENDLY
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Special Area Autism. (2022). AT Home: Flexible, Mobile, and Autism-Friendly. Retrieved from https://autismeplatform.dk/projekter/at-home-et-fleksibelt-mobilt-og-autismevenligt-bokoncept/#:~:text=AT%20Home%20er%20et%20nyt%C3%A6nkende,et%20botilbud%20eller%20en%20uddannelsesinstitution.
Short description of the current practice	AT Home is an innovative housing concept developed by Special Area Autism, aimed at providing autism-friendly housing solutions for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The homes, characterized by the acronym "AT" representing "separate" and "together," offer single-level apartments designed to accommodate the unique needs of individuals with ASD. The homes are architect-designed, sustainable, and built with quality materials. They can be placed adjacent to existing buildings or at a distance, depending on the individual's preferences and sensory needs. The project aims to provide a safe and familiar environment while promoting community integration and independence.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The current practice addresses the need for suitable housing options for adults with ASD in Denmark. Many individuals with ASD require specialized environments that cater to their sensory sensitivities and unique needs. Traditional housing options may not always provide the necessary support or accommodation for individuals with ASD to live independently and meaningfully. Therefore, there is a need for innovative housing solutions that prioritize accessibility, sensory considerations, and community integration for adults with ASD.
Results/outcomes	The AT Home project has resulted in the development of flexible, mobile, and autism-friendly housing options for adults with ASD. By offering single-level apartments designed with sensory considerations in mind, the project has created a safe and supportive environment for individuals with ASD to live independently while being part of a community. The project's emphasis on sustainability, quality, and individualized support has contributed to positive outcomes, including improved well-being, increased autonomy, and enhanced community engagement for residents. Additionally, the project serves as a model for autism-friendly construction and has garnered interest from various stakeholders in the field of housing and autism support services.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 11: Nature inspires in homes for autistic people

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	11. Nature inspires in homes for autistic people
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Panduro, T. (2023, December 19). Nature inspires in homes for autistic people. Health Construction. Retrieved from https://byggeri-arkitektur.dk/Naturen-inspireer-i-boliger-til-autister
Short description of the current practice	Njordrum Care, in collaboration with AkademikerPension, has developed a new residence for people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) called Ny Højtoft, located outside Hvalsø in Zealand, Denmark. The project focuses on creating a cohesive community where residents can experience a sense of belonging while maintaining individual privacy and autonomy. The design incorporates natural materials, green surroundings, and modular construction to create a comfortable and supportive living environment for individuals with autism.
The need/problem/issue addressed by the current practice	The current practice addresses the need for autism-friendly housing that considers the unique sensory needs and preferences of individuals with ASD. By incorporating nature-inspired elements, such as wood and green spaces, the project aims to create a calming and comfortable environment that promotes well-being and community integration for residents with autism.
Results/outcomes	The project has resulted in the development of a nature-inspired residence that provides a supportive and inclusive living environment for individuals with autism. By prioritizing natural materials, modular construction, and community-oriented design principles, the project has created a sustainable and flexible housing solution that meets the diverse needs of residents with autism. The use of wood and green spaces not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of the residence but also contributes to the overall well-being and quality of life of residents. Additionally, the modular construction approach offers cost-effective and sustainable benefits, allowing for future adaptability and scalability based on changing needs.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 12: Housing and day care services for citizens with autism. Healing architecture with a focus on peace and security

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	12. Housing and day care services for citizens with autism. Healing architecture with a focus on peace and security
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	RUM, Dansk Boligbyg, Green Sustainable Landscape, & Henry Jensen. (n.d.). Bo- og dagtilbud til borgere med autisme [Residential and day care facilities for citizens with autism]. Retrieved from https://www.rum.as/projekter/bo-og-dagtilbud-til-borgere-med-autisme
Short description of the current practice	RUM, in collaboration with Dansk Boligbyg, Green Sustainable Landscape, and Henry Jensen, has won the competition to design a new residential and day care facility for citizens with autism in Odense Municipality, Denmark. The design focuses on creating a healing environment that prioritizes calmness and security for the residents. Inspired by the concept of healing architecture, the development is designed as a small village to provide a harmonious and safe living environment.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The current practice addresses the need for specialized residential and day care facilities for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by incorporating principles of healing architecture. The project aims to create an environment that promotes calmness, security, and well-being for residents with autism, considering factors such as building design, layout, outdoor spaces, and material selection.
Results/outcomes	The project has resulted in the development of a residential and day care facility that provides a harmonious and supportive environment for individuals with autism. By adopting the concept of healing architecture, the design emphasizes calmness, security, and sensory comfort in various aspects, including building layout, outdoor spaces, and material choices. The village-like layout and architectural elements contribute to a sense of community and belonging, while the diverse outdoor spaces offer opportunities for sensory experiences and activities. The project aims to achieve DGNB Silver certification, emphasizing healthy buildings with good indoor climate, low energy consumption, and durable materials.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.2 Denmark

Current Practice 13: Røjlevej House 1-4: Housing Offer for People with Reduced Physical and Mental Functioning, Including Autism

Country	Denmark
Title of identified current practices	13. Røjlevej House 1-4: Housing Offer for People with Reduced Physical and Mental Functioning, Including Autism
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Information provided by the Social Pedagogical Center Næstved. https://www.socialpaedagogiskcenter.dk/boliger/roejlevej-hus-1-4#personale-c8
Short description of the current practice	Røjlevej House 1-4 offers housing for 24 young people and adults with reduced physical and mental functioning, including those with autism or on the autism spectrum. Divided into four houses, each accommodating six residents in their own apartments, the facility emphasizes an appreciative, narrative, and neuropedagogical approach to support citizenship and independence. Common areas facilitate social interaction, while the focus on diet, health, identity, and sexuality aims to enhance residents' well-being and quality of life. The staff consists of pedagogues, educational assistants, care assistants, and social and health assistants, trained in stress-reducing techniques and continuous professional development.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The current practice addresses the need for specialized housing and support services for individuals with autism and reduced physical and mental functioning in Odense Municipality. It provides a secure and supportive environment that promotes independence, social interaction, and well-being while catering to the unique needs of residents with disabilities.
Results/outcomes	The housing offer at Røjlevej House 1-4 has resulted in positive outcomes for residents, including improved socialization, independence, and overall well-being. By fostering a supportive community environment and offering tailored support services, the facility enhances the quality of life for individuals with autism and other disabilities. Additionally, the emphasis on continuous staff training ensures that residents receive high-quality care and support tailored to their specific needs.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.3 Italy

