



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**35**  
YEARS



EUROPEAN NETWORK ON INDEPENDENT LIVING

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**Photo description:**

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# Plain Language Summary

This report is about ENIL's activities in 2024.

It starts by remembering **Adolf Ratzka**.

Adolf fought for everyone to be able to live independently. Sadly, he died last year. We decided to dedicate this report to him.

The report mentions **our most important activities last year:**

- The Freedom Drive
- Our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- A document on Independent Living, which we helped the European Commission to write
- Having young disabled people in our office in Brussels

Then the report explains the rest of our activities.

The first part is called:

## Influencing policy

This part is about the rules made in Brussels which help people live independently. Sometimes, these rules are not good and we have to change them.

The activities we did were about these rules:

- How disabled people should be supported to live in the community
- How countries use the money
- New advice to countries on how to support disabled people to live independently
- How disabled people should have the right to make decisions
- How the money from the European Union is spent

Our staff and volunteers spoke about Independent Living in many events in Europe and also outside Europe.

We organised 32 events on different topics. Most of these events were online.

The second part is called:

## awareness raising

Our main activity was the Freedom Drive. This is a big event, where we have a big protest, workshops and a conference.

The Freedom Drive was very successful.

We also celebrated ENIL's 35th birthday. We heard many people speak about ENIL and we had cake.

We celebrated the European Independent Living Day in May.

We supported friends in Ukraine to work on deinstitutionalisation.

The third part is called:

## capacity building

These were our main activities:

- Helping disabled people vote in the European Union elections
- Meeting with our members in Stockholm, in Sweden
- Helping people understand what is Personal Assistance
- Helping Members of the European Parliament better understand Independent Living

We organised many events. Some were online and some in person.

We also met with different organisations in Brussels and online. We spoke about ENIL and Independent Living.

The last part is called:

## communication and dissemination

We published posts on the social media to promote Independent Living.

We collected personal stories.





We also recorded podcasts. In these recordings people talk about many interesting topics.

We sent our members Newsletters and information about our work every month.

The next part of the report is called:

### **global focus**

This is about activities we organised outside Europe.

For example, we were in the United States to speak about Independent Living.

We also worked on deinstitutionalisation with colleagues from around the world.

We organised an event about the Centres for Independent Living.

The next part is called:

### **youth focus**

ENIL has a Youth Network and they are very active.

They organised many events for young people. These events were in Strasbourg, Brussels and online.

The next part is called:

### **research**

It explains that ENIL collected information to find out how disabled people live. We asked them if they can live independently.

The part on **projects** explains that we worked on these topics:

- Going to court
- How the European Union money is used
- Whether disabled people have electricity and gas in their homes
- Young people coming to work in our office


The last part is about different

### **organisations that we work with**

For example, we are a member of the European Disability Forum.

The end of the report explains who worked for ENIL in 2024 and how we got money for our work.

It also says that ENIL has many members, who they are and where they are from.



“Independent Living  
is having the  
same range of options  
and the same degree  
of self-determination  
that people without  
a disability  
take for granted.”

**Adolf Ratzka**

# 1. In Memoriam: Adolf Ratzka



On July 21, 2024, the European Network on Independent Living lost one of our dear friends, founders and leaders, Dr. Adolf Ratzka. He died at the age of 80 in a tragic accident.

Adolf, born on November 20 in 1943, in Germany, was an advocate for disability rights who played a crucial role in promoting the right to independent living in Europe. User of personal assistance, ventilator and power chair since 1961, when at the age of 17 he became paralyzed due to Polio, he constantly fought for self-determination, inclusion and participation of disabled people.

After spending five years in a hospital in Munich, in 1966 a scholarship enabled Adolf to move to the University of California in Los Angeles. This experience was crucial in his life, as it was there that he first came into contact with the Independent Living movement. The support he received through direct payments for personal assistance from the German state allowed him to hire, train, and manage his own assistants, enabling him to live independently in a dormitory.

In 1984, Adolf founded the [STIL cooperative](#) in Sweden – the Stockholm branch of the Independent Living movement – which employs 1,300 personal assistants for disabled people, all recruited, trained and managed by the 200 members they assist. In addition to STIL, Adolf established the [Independent Living Institute](#) in Sweden, furthering his efforts to promote self-determination and accessibility for disabled people.

Adolf shared his reflections on the past, present and future of Independent Living during an [interview](#) for the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice, recorded in August 2022.

ENIL said goodbye to Adolf during the Freedom Drive in Brussels, where we played a tribute [video](#) about his life.

We dedicate this report to Adolf and miss him very much.



## 2. Our Main Achievements in 2024

### 11<sup>th</sup> Freedom Drive – Reclaiming Our Rights Now!

We organised another successful Freedom Drive, 11th in a row and the 5th one in Brussels. Judging from the feedback received from the participants, it was the best edition yet, with great speakers, an extremely relevant and diverse choice of topics for the workshops, many opportunities to connect and get inspired by Independent Living activists from across Europe. The protest and the event in the European Parliament were also one of the biggest to date, with a large number of newly elected MEPs meeting the Freedom Drivers. For the first time, we had a banner making art workshop before the protest, with some strong, creative and provocative messages for the EU decision makers. We also launched the new [Freedom Drive website](#), which made it easier to navigate through the programme, locations and other practical information. The Freedom Drive was made possible thanks to the great effort of the ENIL staff, Board and many volunteers, and we can be proud of what we achieved.

### 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated with old and new friends

It has been 35 years since the first meeting of the European Network on Independent Living at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Much has changed in the world since then and sadly, many of the founding members are no longer with us. Notably, Adolf Ratzka – who we remembered before the celebration dinner and speeches on 24 September. To mark the 35th anniversary, we heard from those involved in ENIL's beginnings – John Evans (who also sadly passed away since), Raffaello Belli and Theresia Degener. We heard from younger people too – Rados Keravica, Charlie Willis and Clementine Doevendans – about what ENIL meant for them when starting out in the Independent Living movement and what they hope for in the future. We remembered the key moments from ENIL's first 35 years in this [video](#), produced by Michael Goossens, ENIL's Communications Officer and Digital Organiser.







## Success with the Guidance on Independent Living

Following extensive input from ENIL, we are pleased that the European Commission's 'Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding', [published](#) on 21 November, includes many of our recommendations. Although not legally binding, the guidance will help us challenge investments into institutions, including group homes, and to promote funding for personal assistance, other community-based services, accessible and affordable housing, and Centres for Independent Living. Our next step will be making sure that the training is organised for the Managing Authorities and other stakeholders with the involvement of ENIL and our members.

## Supporting young people's employment prospects

After the disruption of our European Solidarity Corps programme during the Covid 19 pandemic and its aftermath, we hosted a record of three ESC volunteers at our Brussels office. Fionn Crombie Angus, from Ireland, Michael Brennan, also from Ireland, and Francesca Spanghero, from Italy, got their first experience of living and working in the EU capital. In addition to supporting our regular activities and the planning of the Freedom Drive, they came with their own ideas, and we helped them realise these. Fionn [interviewed](#) people in front of the European Parliament before the European Elections in May, asking them – Should all disabled people be allowed to vote? Michael [explained](#) the new guidance issued by the UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture. Francesca [co-hosted](#) the Disability Briefing with our Policy Coordinator Florian Sanden. We benefited greatly from having these young people on our team and are happy to see them go on to other great things, including in disability rights advocacy.



# 3. Highlights by Work Area

## Influencing Policy



### ENIL's Proposal for the new Framework for Social Services of Excellence

ENIL's [Proposal for the new Framework for Social Services of Excellence](#) was published in April. It argued that disability services should be organised according to the social and human rights models of disability and the principles of peer support and co-production.

ENIL's Proposal was presented by Florian Sanden (ENIL Policy Coordinator) during a public event in the European Parliament on 9 April, hosted by MEP Katrin Langensiepen. Emma Astrand presented the work of STIL – the Stockholm Cooperative on Independent Living. Tara Flood from the UK spoke about the co-production strategy of the Hammersmith and Fulham Council in London. Nora Bednarski, a member of the cabinet of Commissioner for Equality Dalli shared the view of the European Commission. MEPs Langensiepen and Jose Gusmao spoke about their positions on services for disabled people. Alfonso Montero from the European Social Network, Konstantine Levanti from EASPD and Aurelie Baranger from Au-

tism Europe presented the view of other disability organisations and service providers.

Later in May, we also presented our proposal to the Head of the Disability Unit at DG Employment, Lucie Davoine and her team. Moreover, ENIL was active in the European Commission's sub-group on the Framework, as part of the Disability Platform.

Linked to this work, ENIL contributed to a call for good practices on support systems for disabled people, published by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), for a [report](#) mandated by resolution 49/12 (A/HRC/RES/49/12). ENIL is cited three times in the report, which has integrated our concerns on the UN Care Agenda.

### Campaign against the use of state aid for segregation

Since 2023, ENIL has been collecting evidence on the use of state funding on institutions for disabled people and sheltered employment.



We identified 10 cases whereby a total of EUR 533,35 million were invested into sheltered employment, as well as four cases in which EUR 27,6 million were spent on institutions. The [case study](#) was published in January.

To address this problem, ENIL has launched a long-term campaign to make EU state aid legislation fully compliant with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We published a [briefing](#) setting out the goals of the campaign. In addition, an [article](#) was published in the Social Europe Journal, written by Florian Sanden.

On 4 December, we organised a [webinar](#) titled 'Mainstreaming UN CRPD provisions into the financing of services for Disabled People in EU legislation on state aid'. Among the speakers were Nadia Hadad, ENIL's Co-Chair, MEP Katrin Langensiepen, Konstantina Levanti from EASPD, Haydn Hammersley from the European Disability Forum and Immaculada Placencia-Portero from the European Commission.

## European Commission's Guidance on Independent Living

The Commission's 'Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding' was [published](#) on 21 November. ENIL [welcomed](#) the Guidance, which incorporated many of our suggestions, provided during 2023 and 2024. Importantly, the Guidance advises the Member States not to invest into institutions, including small group homes, and recommends a range of support services that should receive funds, including personal assistance and Centers for Independent Living. We presented our initial reaction to the Guidance on 11 December, at a webinar co-organised with other EU level organisations.

