



6th European Independent Living Day, May 5th 2019 – Draft Report

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Introduction

The 6th European Independent Living Day was celebrated in Europe (and beyond), and was again very successful! Although this year 5th May was on Sunday (a non working day), disabled people and their allies celebrated it in more than 25 countries in Europe and the Middle East. This clearly shows that the Independent Living movement is strong and active!

As always, the goal of raising awareness on Independent Living was achieved in various creative ways. Many events were covered by local media, and most of them via social media (some even exclusively happened in the online world). This made sure that the Independent Living idea reached as many people and channels as possible.

ENIL tried to collect data from all the activities and events that took place in Europe, and below we share them with you. If you are aware of activities missing, please let our Development Officer, Kamil Goungor, know (at: kamil.goungor@enil.eu) and he will make sure that the report will be updated.

Activities in countries



ENIL's MythBuster and fact sheets in Albanian

Albania : Fondacioni Së Bashku organized in Tirana a roundtable on the right to Independent Living for disabled people, as part of the project “Independent Living: supporting the cause by bringing Albania closer to European Union standards”. Also, they translated ENIL’s MythBuster and the fact sheets on Independent Living and Personal Assistance into Albanian.

Austria : The Austrian Disability Council had an online post addressing the European

Independent Living Day and the European Elections, which was our theme for this year.



Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Information Center for Persons with Disabilities "Lotos" from Tuzla, organized a public promotion of publications and campaigns in the city of Tuzla on May 5th. The publications they shared with the citizens were based on book sharing. The books they shared focused primarily on the promotion of Independent Living, personal assistance, as well as youth activism. In this way, Lotos tried to reach as many citizens as possible and give them the opportunity to adequately familiarize them with the correct concepts of independent living. The book sharing campaign was also covered very well by the media.



Street action in Tuzla

Bulgaria : The Center for Independent Living Sofia did a Facebook post for the occasion of May 5th.

Czech Republic : The Czech Ombudsman organised a screening of the Defiant Lives Documentary, followed by a discussion, in Brno on the 6th May.

Georgia : The International Song, Dance and Art Festival "IVERIA -- BRILLIANT" was organised with the support of the Administration of President of Georgia. The project was implemented together by NNLE Social Enterprise Special Magazine and Imereti Regional Organization for People with Disabilities for "Full Life". The festival had special guests from Ukraine.

Germany : The motto of this year's 5th May events was: Mission Inklusion - Die Zukunft beginnt mit dir (Mission Inclusion - the future starts with you). More than 600 activities took place in Germany. The demonstration in Berlin on May 5th was the biggest with over 3.000 participants for equal rights and self-determination of disabled people. Also on May 5th, this time in Bonn, a demonstration of young people with and without disabilities took place to mark the last day of an inclusive youth camp which was organized from May 3rd till May 5th took place in Bonn. The main demands of the



Independent Living movement in Germany this year where inclusion from early on both in and outside the school system, full participation in the community and the effect of 10 years CRPD implementation in Germany.

Greece : i-living, the Independent Organization of Greece, did a post on the social media for the occasion, and the New Democracy political party had a press release stating that Independent Living is among its priorities.



Speakers and participants view during the event in Hungary

Hungary : A new grassroots Independent Living movement (no official name yet) organised an event in order to discuss about Independent Living, as well as about the role and the importance of Personal Assistance. For the occasion, they created also a video. Participants took part in ENIL's campaign too. In addition, ENIL was invited to contribute to this event (via Skype) through Kamil Goungor, our development officer. He spoke about

ENIL and about our perspective on the topic. Kamil answered questions from the audience and also shared a good example of a country in the region (Slovenia) which has a good Independent Living system.

Ireland : The Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) launched the "Declaration of Independence" video campaign to increase awareness on disability rights. The participants in the video were all Irish disabled people, and the crew who filmed, edited and directed the piece were 100% Irish disabled people too. Also, Mobiloo Ireland had a Facebook post for the occasion.

Italy : The Lombardy Independent Living Committee together with allies organized a march in Milan on the 25th April, in order to underline the Importance of Independent Living and celebrate the European Day. The Independent Living Association (Tuscany) published an article on its website about the History and fundamental concepts of



Independent Living in Tuscany. Finally, the Jump Group (LGBT with disabilities – Bologna) did a Facebook post to highlight the day.

Lebanon : The Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Lebanon organised an event to explain the concept of Independent Living. Participants also took part in ENIL's campaign.