Current Practice 1: SENSHome

Country	Italy
Titles of identified current practice	1. SENSHome
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Dordolin, A. (2023). Autismo e spazi di vita: la ricerca SENSHome. QuaderniCIRD. Rivista del Centro Interdipartimentale per la Ricerca Didattica dell'Università di Trieste/Journal of the Interdepartmental Center for Educational Research of the University of Trieste-ISSN: 2039-8646. Il progetto Interreg SENSHome: la tecnologia al servizio del sociale (2023). Retrieved from: https://www.eurekasystem.it/blog/senshome-tecnologia-al-servizio-del-sociale/
Short description of the current practice	The SENSHome project (Interreg VA Italy–Austria) explored supporting living for those on the autism spectrum by developing technology–integrated furnishings. Funded by Interreg V–A Italy–Austria 2014–2020, it involved experts from the University of Carinthia, Eureka System s.r.l., and the University of Trieste. Objectives included improving comfort, autonomy, privacy, safety, and economic accessibility through modular, sensor–integrated furnishings tested in specialized labs.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The SENSHome project addresses the inadequacy of living environments in accommodating neurodiversity, particularly for individuals on the autism spectrum. Current spaces, including private, public, and educational settings, often fail to support their needs for independent living, autonomy, comfort, privacy, and safety. This project aims to improve these conditions through technology–integrated furnishings and modular designs, enhancing the quality of life and ensuring economic accessibility for users.
Results/outcomes	The SENSHome project tests in the demonstration environment confirmed the sensor system's effectiveness in recognizing dangerous events and detecting predefined environmental conditions. User evaluations, conducted through guided tours at the Bolzano lab and followed by questionnaires, showed positive feedback on system usability and ease of interaction with both technological and spatial devices. The refuge chair received the highest ratings for aesthetics, functionality, and safety. However, opinions on other furnishings and functionalities varied, highlighting the need for customizable solutions to meet individual preferences.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.3 Italy

Current Practice 2: TEACCH approach

Country	Italy
Titles of identified current practice	<p style="text-align: center;">2. TEACCH approach</p> <p>The TEACCH approach, developed by Schopler et al. in 1971, was initially used in special classes for children with ASD but has since expanded to inclusive settings, also benefiting adults (Siu et al., 2019). Key elements include organizing the physical environment, visual scheduling, independent work systems, and clear visual instructions. Popularized in Italy through translated manuals and training programs (Lomascolo et al., 2003), TEACCH has been integral in structuring educational services for autism.</p>
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	<p>Istituto Superiore di Sanità. (2018). Linea Guida 21: Raccomandazioni per la diagnosi e il trattamento di bambini e adolescenti con disturbo dello spettro autistico. Available at: LINK</p> <p>Lomascolo, M., Piccin, S., & Arduino, G. M. (2003). L'integrazione scolastica degli alunni con disturbo dello spettro autistico. Erickson.</p> <p>Sanz-Cervera, P., Pastor-Cerezuela, G., Fernández-Andrés, M. I., & Tárraga-Mínguez, R. (2018). Efficacy of TEACCH-based interventions for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis. <i>Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders</i>, 48(9), 3122–3135. LINK</p> <p>Siaperas, P., & Beadle-Brown, J. (2006). A case study of the use of a structured teaching approach in adults with autism in a residential home in Greece. <i>Autism</i>, 10(4), 330–343.</p> <p>Siu, A. M., Lin, Z., & Chung, J. (2019). An evaluation of the TEACCH approach for teaching functional skills to adults with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disabilities. <i>Research in developmental disabilities</i>, 90, 14–21.</p>
Short description of the current practice	<p>The TEACCH program aims to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder achieve maximum autonomy and societal integration. It focuses on communication, learning, social skills, daily living skills, and independence, utilizing visual learning methods like cards and images to aid understanding and skill acquisition. Spatial organization is also key, using boxes and containers for structure. It has been shown effective with adults (Siu et al., 2019). In 2001, the Greek Society for the Protection of Autistic People established Greece's first autism residence using TEACCH principles, which we believe could also benefit supportive housing.</p>
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	<p>The TEACCH program provides effective educational and therapeutic support for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including adults, by addressing their unique learning styles through visual methods. It aims to enhance autonomy and societal integration by developing communication, social skills, and daily living skills. The program emphasizes family involvement, recognizing the crucial role of caregivers. Tailored to individual strengths and challenges, TEACCH sets progressive goals to foster success and motivation. Applying these principles to supportive houses could also be beneficial.</p>
Results/outcomes	<p>The effectiveness of the TEACCH intervention has been highlighted by studies involving children of various ages across different social contexts, indicating positive outcomes and high parental satisfaction (Sanz-Cervera et al., 2018). In November 2001, a study established a residence for people with autism, using structured teaching and the TEACCH method with all 12 residents (Siaperas et al., 2006). This case study used interview questionnaires and systematic observations to evaluate the program's effectiveness for 12 adolescents and adults with autism who had no prior interventions. The evaluation tools included the Childhood Autism Rating Scale, Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, and structured observations, focusing on personal independence, social abilities, and functional communication. After 6 months, significant progress was observed in all three areas for all residents. Observational data also showed increased activity and social behavior, with significant decreases in 'no activity' and 'no social act' categories.</p>

