

What is the ENIL Freedom Drive?

Freedom Drive is one of the key campaigns of the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) - held every two years since 2003. It provides supporters of the Independent Living Movement with the unique opportunity to meet MEPs and promote human rights issues, as well as to share experiences and ideas with colleagues from around Europe. Freedom Drive has a rich programme, including the ENIL General Assembly, a conference with sessions on multiple topics, a meeting of the ENIL Youth Network and the culmination—a noisy march through the European quarter where Freedom Drivers meet with MEPs. The first six editions of the Freedom Drive took place in Strasbourg, until 2015, when for the first time the location was changed to Brussels.

The Freedom Drive is open to disabled people, Independent Living activists, their friends and allies.



24 - 28 September 2017
Brussels, Belgium
Register now at: www.enil.eu

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Join the ENIL Freedom Drive 2017 - A Voice for All!

24 - 28 September
Brussels, Belgium



ENIL 2017 Freedom Drive — A Voice for All!

The ENIL 2017 Freedom Drive is taking place between 24th and 28th September, in Brussels. It is dedicated to Martin Naughton – the father of the ENIL Freedom Drive – who we lost in 2016. The 2017 Freedom Drive will consist of a series of events, culminating in a march from the European Parliament to the European Commission, under the theme 'Independent Living Heroes: Past, Present and Future'. ENIL invites all the members, disabled people's organisations, disabled people and allies to join us in Brussels during this exciting week, so that we can once again show we are proud, strong and visible!

The Freedom Drive is open to disabled people, Independent Living activists, their friends and allies. Participation is free of charge, with a contribution towards materials, refreshments and the Freedom Drive celebration cocktail and dinner (25 EUR for members/50 EUR for non-members).



Martin Naughton, the Father of the ENIL Freedom Drive

Overview of the week

24 September: Freedom Drive kick off. Time to meet and speak in an informal atmosphere with the ENIL Board, staff and other Freedom Drivers.



25 September: Motivational events – meetings on subjects that ENIL members find important.

26 September: National MEP meetings – a chance for Freedom Drivers to meet their MEPs and visit Brussels.

27 September: March from the European Parliament to the European Commission under the theme 'Independent Living Heroes: Past, Present and Future'

ENIL Freedom Drive Conference on the topic 'Independent Living: A Voice for All'

ENIL General Assembly, followed by a Celebration cocktail and dinner (open to all Freedom Drivers)

28 September: Independent Living development meetings – various meetings with organisations active at the EU level to develop ideas, strategies and partnerships on Independent Living.

Main events

March: Freedom Drivers will gather near the European Parliament, with whistles, banners, clappers and similar noise-

making tools. This year's march theme is 'Independent Living Heroes: Past, Present and Future', and we invite the Freedom Drivers to create banners with the photos or quotes from their Independent Living heroes. The march will end in front of the European Commission, where we will be met by MEPs and European Commission officials (some of whom may join the march).

Conference: The conference will focus on the topic 'Independent Living: A Voice for All!'. It will be opened by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne Thyssen. Conference sessions will provide a space to discuss how to ensure that disabled children have a stronger voice within the Independent Living movement, and what support services are needed to support families with disabled children.

Location of events: Mundo J (Rue de l'Industrie 10) and Autoworld (Parque de Cinquantenaire 11)

For more information and to register, visit:
<http://enil.eu/enil-2017-freedom-drive-24-28-september-brussels/>