In March, two mutual learning workshops of the Disability Platform subgroup on the Guidance on Independent Living took place to gather examples of good practice. ENIL was represented by Elena Pečarič from Slovenia, who presented the work of YHD. ENIL proposed several examples for the good practice collection, which will be published as an accompanying document to the guidance in 2025.

In August, ENIL [sent a letter](#) to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

to highlight the need to ensure that new funding instruments are not used to finance institutions. We also proposed to include young disabled people in the newly created Youth Advisory Board to the President.

## Challenging legislation on the protection of adults

We continued our campaign to challenge two legislative proposals presented by the European Commission in May 2023 – the regulation governing cross-border cases for the protection of adults among EU countries, and a Council Decision that will oblige EU countries to join the 2000 Hague Convention on the Protection of Adults.

In May, together with the European Disability Forum, we met with the cabinet of the Belgian Minister for Social Affairs and another official from the same Ministry to discuss the draft regulation. The coming month, we also met with officials from the Belgian Permanent Representation to the EU, to reiterate our recommendations. These meetings were set up because the Belgian Government was holding the Presidency of the EU Council. We [argued](#) that the draft regulation requires a complete overhaul, to eliminate all articles on guardianship and institutionalisation.

Later in May, our Policy Coordinator Florian Sanden met with representatives of our German member ISL to mobilise support in Germany for our position. Experts in disability law [confirmed our concerns in a statement](#). Together with ISL, ENIL presented its concerns [via a letter](#). This was followed by an August [meeting](#) with representatives of the German Government.

## Advocating for better use of EU Funds

We undertook a number of activities during the year to promote compliance of ESI Funds with the UN CRPD and the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights.

Throughout the summer, we analysed hundreds of projects on the Commission's Kohesio platform to determine if they were aimed at developing community-based services and direct support, or if instead, they were funding segregated services. The results were [summarised](#) in

a briefing, finalised in December. Dissemination activities have been planned for 2025.

Based on our experience working on EU Funds, we redrafted the Commission's legal guidance on investing in institutions, to align it with the CRPD and the EU Charter. The [guidance](#) was published in December (the document is titled 'Reimagining EU Funds: Recommendations for the European Commission to promote independent living').

On behalf of ENIL, Rita Crespo Fernandez has led a Taskforce on ecosystem mapping for the European Community of Practice on Partnership throughout 2024. This taskforce aimed to better understand the different partners across Europe, particularly those that have traditionally not been involved in Monitoring Committees.

Other activities focused on the use of EU Funds:

- We attended a workshop and a conference on 21 – 22 February in Brussels organized by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency on the role of National Human Rights Institutions in monitoring EU Funds.
- We contributed to events organised as part of the EU HelpDesk Project, implemented by EA-SPD, Social Services Europe and the European Social Network. This included supporting the work on the guidance that was developed for the Managing Authorities and service providers.
- On 12 June, we took part in the regular CPR Expert meeting in Brussels, where we heard updates in relation to various funds and the future of MFF.
- We took part in the ESF+ Community of Practice on Social Innovation, since one of the subgroups focused on social inclusion, including community living.
- On 2 – 3 September, we attended a conference in Brussels on Social Innovation, discussing innovative projects, including on community living. Workshop discussions also looked at improving beneficiaries' role in the projects.
- On 5 December, we attended an event organised by the Community of Practice on "Living Independently in the Community: What Support Can Be Provided by ESF+?"

Additional activities were undertaken as part of the FURI Project.

## Engaging with the Presidencies of the EU Council

On 18 – 19 March, ENIL participated in the Disability Platform meeting and the [conference](#) of the Belgian Presidency of the EU on the European Pillar of Social Rights.

On 24 September, during the Freedom Drive, the ENIL delegation met with the Hungarian Presidency in Brussels to hand over the Freedom Drive demands and to discuss the actions taken by Hungary to promote the right to Independent Living. This meeting took place at ENIL's request, following our invitation to the Hungarian Presidency to speak during our hearing in the European Parliament on the second half of the Disability Rights Strategy 2021 – 2030.

In view of the upcoming Polish Presidency, Kamil Goungor spoke at the 10th Polish Congress of Persons with Disabilities, organised on 30 October by the Polish Disability Forum in Warsaw, Poland. Kamil spoke at the session: "We're in This Together: How the European Union Is Coping with the CRPD", from the perspective of Independent Living. Poland was to hold the EU Presidency from January to June 2025.

## Examples of other policy initiatives:

- We attended all three meetings of the Disability Platform – in March, June and October – and were active in the subgroups on the Independent Living Guidance and the Framework for Social Services of Excellence.
- We were active in the Disability Climate Caucus (led by the European Disability Forum), as well as the European Alliance for a Just Transition (led by Solidar).
- In April and October, we took part in the CoE Conference of INGOs (CINGO) General Assembly in Strasbourg, where we voted for the President and leadership of the Conference. We also submitted a report on our participation in the Conference in the past 4 years – a condition for membership of the Conference. Finally, we completed a survey in September to provide suggestions for CINGO's upcoming strategic plan.
- In June, ENIL published a [statement](#) on the situation of disabled people in Palestine.





- On 27 June, we held an [information session](#) for our members on the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card. Hana Velecka, from the Disability Unit at DG Employment, European Commission, explained how the European Disability Card will be useful for disabled people, what has been agreed and what are the next steps.
- In July, we attended a meeting of the civil society with the new Director of DG Employment, Mr. Mario Nava.
- Our Policy and Movement Support Officer Kamil Goungor was interviewed by DG Education, Youth, Sport and culture on Discover EU, for [podcast of a project](#) called idemEU (Innovative and Inclusive Democratic Spaces for Deliberation). He spoke about independent living, the importance of political participation and how [#AI](#) tools like iDEM's can better the daily lives of disabled people.
- Our Policy Officer Antonella Candiago gave an interview on the political participation of persons with disabilities in health-decision making. The [article](#) was published by the World Health Organisation on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- In October, we participated in a focus group session for the [Just Streets](#) initiative, focused on mobility justice and the experiences of advocacy and expert organizations.
- Also in October, Ines Bulic Cojocariu spoke at an online press conference organised by our member the Validity Foundation to comment on the European Court of Human Rights decision in the case of Tophaz. Our LITI-GATE Project Coordinator Adela Santos Lavigne explained the judgment in this [article](#).
- In December, we joined the [Facing Facts Network](#) meeting in Brussels. The network, coordinated by CEJI, works across communities and institutions to transform understandings of and responses to hate crime and hate speech in Europe and beyond for the benefit of victims, communities and EU societies. Members had the opportunity to share their work on hate crime and hate speech, work in groups on the future strategy of the network, meet with EC representatives working on the topic and network.
- On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, ENIL published a [position paper](#) recommending new initiatives



for European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021 – 2030.

- To generate new expertise, three reflection articles were published: about [the policies of fascist](#) governments towards disabled people; about the question [if the EU could adopt legislation on Independent Living](#); [about disability in Star Trek](#) and what it can teach us.

### A selection of ENIL's speaking engagements:

- 30 January: [Webinar](#) of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) titled “**Barriers and facilitators towards the digital inclusion of all citizens**”, focused on health care systems.
- 21 – 23 February: Kamil Goungor and our ESC volunteer Fionn Crombie Angus [represented](#) ENIL in Vienna at the [Zero Project Conference 2024](#), dedicated to inclusive education and ICT. Kamil and Fionn spoke and moderated sessions, visited an integrated school, and met people interested in disability rights from all over the world.
- 28 February – 2 March: ENIL's Co-Chair Nadia Hadad spoke at an event organised by the Human Capacity Initiative in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia entitled “**Unleashing Ability!**”.
- 5 March: Side event on disaster risk reduction during the **30<sup>th</sup> Session of the CRPD Committee**. ENIL's Co-Chair Nadia Hadad spoke on the topic of disaster risk reduction and the importance of data collection.
- 11-12 March: [Fundamental Rights Forum 2024](#), in Vienna. FFR focused on the rights challenges related to three overarching themes – climate change, technological advances and the threats to democracy and civic space. ENIL joined the table on “shaping a socially and environmentally sustainable Europe”, where the speakers addressed how climate change affects different marginalised groups and what is needed for a just transition that will include us all.
- 7 April: [European Commission's European Citizens' Panel on Tackling Hatred in Society](#). ENIL addressed the topic from the point of view of disabled people, among a diverse group of perspectives and experiences.
- 16 April: “**Inspiring Meetings with Policy Makers**” organised by İLKSENOL Youth Movement Association. Kamil Goungor spoke about ENIL, independent living, our youth network his personal journey in disability activism.
- 25 April: **Conference on combating hate crime**, organised by the European Commission and CEPOL (the European Agency on Law Enforcement Training) in Budapest. The partic-



Participants included representatives of the police from many Member States. ENIL addressed the topic from the perspective of disabled people and how it is addressed (or not) by the police.

- 25 April: **Expert meeting** to receive feedback on Eurofound's project "Paths towards independent living in Europe". Following the meeting, we provided comments in writing on the two drafts of the document.
- 30 April: **Strategic Dialogue meeting** on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on fair transition towards climate neutrality, organised by the European Commission.
- 7 May: Panel on '**Accessible Technology and Political Participation in the EU elections**', organised as part of [EDF-Microsoft European Accessibility Summit](#).
- 8 May: '**The Future of Accessible Transport**', organised by the UK Mission to the European Union in Brussels. ENIL shared live experience of transport and highlighted our call to realize freedom of movement and making accessibility an integral part of the policy-making process rather than an afterthought.
- 17 May: Conference titled "**The impact of technology on the life project of persons with disabilities**", organised by AIAS Bologna. Kamil Goungor focused on the role of technology and AI in supporting and hindering Independent Living.
- 1 June: Conference organised by **100% Handinamique** in Paris, round table titled "A specific movement of youth with disabilities, opportunities and challenges". We spoke about our Youth Network and the importance of in-

dependent living and personal assistance for young people.