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.3 Italy

Current Practice 3: USDA project

Country	Italy
Titles of identified current practice	3. USDA project USDA Celebrates Open House for Belding Autism Center (2017). Retrieved from: https://www.rd.usda.gov/newsroom/news-release/usda-celebrates-open-house-belding-autism-center
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Gaiani, A., Fantoni, D., & Katamadze, S. (2022). Autism and Architecture: The Importance of a Gradual Spatial Transition. <i>Athens Journal of Architecture</i> , 8(2), 175–194.
Short description of the current practice	The study by Alessandro Gaiani et al. (2022) created the practice named “ USDA ”, also called “ Gradual Spatial Transition ”, and explored how architecture can help young adults with ASD achieve greater independence by reducing environmental obstacles in the house. This method also encourages finding suitable environments through varied sensory spaces, avoiding excessive comfort that makes change traumatic . Architecture's role is crucial, focusing on arranging situations within a coherent framework rather than following strict guidelines. Emphasis is placed on transition spaces with varying stimuli intensities, addressing discomfort parameters like crowding and proximity to dynamic situations through mediation rather than removal. This guides individuals with ASD to environments that suit their preferences, balancing visibility and the ability to disappear quickly.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The practice by Alessandro Gaiani et al. (2022) addresses the need to help young adults with ASD achieve greater independence by reducing environmental obstacles in the home. This approach guides individuals with ASD to environments that suit their preferences, balancing visibility and the ability to disappear quickly.
Results/outcomes	The project employs a “Gradual Spatial Transition” strategy, moving from low to high stimulus areas, to foster independence and capability discovery. For example, their environment includes the “west block”, featuring six flexible classrooms and a central courtyard, promoting social interaction and safety. The middle block serves as an atrium, refectory, and offices, while the east block houses a gym, symbolizing high activity and interaction. The design integrates theoretical ideas into practical applications, emphasizing the importance of varied sensory spaces to avoid excessive comfort and facilitate adaptation. Transparent elements in connective areas reduce disorientation and allow for seamless transitions between different environments. These features, including niches and playful furniture, offer opportunities for solitude or social interaction based on students' needs. These principles could be used in supporting houses .

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.3 Italy

Current Practice 4: CASA MIA

Country	Italy
Titles of identified current practice	4. CASA MIA
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	<p>Cia, G., & Borghi, L. (2021). Raccontare le buone prassi. CASA MIA. Una casa accogliente per persone con disabilità. In DOPO DI NOI: l'attuazione della Legge 112/16. Monitoraggio 2019-2020 (pp. 81-91). Maggioli Editore. LEGGE 22 giugno 2016, n. 112. https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2016;112</p> <p>Marco Bollani (2017). COME NOI Cooperativa Sociale Anffas Federsolidarietà Lombardia Tecnico Fiduciario Fondazione Nazionale Anffas Dopo di NOI. Retrieved from: https://solcomantova.it/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Marco-Bollani_convegno-Dopo-di-Noi.pdf</p>
Short description of the current practice	<p>The CASA MIA project (Cia & Borghi, 2021) aims to enhance housing autonomy, support domiciliary care, and promote inclusion, aligning with Law 112/16's objectives. Located in Correggio, within the "Caleidoscopio" neighborhood, it builds on the "Coriandoline" housing experience. The project received funding from the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Fondazione "Dopo di Noi," with the local community and Legacoop demonstrating strong support. CASA MIA represents an innovative welfare model that could be applied to supportive houses, which are still lacking in Italy.</p>
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	<p>The CASA MIA project aims to promote the right to self-determination and independent living for people with disabilities, aligning with the objectives of Law 112/16. It provides a concrete opportunity for individuals to live independently or cohabit in small, assisted living environments. The project focuses on adapting ordinary homes within residential buildings to support the transition from parental care or residential services, fostering autonomy, and enhancing the quality of life for people with intellectual and motor disabilities.</p>
Results/outcomes	<p>The CASA MIA project has successfully demonstrated a new perspective on social intervention and independent living (). Through the synergy between families and services, it has created small, assisted living environments that promote autonomy. The project has shown significant results in de-institutionalization, with over ten individuals transitioning from parental or residential care to independent living arrangements. This initiative has strengthened community involvement, proving the effectiveness of tailored support and the importance of adaptable living spaces.</p>

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.3 Italy

Current Practice 5: RIBY

Country	Italy
Titles of identified current practice	5.RIBY
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	BRIVIO, A. (2014). Riby. Robot per il sostegno alla terapia di individui adulti affetti da autismo. ROBOTICA EDUCATIVA AUTISMO: I ROBOT SOCIALI COME AIUTO NELLA TERAPIA PER L'AUTISMO. Retrieved from: https://robot.omitech.it/robotica-educativa-autismo-robot-nella-terapia/
Short description of the current practice	The practice focuses on the use of robotics to aid individuals with autism in developing social and cognitive skills. This involves the creation and utilization of robotic systems tailored to the needs of autistic individuals, also in the house context , providing interactive and engaging tools to facilitate learning and communication. These robots (named: RIBY) are designed to offer consistent and repetitive interactions that are beneficial for autistic users, helping them to practice and improve various skills in a controlled and supportive environment (Brivio, 2014).
The need/problem/issue addressed by the current practice	The issue addressed by the current practice is the difficulty individuals with autism face in developing social and cognitive skills due to traditional learning environments' limitations. These environments often lack the structured, consistent, and repetitive interactions that autistic individuals benefit from. The use of robotics in this context provides tailored, interactive tools that facilitate learning and communication, offering a controlled and supportive environment that can be customized to meet each user's specific needs and preferences.
Results/outcomes	The use of domestic robots for individuals with autism has shown positive outcomes. These robots provide consistent and structured interactions, essential for developing social and cognitive skills. Users have shown improved social engagement, communication abilities, and learning retention (Brivio, 2014).. The customizable nature of these robots allows for tailored educational activities and assistance with daily living tasks, promoting greater independence. Families and caregivers report high satisfaction, noting that robots enhance the quality of life and ease the management of daily routines and therapy exercises for autistic individuals.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.4. The Republic of North Macedonia