Lithuania : The Lithuanian Disability Forum organised the social campaign "More recognition less confusion" together with Swedish embassy. The aim of the campaign was to help "remove" the uncomfortable situation that often occurs when people meet/speak/see people with disabilities. They gave attention to the topic through public discussions, publications

and new videos (which were produced together with disabled people and four famous Lithuanian National Radio and Television personalities and). On May 2nd the Lithuanian Disability Forum held a video presentation and discussion about the campaign at National Gallery of Art. In addition to this , on May 4th , the Independent Living Association in Lithuania organized an international protest demonstration "Happiness to CAN!" in Vilnius, at the Vincas Kudirka square (next to the government), asking for a better implementation of the UN CRPD. During the protest participants could also sign a petition about non-discrimination and the respect of their human rights.

Luxembourg : The organisation Nëmme Mat Eis, hosted a round-table event on the implementation of Independent Living in Luxembourg. This was done in the context of their general assembly and the new Luxembourg action plan on the implementation of the UN CRPD. We also got some good news from Luxembourg as Nëmme Mat Eis informed us that the country's renewed government coalition finally plans to introduce personal budget and personal assistance in the coming years.



Montenegro : The Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (AYDM) combined advocacy power and organized an event on May 15th in Podgorica, to celebrate the European Independent Living Day, the Global Accessibility Awareness Day, as well as of the Europe Day. The key message was “Independent living and accessibility are rights of persons with disabilities every society has to provide, and the state has to enable and support them”.

North Macedonia : It was a presidential elections period and the organisation Polio Plus organized this year's activities around that. Among other things, they met the presidential candidates, advocated to make their websites and election materials available in accessible format, and to take into consideration disability issues. Polio Plus also organized a training before the campaign. This training was aimed at the political parties and persons with disabilities and had as main theme: "Political participation and article 29 from CRPD". This resulted in 10 trainings with the Elections boards on municipal level. Furthermore Polio Plus had several meetings with the international community highlighting the importance of real implementation of Independent Living of people with disabilities.

Norway : ULOBA published a series of videos about Independent Living and its connection to Freedom. In addition, they also organized an Independent Living festival, with its famous parade, in Oslo on 14-15 June on the topic of Freedom.

Poland : The Disability Rights Centre highlighted the day with a Facebook post, putting emphasis on the European Elections and translating both the ENIL election manifesto and the ENIL questionnaire to the candidates of the European Parliament. The organisation Fundacja Eudajmonia also did a Facebook post, with focus on article 19 of the UN CRPD.

Portugal : The “Centro de Vida Independente” celebrated the day with the "March for Independent Living", which took place on the 5th May, simultaneously in Lisbon, Vila Real and Porto. They marched



"March for Independent Living" in Porto, Portugal



for the right to Independent Living, for a dignified life, for the recognition of their empowerment, for respect to their decisions and to their freedom.

Romania : The National Council of Disabled People organised an event on the occasion, addressing, among others, the issues of institutionalization, lack of inclusive education and general barriers to political participation and Independent Living. The political party Demos supported the event. Also, the organization euRespect marked the day with a Facebook post.

San Marino : The Secretary of State for Health published a press release on the occasion, explaining Independent Living briefly and what the State is doing to make it a reality.

Serbia : The CIL Serbia marked May 5th talking about Political participation and free access to the election process for disabled people. They also promoted a small toolkit on Article 29 of CRPD (on participation in public life), in various cities. Additionally, the “Centar Živeti Uspravno/ Centre Living Upright” in Novi Sad, organized a discussion forum on the process and mainstreaming of personal assistance into the social protection system. Here, it is worth mentioning that the Serbian city of Kragujevac introduced the Personal Assistance Service with a Municipal Decision on Social Protection.

Sweden : On May 5th STIL organised an interactive public discussion on De-institutionalisation and Independent Living in Jönköping city, which was joined by ENIL's president, Kapka Panayotova. Several Swedish politicians also attended the event. Furthermore, STIL together with GIL, ILI and DHR, sent 10 questions to the first 5 names on each of the political party election lists (except SD which is an extreme party) as part of the celebrations for the Day.

Turkey : There is a Facebook page dedicated exclusively to the 5th May, and during this year's celebrations they again added several new posts and



ENIL's president, Kapka Panayotova, during the STIL event in Jonkoping, Sweden



created a video. They created a Facebook photo frame for the occasion too. Additionally, a disability activist in Turkey wrote an article highlighting the fact that the right to vote is a prerequisite for Independent Living.

United Kingdom : The Dudley CIL shared a May 5th message, on what Independent Living is. The Centre for Disability Studies at University of Leeds also expressed its support with a social media post.

Belgium and Spain : Last but not least, our members from Belgium and Spain did not do any organized May 5th activity (at least as far as we know), but joined ENIL's campaign, together with lots of others across Europe.

There were also a few MEPs and some European/international organisations which supported the European Independent Living Day and our activities. We wish to thank all of them.