- 4 – 5 June: [European Civil Protection Forum](#) in Brussels, organised by DG ECHO.
- 12 June: 12th Meeting of the **High Level Group on combating hate speech and hate crime** in Brussels. The event was jointly organised by the European Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. Participants discussed institutional responses to hate speech and hate crime at the EU and national levels.
- 24 – 25 June: **Global Leadership Exchange (GLE) Match on Self-Direction**, hosted by EA-SPD in Brussels.
- 26 June: Our Co-Chair Nadia Hadad spoke at the annual **European Social Services Conference** hosted by the Antwerp City Council, organised by the European Social Network as part of the Belgian EU Presidency.
- 2 July: "**Smart Cities: Enhancing Urban Design and Mobility for All**", held at Fundación ONCE in Madrid, organized by the European Commission's Accessible EU Resource Centre. ENIL spoke in the panel "Users of the Urban Environment: Needs, Problems, and Good Practices for the Use and Enjoyment of Public Spaces." This session addressed the challenges faced by disabled people in urban areas, focusing on accessibility, safety, and inclusivity.
- 6 September, Event organised by MDA Hellas, in Athens, Greece, on the occasion of the **World Duchenne Day**. ENIL spoke about Independent Living, Personal Assistance and what it means to have true choice and control for everyone.





- 2 October: Event on the topic of **bringing the UNCRPD into law in the UK**, organised by the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP).
- 15 October: EESC **public hearing on disaster risk reduction** and persons with disabilities.
- 17 – 18 October: EASPD’s [International Conference](#) in Athens, Greece, titled: “Opening Doors: How can disability support services unlock the open labour market?”. Kamil Goungor moderated a panel on what businesses need to do to be more inclusive.
- 11 – 22 November: Nadia Hadad represented ENIL as part of the EDF delegation at the **UN Climate Change Conference – COP29** in Baku, Azerbaijan, where she spoke in and moderated side events.
- 21 November: EURECO – EASPD session on the next steps for **upskilling and reskilling health and long-term care workers**. ENIL’s intervention focused on integrating independent living and disabled people’s perspectives into workforce training.
- 26 – 27 November: “**Annual Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU 2024: Realising Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Practice: Free Movement and EU Citizenship Rights**” organized by ERA – Academy of European Law.
- 2 – 6 December: [Disability Week](#) at the European Parliament. ENIL presented in an event on independent living and deinstitutionalisation (organised by EMPL Committee), and another event on women’s rights and access to healthcare and employment (organised by the FEMM Committee).
- 3 December: **Event on Personal Assistance**, organised by I MI Boke, Montenegro and Uloaba, Norway, on the International Day of People with Disabilities.







## 32 events organised by ENIL:

1. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 29 February
2. AI and Independent Living (online), 28 March
3. Western Balkans consultation on Independent Living (online), 5 April
4. Launch of the ENIL Proposal on Social Services in the European Parliament (in person, Brussels), 9 April
5. Youth Café (online), 13 April
6. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 25 April
7. Youth Café (online), 11 May
8. Training on political participation for women No. 1 (online), 21 May
9. Independent Living Research Network webinar (online), 22 May
10. GC-DI Thematic session on the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation (online), 23 May
11. Training on political participation for women No. 2 (online), 28 May
12. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 30 May
13. COSP side event on Centers for Independent Living (online), 11 June
14. Study session 'Creating Safer and Braver Spaces' (in person, Strasbourg), 10 – 15 June
15. Briefing on the European Disability Card (online), 27 June
16. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 27 June
17. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 5 September
18. Freedom Drive workshops – eight thematic sessions (in person, Brussels), 23 September
19. Freedom Drive hearing in the European Parliament (in person, Brussels), 24 September
20. Freedom Drive conference (in person, Brussels), 25 September
21. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 3 October
22. GC-DI Thematic session on Chapters I – III of the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation (online), 31 October
23. European models of Personal Assistance Cooperatives (online), 31 October
24. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 7 November
25. Regional members' meeting (in person, Stockholm), 22 November
26. Event on state aid (online), 4 December
27. Personal Assistance Watch (online), 5 December
28. Regional consultation for ENIL Strategy post 2025 – North (online), 9 December
29. Seminar on Independent Living for new MEPs (online), 10 December
30. Regional consultation for ENIL Strategy post 2025 – South (online), 11 December
31. Regional consultation for ENIL Strategy post 2025 – West (online), 12 December
32. Regional consultation for ENIL Strategy post 2025 – East (online), 13 December

# Awareness Raising

## Freedom Drive

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the ENIL Freedom Drive took place in Brussels, Belgium from 23 – 25 September 2024.

This was one of the biggest Freedom Drives so far, with some 320 participants and personal assistants joining us in the European Parliament, the Residence Palace, the EU Thon Hotel and in the streets of Brussels. We counted almost 40 nationalities. This means that the Freedom Drivers came from almost every corner of Europe – from Armenia to Sweden, and from Iceland to Bulgaria.

The topic of this year's Freedom Drive was **Reclaiming our Rights NOW!** We discussed what we would like the European Union to deliver as part of the remaining five years of the European Disability Rights Strategy. We addressed new Members of the European Parliament, handing them our Freedom Drive demands and asking them to prioritise the right to independent living in their mandates. We agreed what should be added to the existing Independent Living Pillars, to make sure that they are fit for now, and for the future.

- **Workshops**

The first day, during the seven workshops, we heard from almost 20 different speakers on the following topics: international cooperation, developing Centers for Independent Living, supported decision making, tackling ableism, the role of the EU in facilitating Independent Living, promoting Independent Living during EU accession, and deinstitutionalisation. An additional art workshop (on banner making) was available for those who needed a creative outlet.

- **Conference**

This mutual learning and exchange continued during the conference, where we focused on the topics of deinstitutionalisation, personal assistance and intersectionality. Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, who was at the end of her mandate, gave a speech and heard our concerns about the continued



investments of EU funds into institutions. Minister for Mobility, Elke Van den Brandt, acknowledged there was a long way to go until Brussels becomes accessible to disabled people.

- **Protest**

The highlight of the Freedom Drive was the protest – against institutions, for independent living and human rights. An estimated 500 people joined on a relatively sunny day, marching past the European Commission to the European Parliament. Many of the banners were created by the Freedom Drivers the day before, during the art workshop.

- **Hearing in the European Parliament**

Once we were in front of the European Parliament, many MEPs came out to meet us and share messages of support and commitment to work with us for full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They included: MEPs Katrin Langensiepen, Kathleen Funchion, Ciaran Mullooly, Marina Klajurand, Brando Benifei, Benedetta Scuderi, Tilly Metz, Cecilia Strada.

We then made our way into the Parliament for a hearing hosted by MEP Katrin Langensiepen, focusing on the second half of the European





Disability Rights Strategy 2021 – 2030. A range of speakers presented food for thought and discussion, in front of a meeting room full of Freedom Drivers and other participants. MEPs Katrin Langensiepen, Marc Angel, Gabriele Bischoff, Ciarain Mullooly and Villy Sovndal spoke during the hearing.

#### • **Freedom Drive Demands**

On the 26 August, ENIL launched the policy demands for the Freedom Drive. We asked for changes in five areas: 1. The redirection of funding from services which are segregating to those which support Independent Living. 2. Coordinating the setting of standards for Independent Living within Member States, 3. Promoting support decision making, 4. Improving social equality and 5. Improving the implementation of the UN CRPD. The launch was announced on our [website](#) and on social media. The demands were also handed to individual MEPs and to the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola.

During the Freedom Drive, an ENIL delegation also [meet with representatives of the government of Hungary](#), who received the Demands. Over 700 flyers presenting the Demands were printed. One was placed in the mailbox of each MEP.

#### • **Website**

A domain <https://enil-freedom-drive.com> was purchased to host the new Freedom Drive website, which will be used for the future editions. The website, which was launched in August, received a lot of positive feedback, as it made it easy to find all the information in one place.

After the Freedom Drive, the recordings and photos were posted in the Gallery. The report from the Freedom Drive was published in October and is also available from the [web-site](#).

#### • **Stipends**

A stipend was provided to the winner of the [‘Photo contest on Independent Living’](#) (launched on 5 May) to attend the Freedom Drive – Petra Stokar from Switzerland. ENIL covered her travel and accommodation costs in Brussels, as well as for her two assistants.

Another stipend was arranged for a young activist from Iceland – Sunna Augustsdottir, who participated in the ENIL study session in June. Her stipend was kindly sponsored by the Validity Foundation, an associated member of ENIL.



#### • Media

Thanks to extensively reaching out to the media, we were able to get a good media coverage. The Press Pack and the Press Clippings have been posted on the Freedom Drive [website](#). The Freedom Drive Demands were promoted to the media through [two press releases](#).

We created two new videos to promote the Freedom Drive: [Advocating for Disability Rights](#) and [Freedom Drive Talk](#).

### 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ENIL

After the Freedom Drive protest and the hearing in the European Parliament, it was time to celebrate ENIL's 35th Anniversary and to remember one of the key leaders of the Independent Living movement – Adolf Ratzka. A short [video](#) celebrating his life was shared with those present.

We were joined by two founders – John Evans and Raffaello Belli – and we heard from ENIL's supporters – Theresia Degener, Uloba – Independent Living Norway, STIL – Stockholm Independent Living Cooperative and MEP Katrin Langensiepen. New generations of ENIL, including members of the ENIL Youth Network Board, spoke about what ENIL meant to them.

The evening ended with a [video](#) taking us in a lighthearted way through the first 35 years

of ENIL and the announcement of the Martin Naughton Prize. This Prize, provided thanks to Martin's legacy gift to ENIL, will be used to award stipends to young independent living activists to join the future Freedom Drives.

Freedom Drivers and guests were offered dinner and drinks, followed by a birthday cake, which was kindly donated by an anonymous donor.

The Freedom Drive provided us, as ever, with an opportunity to socialise, to catch up with old and meet new friends and colleagues, and to forge plans for new actions to fight for independent living all over Europe.

### European Independent Living Day

The European Independent Living Day is [celebrated](#) every year on 5 May. On this occasion, ENIL organised several activities, in addition to mobilising our members to take action in their own countries:

- On 30 April, we supported the Right to Support Action Group in organising a [protest near the Parliament of Flanders](#) in Brussels. The Right to Support Action Group is a movement of disabled people, demanding more access to personal budgets, which is a competence of the regions in Belgium.
- On 4 May, we [set up a stand](#) during the EU Open Day in front of the European Commis-





sion's headquarters (Berlaymont), to inform the public about Independent Living. ENIL publications, posters and some merchandise were displayed to increase the visibility of our stand.