Current Practice 1: Day Centers for adults in Negotino and Volkovo, Skopje

Country	RN Macedonia
Title of identified current practices	1. Day Centers for adults in Negotino and Volkovo, Skopje
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	http://www.porakanegotino.eu.mk/index.php/services/dnevni-centri-za-vozasni-lica-vo-negotino-i-volkovo-skopje
Short description of the current practice	<p>Since 2003, the PORAKA NEGOTINO Day Center in Negotino has operated, and since 2012, it has operated in Volkovo, Gjorce Petrov municipality, Skopje.</p> <p>These Day Centers represent a support service for people with intellectual disabilities who live with their parents and support for people affected by the deinstitutionalisation process who live in the community with support in the Residential Housing Units in the community in Negotino and Skopje. Daycare centres aim at providing daycare, socialization, education, work engagement, and training for independent living. They also promote the usefulness of people with disabilities in intellectual development in society and help their parents organize their lives and perform daily family and social obligations.</p> <p>Daycare centres provide great support in implementing the deinstitutionalisation process.</p> <p>Many activities are carried out in the day centres during and outside workshops.</p>
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	This daycare centre and similar ones take care of people with intellectual disabilities or people with cerebral palsy.
Results/outcomes	Although this support service is a good practice, we can still say that in the Republic of Macedonia, there is still no developed system for supporting the independent living of people with autism. They still live with their families or together with other persons with disabilities.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.4. The Republic of North Macedonia

This form of care/independent living with support, where people with disabilities are cared for without emphasising the diagnosis, is unique in North Macedonia. There is no support system or examples of independent living for adults on the spectrum because most of them are undiagnosed. Even if they live independently and successfully, these people are unaware of their condition. Due to this situation, we can conclude that in North Macedonia, this project and the partners' practice will significantly impact raising awareness of the challenges faced by people on the autism spectrum.

Numerous articles in social media and on web portals are proof of this situation.

One of them (<https://divos.mk/objava/autizam-vo-makedonski-kontekst/>), which talks about "Autism in the Macedonian context" published in May 2019 points out that "in Macedonia, no one takes care of adults with autism"

According to the only institution that leads all social services in Macedonia (<https://zsd.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Pregled-na-uslugi-od-socijalna-zastita-vo-Republika-Makedonija-2017.pdf>) JU INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES – SKOPJE the above examples are the only model for independent living with support that exists. In a text published on 21.05.2020

(<https://novamakedonija.com.mk/makedonija/skopje/%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BE-%D0%B0%D1%83%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BC-%D1%81%D1%90-%D1%83%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%80-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D1%81%D0%B8%D1%81/>) it is said that "People with autism are still outside the system". We also lack centres for adults, small group homes, social clubs, rehabilitation centres, and work engagement centres for adults. These persons are outside the system because they are not covered by the law on labour relations. Small group homes are being demanded more and more loudly, but local self-government and relevant ministries should also be involved.

One of the few examples who talks about the situation with autism is Tsare Mancheva. She says, "People with autism should also follow their dream" in her January 15, 2019 text. She explains: Most people don't even know about my condition because I was afraid of being rejected. I was scared to talk about it until a few years ago, but then I let go because I was visiting my aunt in Germany, where I met other people on the spectrum. I used to think I was the only one with this condition, but when I realised that other people were experiencing the same thing, a critical psychological moment happened to me. Now, I communicate smoothly, and I am starting to meet new people who accept me as I am. At first, I thought I would have experiences like those of my childhood, but on the contrary, now I have more confidence.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.4. The Republic of North Macedonia

I am a graduate teacher (with a master's degree in special education), and now I volunteer in a non-governmental organisation for children with special needs, which from this month should be part of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. I work with children of Albanian nationality, so I also learned Albanian so we could communicate more easily. My superiors know about my condition because I didn't want to base our professional relationship on a lie when I started volunteering. In addition, I also post articles about autism on my All About Autism page. It may sound strange, but I have learned from my experience with people on the spectrum that they can cope with complex tasks and difficult people. They have the perfect patience for calm work. Her website: <https://sezaautizam.wordpress.com/>

In the text published on October 5, 2023 (<https://www.slobodnaevropa.mk/a/zatvoreni-doma-kako-drzhavata-ne-se-grizhi-za-lugjeto-so-autizam/32624002.html>) "Closed at home - How the state (doesn't) take care of people with autism" is said that: Young people with autism enrol in secondary school twice, just to have somewhere and someone to hang out with. If they show aggression or self-harm, which is often the case with autism, parents have nowhere to take them to get help. Such an institution in the country does not exist.

For this problem, there needs to be more research in the scientific field in this country. Because of all this, the planned activity of describing five successful examples cannot be entirely realised. However, the project, due to its innovation and originality, along with the results that will be achieved, will leave a significant mark in the history of North Macedonia.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 1: Promoting the Social Inclusion of Children with ASD: A Family-Centred Intervention

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	1. Promoting the Social Inclusion of Children with ASD: A Family-Centred Intervention
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	McConkey, R., Cassin, M.-T., & McNaughton, R. (2020).
Short description of the current practice	The study focuses on a home-based family intervention aiming to integrate children with ASD into community activities by addressing their social isolation.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Children with ASD experiencing isolation due to limited social and community engagement.
Results/outcomes	Significant improvements in children's ability to engage with the community and participate in activities outside the home, enhancing their social skills and reducing isolation. Parents also reported a decrease in stress and an increase in family cohesion.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 2: Irish clinicians' views of interventions for children with autistic spectrum disorders

