



The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is a Europe-wide network of disabled people, with members throughout Europe. ENIL is a forum for all disabled people, Independent Living organisations and their non-disabled allies on the issues of Independent Living. ENIL represents the disability movement for human rights and social inclusion based on **solidarity, peer support, deinstitutionalisation, democracy, self-representation, cross disability and self-determination**. ENIL promotes equal opportunities for disabled people and fights against discrimination in Europe.

ENIL's **mission** is to advocate and lobby for Independent Living values, principles and practices, namely for barrier-free environment, provision of personal assistance support and adequate technical aids, together making full citizenship of disabled people possible. ENIL's activities target European, national and local administrations, politicians, media, and the general society. ENIL works to strengthen the empowerment of disabled people mainly through providing resources for peer counselling and peer training. ENIL enhances the European disability network by providing the arena for the sharing of experience of services and in providing economical, logistics and technical expertise. ENIL also has a strong grassroots network and is actively engaged with local Centers of Independent Living.

Every year, ENIL undertakes a number of **activities** to raise awareness of the rights of disabled people in Europe at both a National and European Level. The **Freedom Drive** is ENIL's main flagship campaign and takes place every two years. This event provides an opportunity for Members of the European Parliament to meet with disabled people from across Europe and to discuss issues that are affecting their lives. It also provides an opportunity for disabled people from across Europe to come together and exchange their experiences in an informal way, as well as facilitate further development of the Independent Living Movement.

In 2015 ENIL organizes the 7th edition of the Freedom Drive in Brussels. Other activities of ENIL in 2015 include a campaign promoting the right on independent living of people with disabilities in Turkey. This campaign was organized by ENIL in cooperation with the Centre for Independent Living of Sofia (Bulgaria) and RUSIHAK an organisation from Turkey. Since October 2013 ENIL also worked on ELOSH (the European Core Learning Outcomes for Integration of Support and Housing). The aim of ELOSH is to spread the study results and training materials on integrated support and housing, developed by SITRA in the UK, to other European countries.

For further information in relation to ENIL and any of our activities:

- ENIL website: www.enil.eu
- ENIL Definitions: <http://www.enil.eu/policy/>
- ENIL Campaigns: <http://www.enil.eu/campaigns/>