- We launched a [Photo contest on Independent Living](#) on 8 April, inviting our members and other disabled people to submit photos representing their perception of Independent Living. A small jury was formed to choose the winning photo among 18 entries. The winner – Petra Stokar from Switzerland – won a stipend to attend the Freedom Drive. The two runners up – Elif Gamze Bozo from Turkey and Nicole Fitzimmons from Ireland – received a fee waiver and had their work featured on the Freedom Drive [website](#).

An overview of events held by our members was presented in an [article](#) published on the ENIL website, and an additional [article](#) was included in EDF Members' mailing, written by our Policy Coordinator Florian Sanden.

## Supporting Independent Living advocacy in Ukraine

Open Society Foundations and the International Renaissance Foundation organised a think tank meeting to create an advocacy strategy on deinstitutionalisation for Ukrainian civil so-

ciety organisations. The meeting took place in Uzhgorod, in Western Ukraine, in January. Ukrainian organisations included Fight for Right, Disability Rights International Ukraine, and the League of the Strong. The international partners were ENIL, Validity Foundation, Centre for Legal Resources, the Iris Institute, and Inclusion Europe. There were 25 attendees contributing to extremely rich discussions, and a plan was designed to start working together to ensure all disabled people in Ukraine can live independently in the community. ENIL, represented by Rita Crespo Fernandez, was active in the discussions and delivered two presentations, one on disability activism, and another along with Validity Foundation on advocacy at the European level.

Later in the year, ENIL joined a meeting of the Ukrainian Care Group where the Ukrainian office on deinstitutionalisation presented their plan on deinstitutionalisation of children. This plan promoted the building of 700 homes for "large foster care families" with up to 10 children. ENIL and other international partners recalled the right of all children to grow up in a family and highlighted the danger of developing small group homes for children and the rights violations this would lead to. Following this meeting, we provided feedback on the draft Children's Deinstitutionalisation Strategy.

## Capacity Building

### Disabled people's participation in the EU Elections 2024

On 19 April, ENIL published its [manifesto](#) for the European Elections and the Legislative Period 2024 – 2029. The document contained 11 objectives, including a guarantee on the right to Independent Living, full voting rights for disabled people and equal treatment in all areas of life. The manifesto was distributed to Members of the European Parliament and to the public through various activities. Several MEPs endorsed the manifesto. A complete account of this campaign is available on our [website](#).



In addition, we [published a toolkit](#) on the elections, to encourage our members to use the manifesto to carry out their own activities. The manifesto and the toolkit were presented to the general public during [our new talk show format](#).

On 25 March and on 29 April, we took part in meetings of the Alliance for Youth Vote, bringing together various European organisations working on elections. We highlighted the barriers young disabled people face when it comes to voting or standing in elections.

On 21 and 28 May, we organised a [training for disabled women on political participation](#), hosted by our Policy Officer Antonella Candiago and our expert [Elena Ratoi](#). The training was divided into two sessions: the first session 'Political participation of disabled women: get involved!' focused on understanding the importance of political engagement, legal frameworks, and transforming barriers into opportunities. The second session 'Running for elections: everything you wanted to know before getting involved in elections' covered campaign planning, communication strategies, fundraising, and navigating challenges specific to disabled women. Some disabled women and girls who took part in the training were candidates in local and EU elections; others were aspiring leaders.

### Regional members' meeting in Stockholm

The [Nordic regional member's meeting](#) took place in Stockholm, Sweden on 22 November, in cooperation with our members STIL – Stockholm Independent Living Cooperative, the Independent Living Institute and JAG. The meeting was hosted by JAG, an organisation led by people with intellectual disabilities and complex support needs.

The regional meeting lasted one day and brought together 46 participants (including personal assistants) from Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, United Kingdom, Belgium, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina and San Marino.

In the evening, we watched a new documentary "Struggle for Life – Disability Politics in Sweden", followed by a discussion with the film director and STIL. The film describes the devastating impact of limitations in access to Personal Assistance on disabled people and their families.

On 23 November, ENIL had the pleasure of joining the 40th Jubilee party of the Independent Living movement in Sweden, where we celebrated with many colleagues the achievements over the last four decades.





## Sharing knowledge on Personal Assistance

On 6 March, we launched the [report](#) *Towards Dignity and Autonomy: A Comprehensive Look at Personal Assistance Policies for Persons with Disabilities Worldwide*, at a [webinar](#) co-organized with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The event included interventions from Lilia Angelova, the author of the report, ENIL Co-Chair Nadia Hadad, Amalia Gamio, Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Naoki Okamoto, Board member of the Japan Council on Independent Living Centers and personal assistance user, and Jamie Bolling, Director of the Independent Living Institute in Stockholm and ENIL's co-Chair. The webinar was moderated by Stefan Tromel, ILO Senior Disability Specialist.

ENIL was invited to join the International Congress on Personal Assistance in Valladolid, Spain, organised by Confederacion Salud Mental and Impulsa Igualdad. Rita Crespo Fernandez presented the results of the above report, guiding the Spanish decision-makers and civil society to create a successful personal assistance system. The conference was attended by more than 300 representatives from civil society and Spanish authorities. Our Co-Chair Jamie Bolling also intervened online.

In October and November, two sessions on Personal Assistance were held with Armenian

DPOs, joined by Jamie Bolling, Klaudija Poropat and Kamil Goungor, who presented the PA systems in Sweden, Slovenia and Greece respectively. This event was part of technical support provided by ENIL to our member AGATE, Armenia.

On 13 November, as part of our member Self Directed Support Scotland's Annual General Meeting (AGA), we delivered a webinar titled: "European models of Personal Assistance Co-operatives". In the webinar, moderated by our Kamil Goungor, we heard from Martine Eliasson from ULOBA, Norway, and Emma Åstrand from STIL, Sweden, on how these organisations work and their mission. A recording is available [here](#). After the webinar, Kamil presented the takeaways from the workshop in the plenary of the AGA, as described [here](#).







Throughout the year, we have been gathering information, reports, videos, and other forms of informative material on personal assistance from different European countries and in different languages. The knowledge hub, to be launched in 2025, will facilitate access to information on personal assistance services for disabled people. Topics covered include - what is personal assistance, the relationship between PA and PA user, recruitment, training for PA users, PA for children, etc.

### Personal Assistance Watch – PAW

Together with our member Alessandra Grotta, ENIL has been running the Personal Assistance Watch (PAW) – an online space to discuss different aspects and sub-topics of personal assistance – on a monthly basis. A total of eight PAW meetings were held during the year, usually on the last Thursday of each month:

- **February:** with Klaudija Poropat from YHD, sharing the experience of personal assistance development in Slovenia.
- **April:** on personal assistance from the perspective of individuals who not have a physical impairment. We heard from Nicolas Joncour, member of our Youth Board from France, about supported decision making and the way personal assistants support him living independently.
- **May:** with Silvia Cutrera, Federazione Italiana per il Superamento dell'Handicap (FISH), from Italy. We discussed the situation of independent living in Italy, with a special focus on the Lazio region.
- **June:** with Nadia Hadad, ENIL Co-Chair and Florian Sanden, the Policy Coordinator. The

topic was the European elections through the lens of personal assistance and disability policies.

- **September:** on the legal protection of the right to personal assistance and independent living. Speakers included Jukka Kumpuvuori, Jukka Kumpuvuori Law Firm, Finland, Mari Siilsalu, Independent Living Institute, Sweden, and Miroslava-Mima Ivanović, Initiative of Youth with Disabilities of Boka, Montenegro.
- **November:** on Centers for Independent Living and how they work in different countries.
- **December:** on peer support and community building activities. Our guest was Jesper Mathiesen from LOBPA in Denmark, talking about the personal assistance system in the country.

PAW sessions are recorded for internal use, but are not published on YouTube, in order to create a safe space for discussion and to safeguard the participants' privacy.

### Seminar on Independent Living for MEPs

On 10 December – the Human Rights Day – we organised the [online seminar](#) 'EU Disability Policy and the right to independent living and being included in the community'. The seminar was aimed at MEPs, their assistants, but also our





members, other disability rights organisations and the general public.

During the seminar we covered the following topics – An introduction to Independent Living, Deinstitutionalisation, Freedom of movement, Global action, Employment and Access to housing.

A recording of the event is available on our [YouTube channel](#).

### **A selection of other capacity building events:**

- On 28 March, in the framework of the online National Voice Conference run by our members Self Directed Support Scotland, we hosted a [workshop](#) on the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence for disabled people. ENIL consultant Maitreya Shah presented the results of the study and his research on AI and disability, while Björn Lubetzki, from Bridge the Gap, spoke about their work to make the tech world more inclusive.
- On 17-24 June, Kamil Goungor participated in the online Disability Symposium on Strength and Solidarity for Human Rights, organised by Mad Thinking, a collaborative project at the Centre for Mental Health, Human Rights, and Social Justice of the University of Essex, with the support of the [Symposium on Strength and Solidarity for Human Rights](#). Its aim was to provide a space for reflecting on the current realities facing the disability rights field, and it brought together a small group of individuals playing leading or critical roles in human rights activism.
- We cooperated with a PhD candidate from Finland/US Max Thurston, who started riding his bike from Helsinki to Cape Town at the beginning of June, advocating for disability rights, promoting ENIL and raising funds for the organisation. Max's story is described [here](#) and in a podcast we recorded with him [here](#). On July 24, Max visited the ENIL team at the Brussels office as part of his cycling journey, and he met with many of ENIL's members along the way.
- We have been supporting the Validity Foundation with planning an International Conference in November, titled "Justice that Works: Leveraging Cooperation and Tech for Gender Equity and Disability Rights". The conference focused



mostly on youth and children, and involved several members of the ENIL Youth Network as speakers, as well as our LITI-GATE Project Coordinator Adela Santos Lavigne.

- On 7-8 November, our Board member Elena Kochoska and Kamil Goungor were invited to Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, by our Spanish members Eginaren Eginez to speak at their two-day conference dedicated to the UNCRPD. They delivered 5 presentations in total about the UNCRPD principles, Independent Living and personal assistance, housing and the right to work.