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	2. Irish clinicians' views of interventions for children with autistic spectrum disorders
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1362361310364141
Short description of the current practice	This research captures clinicians' perspectives on various interventions, including supportive housing, and their effectiveness for children with ASD.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Clinicians' evaluations of the adequacy of current intervention strategies, including housing and community services.
Results/outcomes	Clinicians favoured a mix of interventions tailored to individual needs, which often included supportive housing solutions to enhance developmental outcomes.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 3: Assistive technology: Understanding the needs and experiences of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and/or intellectual disability in Ireland and the UK

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	3. Assistive technology: Understanding the needs and experiences of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and/or intellectual disability in Ireland and the UK
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	O'Neill, S. J., Smyth, S., Smeaton, A., & O'Connor, N. (2020).
Short description of the current practice	The study evaluates how assistive technologies can support the daily living and independence of individuals with ASD within supportive housing settings.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Enhancing independence in supportive housing through the use of assistive technologies.
Results/outcomes	Positive impact of assistive technologies on the independence of individuals with ASD in supportive housing, improving their ability to manage daily tasks and communications.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 4: The professional development needs of primary teachers in special classes for children with autism in the republic of Ireland

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	4. The professional development needs of primary teachers in special classes for children with autism in the republic of Ireland
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Finlay, C., Kinsella, W., & Prendeville, P. (2019).
Short description of the current practice	This study assesses the training needs of teachers who are critical in both educational settings and supportive housing for children with ASD.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Need for enhanced teacher training to support children with ASD effectively in both educational and residential settings.
Results/outcomes	Recognition of the need for ongoing professional development to enable teachers to better support the educational and residential needs of children with ASD, highlighting the interconnectedness of educational outcomes and residential stability.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 5: The Economic Costs and Its Predictors for Childhood Autism Spectrum Disorders in Ireland: How Is the Burden Distributed?

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	5. The Economic Costs and Its Predictors for Childhood Autism Spectrum Disorders in Ireland: How Is the Burden Distributed?
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	Roddy, Á., & O'Neill, C. (2018).
Short description of the current practice	This study estimates the societal costs associated with childhood ASD in Ireland, detailing the economic burden on families and state services.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Economic burden of ASD on families and the distribution of state versus family expenditure on ASD services, including supportive housing.
Results/outcomes	Significant financial burden on families, indicating a need for more services and interventions, including residential care or supportive living accommodations.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 6: National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	6. National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.housingagency.ie/sites/default/files/2023-06/NHSDP%20Implementation%20Plan%20.pdf
Short description of the current practice	This strategy provides a national framework to ensure that the housing needs of people with disabilities (PD), including those with ASD, are addressed in a structured and sustainable way. It emphasizes the integration of disability needs into mainstream housing policies.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The strategy addresses the need for more inclusive housing that supports the independence and community integration of people with disabilities, including those with ASD.
Results/outcomes	The strategy has led to the creation of a more coordinated approach between various government departments and agencies, aimed at integrating housing needs of PD into all aspects of housing policy. Outcomes include the development and dissemination of guidelines to local authorities on adapting housing units to be disability-friendly and increased funding allocations for specialised housing adaptations and a review process for existing housing policies to ensure they meet the needs of PD.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 7: Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	7. Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ef5ec-housing-for-all-a-new-housing-plan-for-ireland/
Short description of the current practice	This national report outlines a roadmap to provide increased housing accessibility and options for all citizens, including those with disabilities. It focuses on increasing the supply of social and affordable housing and enhancing the quality and suitability of housing. Specific actions include the revision of housing grants, the introduction of Disability Friendly Housing Technical Advisors in local authorities, and the establishment of regular reporting on the progress of housing initiatives.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The lack of suitable, affordable and high quality housing for all people, which includes those with ASD.
Results/outcomes	This plan has initiated several key developments in housing for people with disabilities: A commitment to increase the annual construction of accessible housing units. Introduction of the Housing Adaptation Grant, which has been utilized to modify existing homes to make them more accessible for individuals with disabilities. The plan has been instrumental in encouraging local governments to prioritize housing needs of disabled people in their urban planning and development agendas.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 8: Inclusion Ireland – Housing Resources

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	8. Inclusion Ireland – Housing Resources
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://inclusionireland.ie/resources/housing/
Short description of the current practice	Inclusion Ireland offers a centralised platform providing resources, advocacy, and guidance for individuals with disabilities looking for housing. It emphasises rights-based approaches to housing and independent living. The organization works through public awareness campaigns, policy advocacy, and direct support services to assist individuals in navigating housing options.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The lack of resources and appropriate and accessible guidance for people with disabilities managing independent living, including those with ASD.
Results/outcomes	Inclusion Ireland’s advocacy and resource provision have achieved: Enhanced public and policy-maker awareness of the housing challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Influenced legislation and policy changes to improve housing accessibility and affordability. Provided direct assistance to hundreds of families in navigating the housing system, significantly improving their living conditions.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 9: A Vision for Change: Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	9. A Vision for Change: Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/mentalhealth/mental-health---a-vision-for-change.pdf
Short description of the current practice	While broader in scope, this report acknowledges the specific mental health services and housing needs of those with ASD.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	Integrating mental health services with other supports, including housing, for individuals with ASD.
Results/outcomes	Though the report did not directly implement housing policies, it indirectly influenced housing for individuals with mental health challenges including those with ASD. By advocating for community-based services, which include supportive housing. The emphasis on reducing hospitalisations and promoting community living supports the need for appropriate housing that facilitates recovery and integration into society. The outcomes in terms of housing would therefore include increased awareness and a push towards developing housing solutions that are integrated with mental health supports for those with ASD.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.5. Ireland

Current Practice 10: Implementation of Policy under National Housing Strategy for Disabled People

