



# The European Network on Independent Living

## Easy-to-read version

Easy-to-read is information  
that is written in a simple way  
so that all people can understand it.

You can find more information  
about easy-to-read at:

[www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read)



## Who we are

We are the European Network  
on Independent Living.

In short, we are called 'ENIL'.



We are an organisation that works  
to promote independent living in Europe.

Independent living is to be able to choose  
how, where and with whom you want to live.

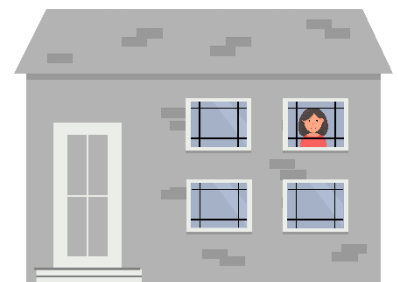
All people should have the right  
to live independently  
and to be part of the community.



Sadly, in practice,  
many people with disabilities  
do not have the right to live independently  
like other people.

For example,  
many people with disabilities:

- Live in institutions  
away from their families, friends  
and other people.



- Are not allowed to make their own choices about their lives.
- Do not get the support they need to live independently.



At ENIL, we want the European Union to be a place where all people with disabilities can take part in the community and get the support they need to live independently.



We also want the European Union to respect the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement that says which rights people with disabilities have and how countries should protect these rights. In short, we call it 'the UN Convention'.



The European Union and all its countries have signed the UN Convention. That means they agreed to do what the UN Convention says to protect people with disabilities.



Amongst others,  
the UN Convention says  
that people with disabilities have the right  
to live independently  
and to be part of the community.



## Our work

Our work focuses on 4 activities:

### 1. Spreading the word about independent living and the rights of people with disabilities.

We organise activities to promote  
independent living.

For example:

We made the 5<sup>th</sup> of May  
the **European Independent Living Day**.  
On this day every year,  
people with disabilities all over Europe  
organise events and protests  
for the right to independent living.



Also, every two years,  
we organise the **Freedom Drive**.  
This is a big event  
that brings together people with disabilities,  
their families, their friends  
and everyone who wants to stand up  
for the right to independent living.  
The event lasts 3 days.  
During these 3 days,  
people have the chance to take part  
in events and discussions  
about independent living.  
There is also a protest and a party.



The next Freedom Drive  
will take place in Brussels  
on 26, 27 and 28 September 2022.  
You can find more information at:  
[www.enil.eu/event/freedom-drive](http://www.enil.eu/event/freedom-drive)



## 2. Talking to people who make laws and decisions in Europe

People with disabilities have the right  
to take part in all decisions about their lives.  
We are the ones who know our needs best.  
Nothing should be decided about us  
without us.



This is why we talk to people who make laws and decisions in Europe. Sometimes we meet them in person and sometimes we send them letters and documents explaining the views of people with disabilities on important topics. This way, we can help them to understand the situation of people with disabilities in Europe and to work to make things better.



### **3. Bringing people with disabilities together**

We organise meetings and activities in which people with disabilities and their organisations can take part, share their experiences and learn from each other. This way we can stand together for our right to independent living.



### **4. Collecting useful information about the situation of people with disabilities**

We often make surveys  
and ask people with disabilities  
all over Europe  
to share their experiences and views  
on important topics.

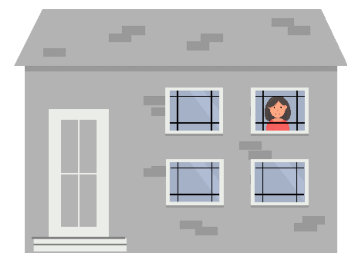
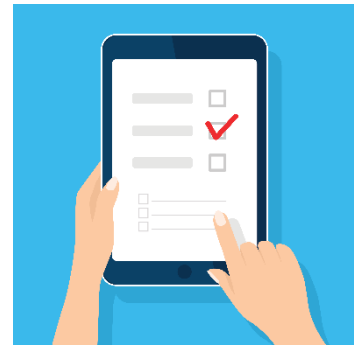
This way, we collect information about:

- The problems people with disabilities face in different countries
- The situation for people with disabilities who live in institutions.
- What different countries in Europe do to help people with disabilities to live independently.

We present this information  
in documents and reports  
on our website at:

[www.enil.eu/research-papers-and-reports](http://www.enil.eu/research-papers-and-reports)

We also use this information to plan our work  
and try to make a difference.



## Our members

ENIL has more than 100 members.

These are people with disabilities and organisations of people with disabilities who are part of ENIL.

That means they agree with ENIL's views and they take part in ENIL's activities.



You can check our members at:

[www.enil.eu/search-members/#ourMembers](http://www.enil.eu/search-members/#ourMembers)

ENIL's members come together and discuss how they can work to promote the right to independent living for all people with disabilities.



ENIL's members also choose the people who can make decisions for ENIL.

You can check the people who make decisions for ENIL at:

[www.enil.eu/about-enil/our-people/#boardMembers](http://www.enil.eu/about-enil/our-people/#boardMembers)

ENIL has an office in Brussels that manages the everyday work of ENIL.

You can check the people who work at ENIL's office at:

<https://enil.eu/about-enil/our-people/#enilSecretariat>





## Our youth group

Since 2012,

ENIL has a **Youth Network**.

This is a group of young people with disabilities who work together to promote the rights of young people with disabilities in Europe.



Any person between 18 and 35 years old can join ENIL's Youth Network.

Having a Youth Network helps ENIL to take the views of young people with disabilities into account in all its work.

The members of ENIL Youth Network come together to discuss important topics for young people with disabilities in Europe. They also choose the people who can make decisions for the Youth Network.



You can find more information about ENIL Youth Network at:

<https://enil.eu/about-enil-youth>

## More information

If you want to find more information about ENIL and our work you can visit our website at [www.enil.eu](http://www.enil.eu).

If you have questions, you can send us an email at [secretariat@enil.eu](mailto:secretariat@enil.eu).

