



ENIL's work in 2021

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



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.

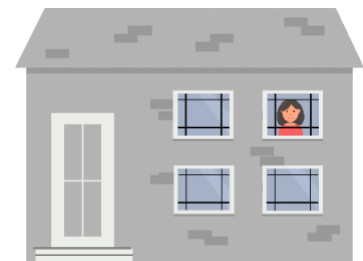
Independent living is to be able to choose
how, where and with whom you want to live.
All people should have the right
to live independently
and to be part of the community.



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 make their own choices
and take part in the community.
We want the European Union
to close all institutions
and give people with disabilities
the support they need to live independently.



What this booklet is about

We wrote this booklet
to talk about the work we did in 2021
to promote **independent living**.

Reading this booklet
will help you learn more about:

- The people and organisations
who are part of ENIL



- How ENIL got and spent its money in 2021.
- What ENIL achieved in 2021.

All the difficult words in the text are marked **in bold** and you can find their explanation at the end of this booklet.



Our people

Members

ENIL has more than 100 members. These are people with disabilities or 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

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

In 2021, the people who make decisions for ENIL met 4 times.



Amongst others,
they agreed on:

- Which activities ENIL will focus on in the coming year.
- How ENIL will spend its money to make these activities happen.



Youth group

ENIL Youth Network 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.



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.

In 2021,
the meetings of the Youth Network took place online.
They could not take place in person



due to **COVID-19**.

Amongst others,
the Youth Network and ENIL worked together
to make ENIL more accessible
so that everyone can take part in its activities
without problems.

Also, in 2021,
members of the Youth Network
spoke at important events.

This way,
they spread the word about the rights
of young people with disabilities.



You can find more information
about ENIL Youth Network at:
<https://enil.eu/about-enil-youth>

Office in Brussels

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

In 2021,



the people who work at ENIL's office in Brussels
did their job from home
and met only online
due to **COVID-19**.



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

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

Our money

ENIL needs money to make its work happen.

We use this money:

- To pay the people who work for us,
- To organise meetings and events,
- To manage our office in Brussels,
- On other things that are important for our work.



In 2021,
we got most of our money
from our members in Norway and Sweden.

Also, in 2021,

we applied to get money from the **European Union** to be able to continue our important work.

We got the good news that the European Union will give us money for the next 4 years.

This money will help us grow our team and do our job even better.



What we achieved in 2021

In 2021,
we worked hard to make things better
for people with disabilities.
We are proud that our work brought good results.



Amongst others:

We organised the Freedom Surf

The 'Freedom Surf' is an online event
that took place in September 2021
and lasted for 3 days.



We were happy that many people
joined this event.

Together we discussed
how **independent living** can become possible
for all people with disabilities.

[You can watch the videos
of the Freedom Surf here](#)



We worked together with other organisations

In 2021, we worked together with European and world organisations that fight for independent living.



Working together was very useful because we could share our experiences and learn from each other.

Our common aim is to close institutions and make sure that all people with disabilities can live independently.



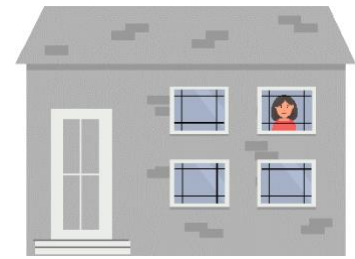
We also continued to support our members in their important work to promote **independent living** in their countries.

We pushed for the European Union to stop supporting institutions

The **European Union** gives money to its countries to spend it on things that make people's lives better. For example, to make schools, metros and hospitals.



Sadly,
many countries spend part of this money
to support institutions
where people with disabilities live
away from the community.
This is against the right
of people with disabilities
to live independently
and make their own choices.



In 2021,
we met people
who make decisions and laws in Europe
and asked them to stop using
the money of the European Union
to support institutions or build new ones.

We asked them to use this money to:

- Give people with disabilities the support they need to be able to live independently.
- Make things and services **accessible** so that people with disabilities can use them to take part in the community like everyone else.



We pushed for the UN Convention to happen in Europe

Together with our members, we checked how countries in Europe work to make the **UN Convention** happen.



We also helped our members in France and Estonia to write reports to explain:

- What problems people with disabilities still face in their countries.
- How their countries can work to respect the right to **independent living** and all the rights of the UN Convention.



We promoted the European Disability Strategy 2021-2030

The European Disability Strategy 2021-2030 is a plan that says how the European Union will work to protect the rights of people with disabilities between 2021 and 2030.



In 2021, we presented the strategy to our members

and explained how the strategy can make things better for people with disabilities and their right to live independently.

We started planning the next Freedom Drive

The Freedom Drive is a big event that ENIL organises every 2 years. The Freedom Drive brings together people with disabilities, their families, their friends and everyone who wants to stand up for the right to live independently.



The Freedom Drive 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.



In 2021, the Freedom Drive could not take place due to **COVID-19**. But we started planning the Freedom Drive of 2022.

The Freedom Drive of 2022 will take place on 26, 27 and 28 September 2022 in Brussels.

You can find more information about the Freedom Drive 2022 at: www.enil.eu/event/freedom-drive



We spread the word about independent living

In 2021, we used every opportunity to talk about the right to **independent living** and how we work to make it possible for all people with disabilities.



We let people know about important news, information and events by email.

We also published news on our website and on social media.

We are happy that many people follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



More information

If you want to find more information about ENIL and our work, you can visit our website at www.enil.eu.

If you have any questions, you can send us an email at secretariat@enil.eu.



Explanation of difficult words

Accessible

Things are accessible when they are easy to use for people with disabilities and all people. For example, when buses have ramps that people in wheelchairs can use to get in. Or when information is easy to read and people with intellectual disabilities can understand it.



COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease that can pass easily from one person to another.

Sadly, in the recent years too many people in the world have been ill from COVID-19.



To protect ourselves from COVID-19, we needed to avoid places with a lot of people and stay at home as much as possible.

European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe that work together to make things better for their people.



Independent living

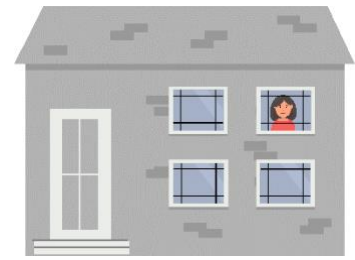
Independent living is to be able to choose how, where and with whom you want to live.



Institutions

Institutions are places

where people with disabilities live away from other people and from the community. Often, people who live in institutions must follow the rules of the institution and cannot decide for themselves.



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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



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.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**