Country	Ireland
Title of identified current practices	10.Implementation of Policy under National Housing Strategy for Disabled People
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.housingagency.ie/sites/default/files/2023-06/NHSDP%20Implementation%20Plan%20.pdf
Short description of the current practice	This component of the National Housing Strategy discusses the systematic approach to implementing the policy across different levels of government and agencies. It involves coordination between the Housing Agency, local authorities, and the Department of Health to ensure that the policy is implemented effectively. National and Local Authority Housing and Disability Steering Groups have been established to oversee and drive the implementation at both national and local levels.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The lack of accessible and supportive housing for people with disabilities, including those with ASD
Results/outcomes	The implementation efforts have resulted in: Established regular monitoring and reporting systems that ensure accountability and transparency in the delivery of housing services for people with disabilities. Formation of local and national steering groups that have effectively coordinated the implementation of housing policies, ensuring that the strategies are carried out as planned. Significant improvements in collaboration between health and housing sectors, leading to more integrated service delivery for individuals with disabilities.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.6. European Union

Current Practice 1: Autism Satisfaction with Care Holistic Interview (ASCHI)

Country	EU
Title of identified current practices	1. Autism Satisfaction with Care Holistic Interview (ASCHI)
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/aut.2019.0080 Crompton, C. J., Michael, C., Dawson, M., & Fletcher-Watson, S. (2020). Residential care for older autistic adults: Insights from three multi-expert summits. <i>Autism in Adulthood</i> , 2(2), 121–127. https://www.ndti.org.uk/resources/publication/contemplating-autistic-supported-living https://osf.io/3m8gh
Short description of the current practice	The current practice is based on a four-part interview schedule designed to be used with autistic adults in residential care homes.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The ASCHI covers topics identified as being important to autistic adults living in residential care, including social times with others, daily routine, activities, environment, independence, advocacy, physical health, and well-being.
Results/outcomes	The ASCHI is an open-access tool for older autistic adults in residential care and helps shape future research, practice, and policy.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.6. European Union

Current Practice 2: IVEA, Innovative Vocational Education for Autism

Country	EU
Title of identified current practices	2. IVEA, Innovative Vocational Education for Autism
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://ivea-project.eu/the-project/overview/ Sun, L. (2021). Effectiveness of Virtual Reality on Employment Training for Young Adults with Autism and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: A Systematic Review.
Short description of the current practice	The IVEA project is aimed at the social inclusion of people with autism and a more focused culture on non-discriminative and active citizenship by promoting critical thinking across Europe. The IVEA project will contribute to the achievement of different objectives related to innovative approaches for addressing persons on the autism spectrum and their families while providing a new European holistic Guide for inclusion through employment.
The need/problem/issue addressed by the current practice	The IVEA project pointed out the need to enable and empower young autistic adults with soft skills to promote successful inclusion in the job market. Autistic people can have great competence in many types of skills (informatics, technologies, mathematics and science, etc.), however, the experience showed that they may have difficulties not only in finding employment but also facing the demands of a new job situation. Dealing with colleagues and employers can sometimes trigger challenges that might jeopardize the success of their inclusion at work.
Results/outcomes	The project brought together universities, autism associations, professionals, and NGOs across Europe to create a new European Guide for the effective vocational training of autistic individuals, thereby contributing to their successful employment. The main outcome of the project was a European Guide for the employment of people with autism, which was conceived as a result of two distinct trial training courses: one tailored for individuals on the autism spectrum and another for representatives of potential employers, including stakeholders, NGO staff, and administrative department employees from various industries such as shops. Participants in these training sessions were then integrated into a final internship program aimed at providing practical experience for individuals with autism within the aforementioned entities.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.6. European Union

Current Practice 3: New Paths to Inclusion Network

Country	EU
Title of identified current practices	3. New Paths to Inclusion Network
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	<p>Ísvan, N., Bonardi, A., & Hiersteiner, D. (2023). Effects of person-centered planning and practices on the health and well-being of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities: a multilevel analysis of linked administrative and survey data. <i>Journal of Intellectual Disability Research</i>, 67(12), 1249–1269.</p> <p>https://includ-ed-eu.com/sites/default/files/good-practice/files/training_and_practice_in_person_centered_planning_-_a_european_perspective.pdf</p>
Short description of the current practice	The “New Paths to InclUision Network” with 19 partners from 14 European Countries transfers the evidence-based concept of person-centered planning. Person-centered planning is a family of process-oriented approaches to empower people with disabilities to live a self-determined life in the community.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The objective of the network is to help organisations to transform their services and deliver individualised and person-centred support for persons with disabilities, as required in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. To make this happen, the network aims to equip organisations and their employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to respond to the individual needs of persons with disabilities.
Results/outcomes	The New Paths to InclUision Network brings together organisations of persons with disabilities, service providers, universities, and research centres from fourteen European countries and Canada whose common aim is to achieve change; and support organisations to deliver community-based and person-centered services for people with disabilities.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.6. European Union

Current Practice 4: The Autism VR Project

Country	EU
Title of identified current practices	4. The Autism VR project
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://autism-vr.eu/ https://autism-vr.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/VRAA-I03-Manual_Final_EN.pdf Sait, M., Alattas, A., Omar, A., Almalki, S., Sharf, S., & Alsaggaf, E. (2019). Employing virtual reality techniques in environment adaptation for autistic children. <i>Procedia Computer Science</i> , 163, 338–344.
Short description of the current practice	The purpose of the Autism VR project was to identify 10 everyday situations where autistic individuals between the ages of 15–25 struggle and see if it was possible to develop VR training simulations for practising those situations.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The project aimed to showcase good practices in this field: A multi-skilled partnership composed of organisations active in the field of digital-based technologies, social, labour market integration, and special educational needs, will develop a VR training toolkit for people with ASD with the purpose of rehabilitation and training in communication and social skills. Furthermore, potential employers are to be informed about the advantages of hiring a person with ASD.
Results/outcomes	The creation of a manual for the Employment of People with Autism Spectrum Disorder and related good practices. As well as a VR that contains environments with everyday situations.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.6. European Union