### **Some of the organisations we met with and topics discussed:**

- Asistence, Czech Republic (access to personal assistance)
- French administration (Independent Living and deinstitutionalisation)
- Commissioner for Disability, the Government of Niedersachsen, Germany (Independent Living movement and the work of ENIL)
- Simon Duffy, Citizen Network/Self-Directed Support Network, UK (support services)
- CBM Italy (ENIL's work)
- Associação Salvador, Portugal (accessibility)
- Comitato Lombardo per la Vita Indipendente delle Persone con Disabilità & Agenzia per la Vita Indipendente, Italy (Independent Living)
- Korean Disability Forum, South Korea (Independent Living and disability rights worldwide)
- Cyprus Youth Club's Organisation (Independent Living)
- Peter Torres Fremlin, the Disability Debrief, UK (ENIL's work)

## Communication and dissemination



### 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign

The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign consisted of YouTube videos and posts, as well as a dedicated Newsletter in December.

<https://youtu.be/M5Y6ppU5Hks>

<https://youtu.be/GGZDS604Tul>

<https://youtu.be/FVVrzseCIUA>

<https://youtu.be/J3yT8oOEgzc>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtmyPtD-6PnTr3093bVr5Fvg>



### Storytelling

The 'Storytelling' series was made of up video interviews with MEPs, ENIL staff members and the general public.

- Video of [MEP Bischoff](#)
- Video with [Fionn and Katrin Langensiepen](#)
- Videos with [MEP Langensiepen](#) and [MEP Kym-pouropoulos](#)
- Video of Fionn Crombie Angus interviewing [people in the streets](#) on Independent Living and voting rights
- Video to promote the [ILO report](#) on Personal Assistance

We recorded the first episode of our "[Disability Briefing](#)". This is a new format for ENIL; a video interview in which we talked about the European elections, our toolkit and manifesto, the Freedom Drive and so on.

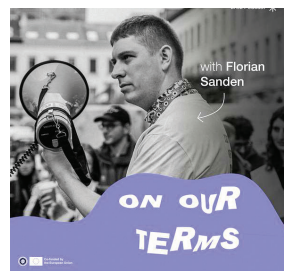
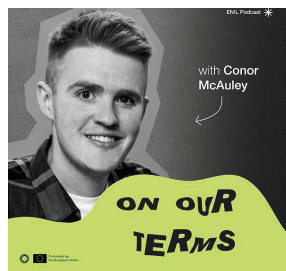
"[Here is what happened](#)" is yet another new format, in which we used photos and text to show what we have done. This episode explained how we supported our member organisation GRIP in the Flemish Parliament.



## Podcasts

We recorded and published 4 podcast episodes, all of which are available from the podcast [platforms](#):

- **“Pedalling for Change”**, featuring Max Thurston, a PhD researcher and adventure cyclist from Santa Fe, New Mexico, now residing in Helsinki, Finland.
- **‘Online Activism: Fighting for Disability Rights’**, with Conor McAuley, about disability advocacy through social media, and the opportunities and challenges it presents.
- **‘Driving Change: Policy Advocacy and Disability Rights in Europe’** with Florian Sanden, about the challenges and rewards of policy advocacy for disability rights.
- **‘Combating hate speech in Europe’** with Daniel Heller, about combating hate speech, the intricacies of policy coordination and the Facing Facts Network’s upcoming priorities and plans.

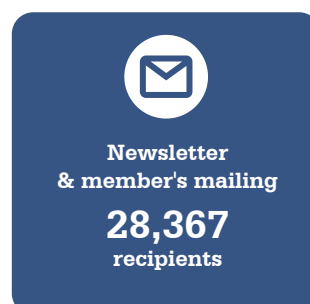
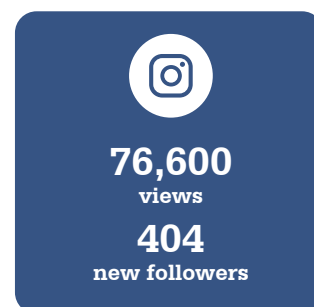
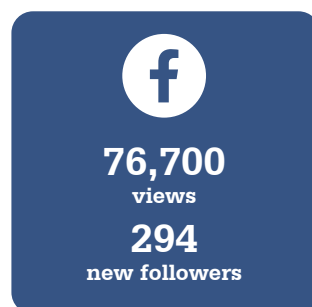
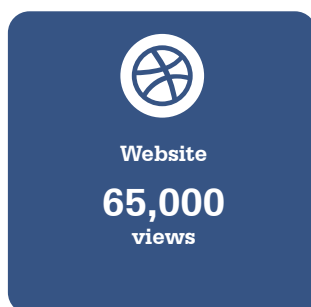


## ENIL Newsletter & Members' mailing

Twelve issues of the Member's Mailing and [Newsletter](#) were published, including two special editions: on Independent Living for the 5<sup>th</sup> May and on neurodiversity. Both publications are edited and published by Michael Goossens.



## Year 2024 in numbers



## 4. Global Focus

### **“Back to the Future” Conference in Washington DC**

On 22 – 25 July, our Co-Chair Nadia Hadad and our Independent Living Research Network coordinator Teodor Mladenov attended the National Council on Independent Living – NCIL Annual Conference “Back to the Future” in Washington DC, US. They attended conference sessions and join a disability rights protest to the Capitol. ENIL also ran a workshop on Independent Living Pillars in the context of international cooperation. This was part of our work of updating the Independent Living Pillars and promoting them globally. The workshop raised a lot of interest and our cooperation with NCIL continued in the framework of the World Independent Living Network – WIN.

### **Promoting the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in Emergencies**

The work to promote the Committee’s Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in Emergencies (GC-DI) has been undertaken in the framework of the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalisation, of which ENIL is a member. The other members are: International Disability Alliance, Inclusion International, Validity Foundation, Transforming Communities for Inclusion – Global, Disability Rights International and Human Rights Centre at the University of Pretoria.

Meetings of GC-DI took place on a monthly basis during the year, with ENIL chairing the group from January until the end of March.

To increase knowledge of the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, we decided to run a series of thematic webinars. Each webinar was led by one GC-DI member. A feedback session was organised after the first 3 webinars, to give participants a chance to ask questions and discuss. Recordings of the seven thematic sessions are available from [here](#).

ENIL coordinated the organisation of the introductory webinar, which took place on 22 March and was attended by over 80 people. Our the-



matic webinar took place on 31 October, focusing on Chapters I – III of the Guidelines, under the title: Key concepts, definitions and values underpinning the process of deinstitutionalisation. The recording is available [here](#).

At the end of March, GC-DI published a [Joint statement on large foster care](#) for children with disabilities. The statement expressed concerns about the plan to build hundreds of houses for foster care families who will host up to 10 children in Ukraine, as these will be no different than small institutions.

Together with GC-DI, we supported the CRPD Committee Secretariat in planning the second anniversary of the Guidelines, which took place during the Committee session, on 28 August in Geneva. During the session, we took part in the opening and in the commemorative event for Sir Robert Martin. Sir Robert was the first member with intellectual disabilities and one of the key members of the working group on deinstitutionalisation. With GC-DI, we prepared a statement honouring his memory.





## 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties in New York

As part of our membership of the World Independent Living Network (WIN), ENIL submitted an application for an online side event to the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the CRPD. As a result, we hosted an online event on June 11, from 10 to 11:15 AM (New York time), moderated by our Co-Chair N Hadad. The topic of the event was Centers for Independent Living in international cooperation. The recording is available [here](#).

Elena Kochoska, a member of ENIL's Board, was nominated by North Macedonia to run for the CRPD Committee. We supported her candidacy by sharing experiences and providing feedback during the application process, and by sending out a letter of endorsement to European Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Missions in New York. Unfortunately, Elena was not elected to the Committee.

## Other international activities:

- The European Commission invited ENIL to gather information on access to independent living in the Western Balkans, to feed into the accession process. ENIL hosted an exchange with members from the region and based on this, submitted input to the Commission. The document focused on the deinstitutionalisation process, the establishment of community-based services, and participation of DPOs in decision-making.
- On 6 December, our Co-Chair Nadia Hadad and Rita Crespo Fernandez attended the European Regional Disability Summit in Berlin. ENIL had a stand presenting our work on international cooperation.
- We were also represented by Nadia Hadad in the 'Deinstitutionalisation under Siege' Advisory Group, focusing on supporting deinstitutionalisation in the Middle East.



## 5. Youth Focus



### Highlights from ENIL Youth

- ENIL Youth had a stand during the opening of the [European Youth Week](#) in the European Parliament, on 12 April. At the stand, our staff and ESC volunteers promoted ENIL and our ESC programme.
- On 13 April and 11 May, the Youth Network ran its first two Youth Cafés, an initiative supported by the Bente Skansgårds Independent Living Fund. The Youth Cafés provide an on-line safe and accessible space, where young disabled people can meet and discuss topics of interest. The first café was dedicated to disability in times of conflicts and second to (de)institutionalisation and people who are not allowed to live independently in the community with everyone else. The third café took part during the Freedom Drive and focused on the threat of the far right to Independent Living.
- On 10 – 15 June, we co-organised a successful study session titled [“Creating Safe\(r\) and Brave\(r\) Spaces”](#), which brought together 20 young people from different communities (disabled, Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQI+ etc). The study session, held in Strasbourg, was organised together with Ceji – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe and was financially supported by the Council of Europe Youth Department.
- We were approved as a member of the new [EU Youth Stakeholders Group](#), with the first meetings planned for 2025.
- For the first time, ENIL Youth was awarded an annual work grant by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, for a project “Independent Living in the Digital Age”. The project focuses on representation of young disabled people in the social media and runs from January until December 2025.
- Nina Portolan, a member of the Youth Board, represented ENIL in the Youth Committee of the European Disability Forum and promoted independent living in Europe and internationally.