If you are aware of an action not mentioned above, or if something is incomplete or incorrect, please inform us at: kamil.goungor@enil.eu .

ENIL's campaign

This was a European Elections year, so ENIL took the opportunity and connected its European Independent Living Day – May 5th campaign with advocacy for accessible European Elections, with attention to Independent Living. Below you find some of our May 5th actions:

- **We asked people to tell us what they would vote for** during the European elections in May. Concretely we asked people to



Our staff members, Frank Sioen and Marco Carnesecchi, during ENIL's action in Brussels



send us a photo with the “This time I’m voting for...” sign. All the photos we received were posted on our social media channels.

- **We also had an information stand** in front of the European Parliament in Brussels on May 6th (Monday). We invited people to join us, we asked them what they would vote for, we handed out around 85 "This time I'm voting for..." cards, as well as our Manifesto. At the end we handed over all our cards to the European Parliament communications department to make clear that inclusion is an important topic in the EU. In this action, we were supported by our friends from EDF, Inclusion Europe, Mental Health Europe and EASPD. Thanks guys, together we showed teamwork and broad support for inclusion and Independent Living.
- **We asked our members to organise a national, regional or local 5th May event** and invite disabled people and candidate MEPs to come together to speak about the European Elections and Independent Living (which happened in a few occasions, as we saw above).
- **We asked members and allies to let us know about their May 5th plans**, and we shared everything on our social media, as well as in this report.

Social Media and #ILDay19 hashtag

On 5th May, but also some days before and after, people and organizations celebrated the European Independent Living Day – May 5th, and showed their support with lots of posts on social media. Many organizations communicated their activities through the hashtag #ILDay19, and it was the “meeting point” for people during the day, as well as one of our information sources. We are not able to count the exact number of users using the hashtag, but we can say it reached thousands of people.



Links

- ❖ Albania: [Event summary and photos](#)
- ❖ Austria: The [post](#) by the Australian Disability Council
- ❖ Bosnia and Herzegovina: [video](#) with a guest appearance of Lotos members in the evening show on the topic of independent living
- ❖ Bulgaria: the [post](#) by CIL Sofia
- ❖ Czech Republic: [Information and photos](#) from the screening
- ❖ Germany:
 - [Demonstration](#) in Bremen in northern Germany
 - [Demonstration](#) in Cologne in the West of Germany
 - [Protest](#) in the south of Germany at the Lake Constance by heavy rain
 - [Protest](#) in Berlin
 - [Pictures](#) from the Protest Day
 - An [article](#) by Luana Schena for the occasion.
- ❖ Greece:
 - The [post](#) by i-living
 - The [press release](#) by New Democracy
- ❖ Hungary:
 - The link to the [Facebook event](#), where you can find information and photos
 - The [video](#) mentioned above
 - An [article](#) about the event



❖ Ireland:

- The [video](#) by ILMI
- The [post](#) by Mobiloo Ireland

❖ Italy:

- The [Article](#) by the Lombardy Independent Living Committee about their activity and their demands
- The [Article](#) in another website about the same action
- The [Article](#) by the Independent Living Association
- The [post](#) by the Jump Group

❖ Lithuania:

- The [Facebook event](#) link with more information and photos on the activity of the Lithuanian Disability Forum
- The [Facebook event](#) link with more information and photos on the activity of the Independent Living Association. And some additional [photos](#).

❖ Montenegro: [article](#) about the event AYDM organized, and some [photos](#)

❖ Norway:

- The [first](#), the [second](#), the [third](#) and the [fourth](#) video of the campaign of ULOBA
- [Article](#) about the parade and some [photos](#)

❖ Poland:

- The [post](#) by the Disability Rights Centre
- The [post](#) by the Fundacja Eudajmonia



- ❖ Portugal: A [video](#) from the march in Lisbon and photos from [Porto](#) and [Vila Real](#)
- ❖ Romania:
 - Facebook [post](#) by Demos
 - Facebook [post](#) by euRespect
- ❖ San Marino: the [press release](#) by the Secretary of State for Health
- ❖ Serbia:
 - An [article](#) about the event in Novi Sad, and some [photos](#)
 - [Photos](#) from the meeting in Sombor
 - [Photos](#) from the meeting in Cacak
 - [Photos](#) from the meeting in Beograd
 - [Article](#) about the meeting in Kragujevac
- ❖ Sweden: the [video recording](#) of the event of STIL
- ❖ Turkey:
 - The [Facebook page](#) dedicated to 5th May
 - The [photo frame](#)
 - The [article](#) about the right to vote
- ❖ United Kingdom:
 - The [message](#) from Dudley CIL
 - The [post](#) by the Centre for Disability Studies at University of Leeds