Current Practice 5: The ASDEU Programme

Country	EU
Title of identified current practices	5. The ASDEU programme
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://www.autismeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/LINK68.EN_.pdf Hertz-Picciotto, I., Schmidt, R. J., & Krakowiak, P. (2018). Understanding environmental contributions to autism: Causal concepts and the state of science. <i>Autism Research</i> , 11(4), 554–586.
Short description of the current practice	ASDEU is a three-year programme funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General of Health and Food Safety (DG-SANTE) aiming to increase understanding of and improve responses to the needs of people on the autism spectrum.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed by the current practice	The scope of the ASDEU research was wide, looking into areas such as prevalence, the economic and social costs of autism, early diagnostic and evidence-based intervention, and effective care and support for adults and older people on the autism spectrum.
Results/outcomes	Through this project, professionals across Europe have received training and support to enhance care for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Best practices have been adopted, fostering collaboration between Member States and harmonising evidence-based guidelines. This coordinated effort ensures consistent, high-quality support for individuals with ASD, promoting inclusivity and better addressing their needs at a European level.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.7. National Reports and Studies

National Report and study 1: Towards Human-rights based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services across Europe

Country	EU
Title of identified report	1. Towards Human-rights based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services across Europe
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://easpd.eu/publications-detail/easpd-innovation-awards-2024-mental-health-and-psychosocial-disability-services/ https://easpd.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/2024-May10-EASPD-Mental_Health_Report-Web.pdf
Short description of the report	The national report addresses the critical issues faced by persons with disabilities in Europe regarding independent living. It discusses the impact of austerity measures, inadequate funding, and the failure of governments to fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Through various testimonies and reports, it highlights the struggles of disabled individuals in securing necessary support and personal assistance, emphasizing the need for policy changes and increased funding to ensure their rights and quality of life are upheld.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed	The document addresses the widespread problem of insufficient support for independent living for persons with disabilities. It reveals how austerity measures and budget cuts across various European countries have led to systemic violations of disabled persons' rights. This has resulted in reduced personal assistance, poor living conditions, and increased institutionalization, all of which undermine the autonomy and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.
Results/outcomes	The outcomes discussed in the document show a varied impact across different regions. In Sweden, initial success with independent living funds is being undermined by recent cuts and restrictive policies. The UK faces significant rights violations due to austerity measures, with decreased disability benefits threatening independent living. In countries like Greece and Bulgaria, there is minimal support for independent living, forcing reliance on family or poor institutional care. The document calls for increased funding, policy changes, and better implementation of the UNCRPD to improve conditions for persons with disabilities.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.7. National Reports and Studies

National Report and study 2: Models of promising practices on independent living and inclusion in the community for people with significant support needs

Country	EU
Title of identified report	2. Models of promising practices on independent living and inclusion in the community for people with significant support needs
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://easpd.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/Models_of_promising_practices_on_independent_living_and_inclusion_in_the_community_for_people_with_significant_support_needs.pdf
Short description of the report	The report highlights the disproportionate impact of austerity measures on disabled people and the importance of independent living allowances. The document includes testimonies from various countries, illustrating the effects of financial cuts and the necessity for better policies and support systems. It emphasizes the need for adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the role of European policies and institutions in facilitating independent living for disabled individuals.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed	The report identifies significant issues faced by disabled people across Europe, primarily the impact of austerity measures which have led to substantial cuts in disability benefits and personal assistance. In countries like the UK, Sweden, and Greece, these cuts have resulted in reduced support for disabled individuals, threatening their right to independent living. The lack of adequate funding and support systems forces many disabled people into institutional care or makes them heavily reliant on family support, which is not always feasible. The problem is compounded by the inconsistent implementation of the UNCRPD across different European countries, leading to disparities in the quality of life and rights enjoyed by disabled individuals
Results/outcomes	The outcomes documented include various responses from European institutions and advocacy groups aiming to address these issues. Despite the challenges, there have been successes such as the growth of Sweden's independent living fund, although it now faces threats from reduced funding. The UN's involvement in the UK highlighted systematic violations of disabled people's rights, prompting calls for better compliance with international standards. However, the responses from governments have been mixed, with some ignoring UN recommendations. The document underscores the necessity for continued advocacy and the reallocation of resources to support independent living, suggesting that investment in these areas can lead to better societal integration and economic contributions from disabled individuals

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.7. National Reports and Studies

National Report and study 3: The future is now: Person-centred Technology to empower persons and disability services

Country	EU
Title of identified report	3. The future is now: Person-centred Technology to empower persons and disability services
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://easpd.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/PCT_Conference_Report_Oct.pdf
Short description of the report	The "Supporting the Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities – Role of the European Policies and Institutions," report outlines discussions from a European Parliament meeting held on September 26, 2017. It features testimonies and insights from various representatives and activists about the state of independent living for persons with disabilities across different European countries. The focus is on the challenges faced, the impact of austerity measures, and the need for more supportive policies and frameworks to ensure the rights and dignity of disabled individuals are upheld according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
The need/ problem/ issue addressed	The primary issue addressed in the document is the significant impact of austerity measures on the lives of persons with disabilities. In many European countries, budget cuts have led to reduced financial support and services, undermining the rights to independent living and community inclusion guaranteed by the UNCRPD. For instance, in Sweden, personal assistance has been cut, leading to fewer people receiving the necessary support to live independently. Similarly, in the UK, cuts to disability benefits have been labeled as a "human catastrophe" by the UN, highlighting systematic violations of disabled people's rights. The overarching problem is the insufficient implementation of UNCRPD mandates at the national level, which has resulted in deteriorating conditions and increased institutionalization of disabled individuals.
Results/outcomes	The outcomes discussed in the document reflect a mix of progress and ongoing challenges. Positive developments include increased recognition of the issues by international bodies like the UN, which has conducted investigations and highlighted violations, thereby putting pressure on national governments. For example, Sweden's independent living fund, despite current challenges, has historically been successful, increasing from 7,000 beneficiaries in 1995 to 16,000. However, there are also stark negative outcomes, such as the UK's continued budget cuts leading to grave violations of rights, and the ongoing lack of independent living allowances in countries like Greece and Bulgaria, where institutional care remains prevalent. These mixed outcomes underline the need for continuous advocacy, policy revision, and better implementation of supportive measures to ensure the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.7. National Reports and Studies