## Key youth events on youth attended by ENIL:

- **17 April (Nina Portolan):** Virtual Expert Think Tank on disability inclusive, comprehensive sexuality education globally. The event was organised online, as part of „Inclusive Education for Health and Well-Being for Learners With Disabilities: Think Tank Meetings“ by the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, Education Sector, UNESCO.
- **14-16 May (Nina Portolan):** “Confidence in Tomorrow” event to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Council of Europe;
- **11 – 14 June (Vita Vaisnyte and ESC volunteer Francesca Spanghero):** [SALTO’s Inclusion and Diversity Forum](#) in Oostende, Belgium. ENIL hosted one of the parallel sessions on advocacy, where we spoke about legitimacy, representation and credibility in advocacy, with regards especially to the disability rights movement.
- **6-12 October (Nina Portolan):** “ASEF Young Leaders Summit Capacity Buildings – Leadership in Society 5.0” training on youth, digitalisation, AI and leadership. Following the summit, Nina created the “Independent Living in Society 5.0” campaign on social media, inviting young leaders from Europe, Asia and Arab countries to provide contributions on a wide range of topics.
- **14-19 October (Nina Portolan):** “8th Arab-European Youth Forum – “Youth and Intercultural Dialogue in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” resulting in the creation of the [“Luxor Declaration”](#).



- **3 – 8 November (Antonella Candiago):** [World Forum for Democracy 2024](#) in Strasbourg. The event brought together activists, policy-makers, and experts to discuss this year’s theme “Democracy and Diversity – Can we transcend the divides?”. It focused on the challenges posed by socio-economic, gender, ethnic, and other inequalities, especially in the context of electoral processes, and how these disparities can foster division and populism. Ahead of the main forum at the Council of Europe, Antonella took part in training days at the European Youth Centre.



- **18 November (Vita Vaisnyte):** EU Lifelong Learning Stakeholders' Forum. The event was attended by the DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) Acting Director for Erasmus+ Michael Teutsch and DG EAC Director-General Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, and was the last opportunity to influence the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ Programme, which is due to finish at the end of 2024.



## 6. Research



### Independent Living Survey

The Independent Living Map 2023 was completed and a [summary report](#) was published in January, focusing on political participation.

In 2024, we decided to change the Independent Living Survey, taking into account the 15 Pillars of Independent Living. The new survey was structured as follows: for each area/pillar of independent living, there is a short description, followed by a checklist of 10 points that countries should guarantee. Countries received a score according to the level of independent living they meet. The results will be used to monitor the implementation of the European Disability Rights Strategy and disseminated among MEPs, EU institutions and civil society actors.

The survey was sent to experts on Independent Living (members of ENIL, wherever possible) in most countries in Europe. An easy-read version was available as well.

Additionally, a short glossary of relevant terms has been created to help understand the questions, including an easy-to-read version.

Based on the information received, we created [country fiches](#) for 25 countries and a summary report.

### Independent Living Research Network (ILRN)

On 22 May, we organised the Independent Living Research Network [webinar](#), featuring research by Gabor Petri, Agnes Kozma Turnpenny and Miro Griffiths. A [report](#) from the webinar, which was moderated by Dr Teodor Mladenov (ILRN volunteer coordinator), was published after the event.

We successfully applied to organise an Independent Living Stream during the Nordic Network Disability Research conference on 7 – 9 May 2025 in Helsinki. A call for abstracts was published in November and our team – composed of Kamil Goungor, Dr Teodor Mladenov (University of Dundee), Dr Miro Griffiths (University of Leeds) and Dr Rannveig Traustadottir (University of Iceland) – selected papers and created thematic sessions.



## 7. Projects

### **Promoting Choice, Control and Participation for All Persons with Disabilities in Europe and Beyond – Choice4All 2025**

January – December 2025

Project page: <https://enil.eu/project/choice4all/>

Coordinator: Ines Bulic Cojocariu



### **LITI-GATE – Strategic Litigation as a Gateway to Address the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

September 2023 – October 2025

Project website: <https://enil.eu/project/liti-gate/>

Coordinator: Adela Santos Levigne



### **FURI – EU Funds for Fundamental Rights**

March 2024 – February 2026

Project website: <https://enil.eu/project/furi/>

Coordinator: Rita Crespo Fernandez



### **ASSERT – Large-scale multi-actor training and mentorship programme to assist people with physical impairments in energy poverty**

October 2024 – September 2027

Project website: <https://assert.aisforacademy.eu/>

Coordinator: Antonella Candiago



### **European Solidarity Corps – Hosting young disabled volunteers**

January 2023 – December 2025

Project page:

<https://enil.eu/european-solidarity-corps/>

Coordinator: Vita Vaisnyte



## 8. Strategic Partnerships

### European Disability Forum (EDF)

Our Co-Chair Nadia Hadad represented ENIL on the Executive Committee of EDF, while two of our members – Nina Portolan (ENIL Youth Board) and Elena Ratoi, were active in the EDF's Youth and Women's Committees.

ENIL contributed to an EDF study on access of disabled people to health care by conducting interviews with disabled people from Belgium and Malta.

During February and March, with the support of a small grant from EDF, we contracted Maitreya Shah to help us develop a [fact sheet](#) on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its intersection with disability and independent living. It is available from [here](#).

We provided extensive input to EDF's [position paper on the transition from institutional care to community-based support](#) and have [contributed to a special newsletter of EDF](#) published on Independent Living Day on 5 May.

On 17 April, Kamil Goungor spoke at the EDF's training on accessible tourism, where he shared his own (and some of our members) experiences of travelling. Following the training, he wrote an article about [accessible travelling](#) for the EDF website.

On 25 April, Michael Brennan, our ESC volunteer, spoke at EDF's webinar on EU Mobility Programmes for Everyone, where he shared his personal experience on being an ESC volunteer at ENIL.

### European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG)

We took an active part in the work of the EEG, attending the majority of the five internal and additional Directors' meetings, and joining the MFF Task force at the end of the year.

In April, we contributed to and disseminated EEG's [call](#) for the prevention of institutionalisation of children, as part of the Child Guarantee.



During the Civil dialogue meeting between the EEG and the European Commission on 3 June, Rita Crespo Fernandez was one of the speakers and presented ENIL's FURI Project. We also joined and disseminated information about EEG's study session on 14 November, which focused on preventing institutionalisation of children.

### Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalisation (GC-DI)

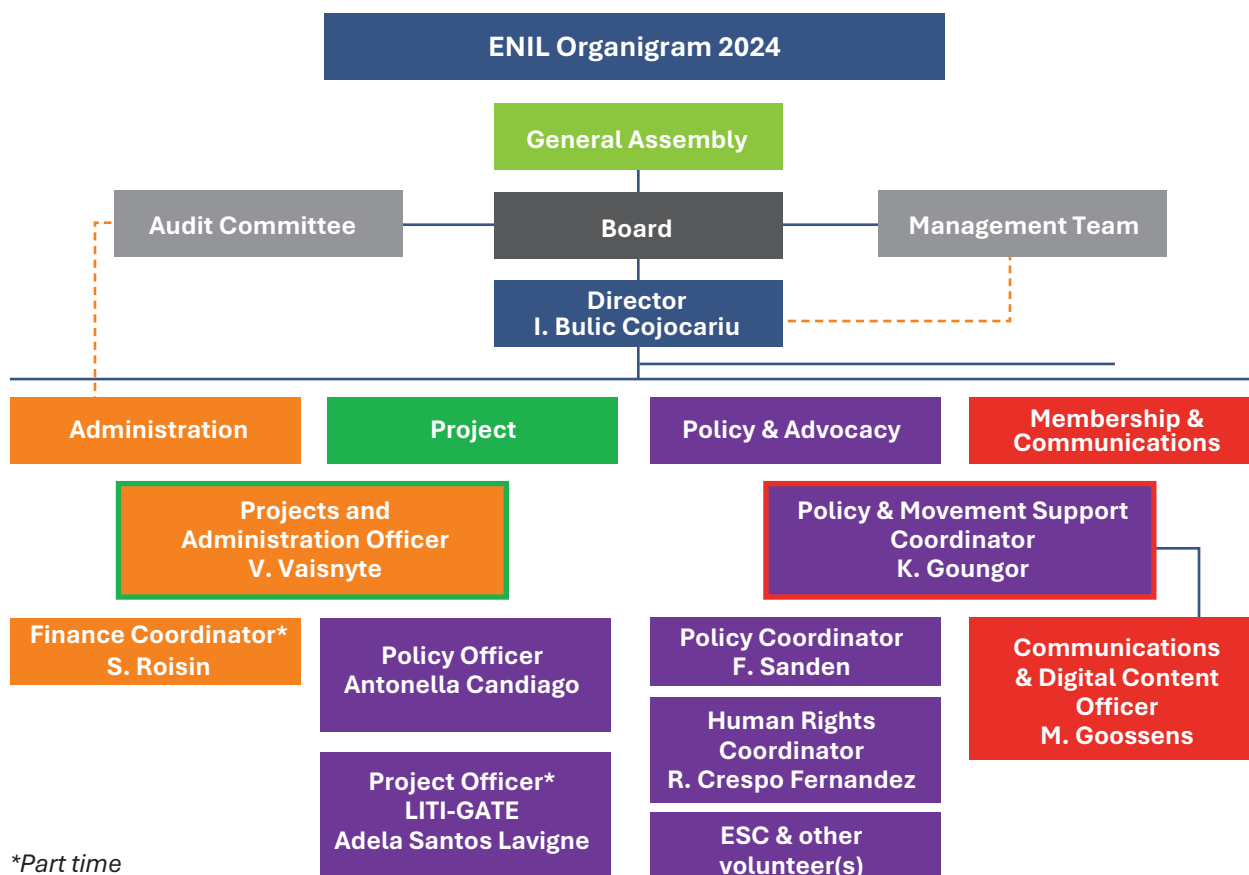
We continued working closely with the International Disability Alliance, Inclusion International, Transforming Communities for Inclusion, Validity Foundation, Disability Rights International and the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, as part of the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalisation (GC-DI). We chaired the group from January to March 2024.

### World Independent Living Centres Network (WIN)

We continued meeting regularly with WIN members from the North America, Latin America and Asia-Pacific, to discuss barriers to independent living worldwide and opportunities for collaboration. Monthly coordination of WIN passed from the Japanese Independent Living Centre (JIL) to the National Council for Independent Living in the US.



## 9. Our structure



### ENIL Secretariat

In 2024, the ENIL Secretariat consisted of 7 full time staff members, 1 part time staff member, 1 project officer and 5 office volunteers.