National Report and study 4: Fuelling housing and community options for adults with autism and other neurodiversities

Country	EU
Title of identified report	4. Fuelling housing and community options for adults with autism and other neurodiversities
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://firstplaceglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/doc-apitw-report.pdf
Short description of the report	The report is an extensive review of the current state of housing for adults with autism and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). It highlights the critical need for appropriate, accessible, and affordable residential options and the significant policy and data gaps that hinder the effective provision of housing and support services for this population. It also emphasises the importance of comprehensive data to shape policy solutions and improve the quality of life for these individuals.
The need/ problem/ issue addressed	The primary issue addressed is the severe shortage of affordable, accessible housing for adults with autism and/or I/DD. This shortage is exacerbated by insufficient data collection, which obscures the full extent of the housing needs of this population. Many adults with autism and/or I/DD live with aging caregivers, and there is a looming crisis as these caregivers can no longer provide support. Existing federal and state programs are inadequate, both in scope and funding, to meet the growing demand for long-term support services (LTSS) and housing. The lack of coordinated policy efforts and data further complicates the development of effective solutions to address these critical needs.
Results/outcomes	The document outlines that the current practices and policies have resulted in a fragmented system that fails to provide sufficient housing options for adults with autism and/or I/DD. There are significant data gaps that prevent a clear understanding of the housing needs and preferences of this population. As a result, many individuals are at risk of homelessness or being placed in restrictive institutional settings. The report calls for better data collection and policy reforms to create diverse and affordable residential options that can support the varied needs of adults with autism and/or I/DD. Improving data quality and policy coordination is essential for addressing the unmet housing demand and enhancing the quality of life for these individuals.

2.2. Current Practices and Status of Supportive Houses for Individuals with ASD

2.2.7. National Reports and Studies

National Report and study 5: Assisting People with Autism: Guidance for Local Authority Housing Officers Report

Country	EU
Title of identified report	5. Assisting People with Autism: Guidance for Local Authority Housing Officers Report
Reference (e.g. link, citation, national report, or article)	https://nda.ie/publications/assisting-people-with-autism-guidance-for-local-authority-housing-officers-report
Short description of the report	The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) briefing on EU Funds 2021–2027 examines how European Union funds are allocated and utilized concerning the right to independent living. The briefing reviews planned investments under the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework, stressing the importance of community-based services and support rather than institutional settings. It discusses the legal framework, past shortcomings, and the current regulatory landscape, calling for stronger measures to ensure compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
The need/ problem/ issue addressed	The primary issue addressed is the continued investment of EU funds into institutional and segregated settings, which conflicts with the principles of the UNCRPD and EU Charter. Despite regulations promoting deinstitutionalization, there has been a trend of moving individuals from large institutions to smaller group homes, which still violates their rights to independent living. The briefing underscores the need for a shift towards community-based services and support, ensuring non-discrimination and full social and occupational integration.
Results/outcomes	The outcomes of the current practice include ongoing violations of the UNCRPD and insufficient support for independent living. Investments into segregated settings have persisted despite regulations, with some national plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funding new institutions and renovations that do not align with deinstitutionalization goals. Positive aspects include specific commitments to community-based services in some regional operational programs, such as Portugal's emphasis on personal assistance and community-based social responses. However, the lack of comprehensive safeguards and transparency in monitoring these investments undermines overall progress towards independent living.

2.3. Conclusions from the Desk Research

The conclusions from the desk research on supportive housing for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) across different countries highlight several key findings:

- **State of Supportive Housing Development:** Across the partner countries (Cyprus, Denmark, Italy, and North Macedonia), the development of supportive housing for individuals with ASD is at different stages. Denmark demonstrates the most advanced infrastructure, with multiple public and private entities involved in providing tailored residential solutions for individuals with autism across various age groups. Cyprus, on the other hand, has made recent strides in building new community-based homes but still lags behind Denmark in terms of a comprehensive network of services dedicated to autism-specific housing.
- **Employment Challenges:** In each country, adults with ASD face significant barriers to employment. The employment rates for autistic individuals remain significantly lower than those for individuals with other disabilities. For example, in Denmark, while vocational programs exist, only 27.2% of adults with ASD are employed, compared to 77.7% of their neurotypical peers. In Italy, the unemployment rate for individuals with ASD is less than 10%, highlighting the need for targeted employment inclusion programs.
- **Gaps in Service Provision:** Despite progress, there are significant gaps in service provision for individuals with ASD, particularly in North Macedonia. The lack of autism-specific institutions and supportive housing programs in the country illustrates the disparity in available resources across the partner countries. Similarly, Italy's supportive housing programs, while innovative, are still relatively limited, and the country faces challenges in meeting the needs of its growing ASD population.
- **Role of Technology and Innovation:** Innovative programs, such as the SENSHome project in Italy, demonstrate the potential for technology to enhance the living environments of individuals with ASD. The integration of sensor-based systems into housing can improve safety, comfort, and autonomy, showing a path forward for future supportive housing projects.

In conclusion, while there is progress in creating supportive housing and services for individuals with ASD, more needs to be done, particularly in harmonizing services, addressing employment gaps, and utilizing technology to support independent living. Each country presents valuable lessons that can inform future efforts to enhance the quality of life for individuals with ASD.



Project Partners



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union