In March, we published a call to replace Aoife McGarry, the Office Assistant and Events Coordinator, who left ENIL for another job in Brussels. In her place, Vita Vaisnyte, from Lithuania, was recruited as the Projects and Administration Officer. Thanks to additional funding from Maribel, we were able to recruit another Policy Officer for the Brussels Secretariat. Both Antonella Candiago, from Italy, and Vita, joined the Brussels Office from 1 April 2024.

We hosted 3 European Solidarity Corps volunteers during the year – Fionn Crombie Angus from Ireland (October 2023 – March 2024), Michael Brennan from Ireland (March – August

2024) and Francesca Spanghero from Italy (April – September 2024). They were all young disabled people with no prior experience of living or working in Brussels.

Starting in March, we were joined remotely by Achanyang Atabong, a university student in Belgium, who supported our international activities until 13 May. From June until September, Vy Nguyen joined our Brussels Office on an Erasmus from the Central European University in Vienna.

In addition to bi-weekly online staff meetings, the entire team met in person in February for the yearly planning meeting. On 22 – 23 April, an induction training, delivered by the Director, was organised for the new ESC volunteers and our two new staff members. The training focused



on ENIL's history, how we work and key areas of work.

A new Salary Policy was approved by the Management Team and the Staff Manual was updated accordingly.

## Governance

Four Board meetings were held online – on 12 February (extraordinary meeting to plan the Freedom Drive), 11 March, 17 June and 16 September. The face-to-face meeting took place on 22 September in Brussels. The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the regular Board business, while the second part was a joint meeting with the Board of ENIL Youth.

Board members have been active in various ways and reported on their work for ENIL during their meetings. For example, Ingrid Thunem joined, on behalf of ENIL, the UNICEF Europe and Centra Asis Expert Reference Group (ERG) to develop a White paper on statutory family support and child protection as part of an effective gatekeeping system to prevent children unnecessarily entering alternative care. The group will start meeting in January 2025.



Nadia Hadad has been representing ENIL in the European Disability Forum's Executive Committee and in the Conseil des Personnes en Situation d'Handicap de la Region de Bruxelles-Capital. With Rita Crespo Fernandez, she has also been chairing the International Disability and Development's Consortium (IDDC) OPD Task Group.

The Board oversaw the work of the ENIL Secretariat through the Management Team, consisting of the two Co-Chairs Jamie Bolling and Nadia Hadad, and the ENIL Director. The Management Team met on a monthly basis and made decisions regarding human resources, funding, partnerships and ENIL's activities.

The ENIL Youth Board met three times in 2024 – on 9 March, 13 December and 21 December, with Kamil Goungor as the Secretary. The face-to-face Youth Board meeting took place on 22 September in Brussels before the Freedom Drive.

## Organisational and financial management

As part of preparations for the General Assembly, we organised 4 consultation meetings with members for our upcoming Strategic Plan 2026 – 2029. The online regional consultations, which were moderated by members of the Board and promoted widely, took place on the following dates: 9 (Northern Europe), 11 (Southern Europe), 12 (Western Europe) and 13 (Eastern Europe) December. Captioning was available during all 4 sessions, while two meetings had interpretation from English – into French and Spanish, respectively.

In addition, a survey was created and shared among members via the members' mailing, Newsletter and the social media. A total of 46 contributions were received.



During the Board meeting in December, a detailed timetable for the organisation of the General Assembly was approved and the date was set for 24 May 2025. The first meeting of the Nominating Committee was set for the beginning of January 2025.

The Audit Committee met 3 times during the year – in March, September and December, coordinated by Stanislas Roisin. The external audit of our funding was successfully completed on the 19 and 20 February and the audit certificate was included as part of our report to the European Commission for 2023.

## Funding

In 2024, we received core funding from the European Union (Choice4All Project), with our member in Norway, ULOBA, providing most of the co-funding through the ENIL Foundation. Additional co-funding was provided by our members in Sweden – STIL, as well as through the Maribel subsidy. The situation remained largely unchanged in comparison with the previous two years.

Other funders included the European Union – under CERV (managed by the European Commission and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency), Erasmus+ (managed by JINT as the National Agency), LIFE (managed by CINEA), the Council of Europe Youth Department (study session), Maribel and the European Disability Forum (a small grant for AI projects). We are also thankful to Max Thurston for fund-raising for ENIL by cycling across Europe.

The ENIL Youth Network applied to become a member of the European Youth Foundation and our registration (as an international organisation) was approved. This has opened up new funding possibilities for ENIL Youth from the Council of Europe. At the beginning of October, we submitted an application for an annual work grant, with a project focused on young disabled people and their media representation. This application was successful, allowing the Youth Network to expand its activities in 2025.

The FURI Project, focused on the fundamental rights compliance in EU Funds use, started on 1 March 2024 and will be ending at the end of February 2026. The project activities are complementary to the work on monitoring EU Funds as part of Choice4All, with ENIL having a role in

supporting partners carrying out activities at the national level (in Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary and Greece).

The LITI-GATE Project, focused on strategic litigation, continued in 2024 and will end by October 2025. The activities complement ENIL's capacity building activities, with the addition of new stakeholders – legal professionals.

In October 2025, we started a new project – AS-SERT – focused on addressing energy poverty among persons with disabilities in five pilot countries (Greece, Cyprus and the Mediterranean regions of Italy, France and Spain). ENIL is the only disability rights organisation in the project and our aim is ensuring that the activities are co-produced with disabled people. This project strengthens our awareness raising efforts, which are also central to Choice4All, and allows us to increase our expertise when it comes to the EU Green Deal.

Participation in the European Solidarity Corps, as a hosting and a sending organisation, allows ENIL to provide young disabled people with a working experience in Brussels, with a possibility of covering accessible accommodation, personal assistance and other accessibility costs from the project budget. Considering that ESC does not allocate any costs towards project coordination, the management of ESC volunteers is covered by our operating grant.

## Membership

As of March 2025, ENIL had members in all 27 EU Member States and 49 other countries – 18 European and 31 rest of the world.

- **Full organisational members:**  
95 organisations
- **Associate organisational members:**  
29 organisations
- **Full individual members:**  
766 individuals (disabled people)
- **Associate individual members:**  
254 individuals
- **Members of the ENIL Youth Network:**  
372 individuals

The list of organisational members (full and associate) is available in the next section of the report.

# 10. Membership (as of March 2025)

	Full members	Associated members
<b>Albania</b>	Together Foundation – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/sebashkufoundation/">https://www.facebook.com/sebashkufoundation/</a>	Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) – <a href="http://www.adrf.org.al">www.adrf.org.al</a>
<b>Armenia</b>	“Agate” Rights Defense Center for Women with Disabilities <a href="https://www.facebook.com/agate.ngo">https://www.facebook.com/agate.ngo</a>	
	‘Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities’ NGO for people with disabilities <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ereongo">https://www.facebook.com/ereongo</a>	
	Skarp Inclusive Health Center NGO – <a href="http://www.skarp.am">www.skarp.am</a>	
	Unison NGO for Support of People with Special Needs – <a href="http://www.unison.am">www.unison.am</a>	
<b>Austria</b>	BIZEPS-Zentrum für Selbstbestimmtes Leben (BIZEPS) – <a href="https://www.bizeps.or.at/">https://www.bizeps.or.at/</a>	
	SLIÖ – Selbstbestimmt Leben Österreich (Independent Living Austria) – <a href="http://www.slioe.at">www.slioe.at</a>	
<b>Azerbaijan</b>		Union of Disabled People Organisations of Azerbaijan – <a href="http://www.udpo.az">www.udpo.az</a>
<b>Belarus</b>	Office for the Rights of People with Disabilities – <a href="http://www.disright.org">www.disright.org</a> *	
<b>Belgium</b>	AMT Concept asbl – <a href="http://www.handy.brussels">www.handy.brussels</a>	Fondation Shan – <a href="http://fondationshan.be">http://fondationshan.be</a>
	GRIP vzw – <a href="http://www.gripvzw.be">www.gripvzw.be</a>	
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Bosnian Doctors for Disabled – <a href="https://bosniandoctorsfordisabled.ngo/">https://bosniandoctorsfordisabled.ngo/</a>	SUMERO – Union of organisations for support of people with intellectual disabilities – <a href="http://sumero.ba/">http://sumero.ba/</a> *
	Information center for persons with disabilities “Lotos” Tuzla – <a href="http://www.ic-lotos.org.ba">www.ic-lotos.org.ba</a>	Association “Dajte nam šansu” – <a href="http://www.dajtenamsansu.org/">http://www.dajtenamsansu.org/</a> *
	Humanitarian Organization Partner – <a href="http://www.hopartner.org/">http://www.hopartner.org/</a> *	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Centre for Independent Living Sofia (CIL-Sofia) – <a href="http://www.cil.bg">www.cil.bg</a>	
<b>Croatia</b>	Croatian Union of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (SOIH) – <a href="http://www.soih.hr">www.soih.hr</a>	
	Spinalne ozljede Zagreb (Spinal Injuries Zagreb) – <a href="http://www.soz.hr">www.soz.hr</a>	



	Full members	Associated members
<b>Cyprus</b>	Cyprus Paraplegics Association – <a href="http://opak.org.cy/">http://opak.org.cy/</a>	
	European Social Forum (ESFC)	
<b>Czech Republic</b>	European Council of Autistic People z.s. – <a href="https://eucap.eu">https://eucap.eu</a>	
<b>Denmark</b>	LOBPA – Landsorganisationen Borgerstyret Personlig Assistance – <a href="http://www.lobpa.dk">www.lobpa.dk</a> *	
<b>Finland</b>	Kynnys Ry ( The threshold) – <a href="http://www.kynnys.fi/en/">http://www.kynnys.fi/en/</a> *	
<b>France</b>	Association GRE A GRE – <a href="http://www.greagre.asso.fr">www.greagre.asso.fr</a>	
	Alliance Autiste – <a href="http://allianceautiste.org/">http://allianceautiste.org/</a>	
	CHA – Coordination Handicap et Autonomie – Vie Autonome France – <a href="http://coordination-handicap-autonomie.com">http://coordination-handicap-autonomie.com</a>	
	Observatoire des politiques du handicap – <a href="https://www.observatoirehandicapmonde.com/">https://www.observatoirehandicapmonde.com/</a>	
	Les Dévalideuses <a href="http://lesdevalideuses.org">http://lesdevalideuses.org</a>	
<b>Georgia</b>	Accessible Environment for Everyone – <a href="http://dpo.ge/en">http://dpo.ge/en</a>	
	Alliance of women with disability <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ALIANCEOFWOMENWITHDISABILITY">https://www.facebook.com/ALIANCEOFWOMENWITHDISABILITY</a>	
	Coalition for Independent Living – <a href="http://www.disability.ge">www.disability.ge</a>	
	National Network of Women with Disabilities – <a href="http://www.wandr.ge">www.wandr.ge</a>	
<b>Germany</b>	Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland e.V. (ISL E.V) – <a href="https://www.isl-ev.de/">https://www.isl-ev.de/</a>	
	Netzwerk für Inklusion, Teilhabe, Selbstbestimmung und Assistenz – NITSA – <a href="http://nitsa-ev.de/">http://nitsa-ev.de/</a>	
	Rhein-Main inklusiv e.v. – <a href="http://www.rhein-main-inklusive.de/">http://www.rhein-main-inklusive.de/</a>	
<b>Greece</b>	Association of People with mobility problems ‘PERPATO’ – <a href="http://perpato.gr">perpato.gr</a>	
	COOL CRIPS MAKE’ – <a href="https://coolcrips.gr/">https://coolcrips.gr/</a>	
	i-living – Independent Living Organization of Greece – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/gr.iliving/">https://www.facebook.com/gr.iliving/</a>	
	Paraplegicss’ Association of Drama – <a href="http://spnd.gr/">http://spnd.gr/</a>	

	Full members	Associated members
<b>Hungary</b>	The National Federation of Associations of Persons with Physical Disabilities ("MEOSZ") – <a href="http://www.meosz.hu">www.meosz.hu</a>	Validity Foundation – <a href="http://www.validity.ngo">www.validity.ngo</a>
<b>Iceland</b>	NPA miðstöðin – <a href="http://www.npa.is">www.npa.is</a>	
<b>Ireland</b>	Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) – <a href="https://ilmi.ie/">https://ilmi.ie/</a>	Fionnathan Productions – <a href="http://www.fionnathan.com">www.fionnathan.com</a>
	NCPD – The National Council for (the status) of People with Disabilities Company Limited by Guarantee – <a href="http://Galway.NCPD.ie">Galway.NCPD.ie</a>	Irish Wheelchair Association – <a href="http://www.iwa.ie">www.iwa.ie</a> *
<b>Italy</b>	Agenzia per la Vita Indipendente Onlus (AVI ONLUS) – <a href="http://www.vitaindipendente.org">www.vitaindipendente.org</a>	
	Associazione Vita Indipendente – <a href="http://www.avitoscana.org">www.avitoscana.org</a>	
	Comitato Lombardo per la Vita Indipendente delle Persone con Disabilità – <a href="https://vitaindipendentelombardia.wordpress.com/">https://vitaindipendentelombardia.wordpress.com/</a>	
	ENIL Italia – <a href="http://www.enil.it">www.enil.it</a>	
<b>Lithuania</b>	Independent Living Association – <a href="https://savarankiskasgyvenimas.lt/">https://savarankiskasgyvenimas.lt/</a>	
	Lithuanian Disability Forum – <a href="http://lnf.lt">http://lnf.lt</a>	
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Nëmme Mat Eis asbl – <a href="http://www.nemmemateis.lu">www.nemmemateis.lu</a>	
<b>Malta</b>	Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) – <a href="http://www.crpdp.org.mt">www.crpdp.org.mt</a>	Inspire (The Eden and Razzett Foundation) – <a href="http://www.inspire.org.mt/">http://www.inspire.org.mt/</a> *
	Malta Federation of Organisations Persons with Disability (MFOPD) – <a href="http://www.mfopd.org">www.mfopd.org</a>	Malta Association of Supported Employment
<b>Montenegro</b>	Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (UMHCG) – <a href="http://umhcg.com">http://umhcg.com</a>	
	Initiative of Youth with Disabilities of Boka – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Inicijativa-mladih-s-invaliditetom-Boke-I-MI-Boke-111829123575190/">https://www.facebook.com/Inicijativa-mladih-s-invaliditetom-Boke-I-MI-Boke-111829123575190/</a>	
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Polio Plus – Movement against disability – <a href="http://www.polioplus.org.mk">www.polioplus.org.mk</a>	
<b>Norway</b>	Foreningen JAG – <a href="http://www.jagassistance.no">www.jagassistance.no</a>	
	Uloba – Independent Living Norway – <a href="http://www.uloba.no">www.uloba.no</a>	
<b>Poland</b>	Institute for Independent Living – <a href="http://www.niezaleznezycie.pl">www.niezaleznezycie.pl</a>	The Sowelo Foundation (Fundacja Sowelo) – <a href="https://sowelo.net.pl/">https://sowelo.net.pl/</a>



	Full members	Associated members
	<p>Disabled Human Rights Centre Poland – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centrum-Praw-Os%C3%B3b-Niepe%C5%82nosprawnych/577383109057548?fref=nf">https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centrum-Praw-Os%C3%B3b-Niepe%C5%82nosprawnych/577383109057548?fref=nf</a></p> <p>‘Stowarzyszenie Kobiet Niepełnosprawnych ‘ONE.pl’ (The Association of Women with Disabilities ‘ONE.pl’) – <a href="http://onepl.org.pl/">http://onepl.org.pl/</a></p>	
<b>Portugal</b>	Centro de Vida Independente – <a href="http://www.vidaindependente.org">www.vidaindependente.org</a>	Caregivers Portugal – Associação Portuguesa de Cuidadores – <a href="https://www.caregiversportugal.pt/">https://www.caregiversportugal.pt/</a>
<b>Romania</b>		<p>Asociatia Magidream – <a href="http://www.dogtors.ro">www.dogtors.ro</a></p> <p>AEPADO – European Association for the Defense of Human Rights – <a href="http://www.aepado.ro">www.aepado.ro</a>*</p> <p>Ceva de Spus – <a href="http://www.cevadespus.ro">www.cevadespus.ro</a></p>
<b>Russia</b>		Kaliningrad regional public organization of disabled “Kovcheg” – <a href="http://39kovcheg.ru/">http://39kovcheg.ru/</a>
<b>San Marino</b>		Attiva – Mente – <a href="http://www.attiva-mente.info">www.attiva-mente.info</a>
<b>Serbia</b>	<p>Center for Independent Living Serbia (CIL Serbia) – <a href="http://www.cilserbia.org">www.cilserbia.org</a></p> <p>Center Living Upright – <a href="https://www.czuns.org/en/">https://www.czuns.org/en/</a></p>	
<b>Slovakia</b>	Organization of Muscular Dystrophy in the Slovak Republic – <a href="http://www.omdvsk.sk">www.omdvsk.sk</a> , <a href="http://www.osobnaasistencia.sk">www.osobnaasistencia.sk</a> , <a href="http://www.belasymotyl.sk">www.belasymotyl.sk</a> *	
<b>Slovenia</b>	Društvo za teorijo in kulturo Hendikepa (YHD) – <a href="http://www.yhd-drustvo.si">www.yhd-drustvo.si</a>	
<b>Spain</b>	<p>Eginaren Eginez – <a href="http://www.eginez.org">www.eginez.org</a></p> <p>Independent Living Federation of Spain (FEVI) – <a href="http://www.federacionvi.org">www.federacionvi.org</a></p> <p>Vigalicia (OVI Galicia) – <a href="http://www.vigalicia.org">www.vigalicia.org</a></p> <p>Oficina de Vida Independent Barcelona (OVI-BCN) – <a href="http://www.ovibcn.org/">http://www.ovibcn.org/</a></p> <p>Asociación Vida Independiente Andalucía – <a href="http://viandalucia.org">viandalucia.org</a></p>	
<b>Sweden</b>	GIL – Individual Independent Living – <a href="http://www.gil.se">www.gil.se</a>	
	Independent Living Institute (ILI) – <a href="http://www.independentliving.org">www.independentliving.org</a>	

	Full members	Associated members
	JAG Association – <a href="http://www.jag.se/">www.jag.se/</a>	
	Stiffarna av Independent Living i Sverige (STIL) – <a href="http://www.stil.se">www.stil.se</a>	
Switzerland	Selbstbestimmung.ch – <a href="http://selbstbestimmung.ch">http://selbstbestimmung.ch</a> *	
	Agile – Les organisations de personnes avec handicap – <a href="http://www.agile.ch">www.agile.ch</a>	
	InVIE dual – <a href="http://www.inviedual.ch">www.inviedual.ch</a>	
Türkiye	The Association of Women with Disabilities – <a href="http://engellikadin.org.tr/">http://engellikadin.org.tr/</a>	Izmir City Council Disability Council
		Abled youth and sports club, Kocaeli
		Down Syndrome Association of Türkiye – <a href="https://www.downturkiye.org/">https://www.downturkiye.org/</a>
Ukraine	Fight for Right <a href="https://ffr.org.ua">https://ffr.org.ua</a>	
United Kingdom	Alliance for Inclusive Education – <a href="https://www.allfie.org.uk/">https://www.allfie.org.uk/</a>	Euro Youth Mental Health – <a href="https://euroyouthmhblog.wordpress.com/">https://euroyouthmhblog.wordpress.com/</a>
	CIL Northern Ireland – <a href="http://www.cilni.org">www.cilni.org</a>	musicALL – <a href="http://www.musicallscotland.uk">www.musicallscotland.uk</a>
	Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) – <a href="http://www.dpac.uk.net">www.dpac.uk.net</a>	
	Disability Rights UK (DRUK) – <a href="http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org">www.disabilityrightsuk.org</a>	
	Dudley CIL – <a href="http://www.dudleycil.uk/">http://www.dudleycil.uk/</a>	
	Equal Lives – <a href="https://equallives.org.uk/">https://equallives.org.uk/</a>	
	Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living – <a href="http://www.gcil.org.uk">www.gcil.org.uk</a>	
	Glasgow Disability Alliance – <a href="http://www.gda.scot/">http://www.gda.scot/</a> *	
	Inclusion London – <a href="http://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk">www.inclusionlondon.org.uk</a>	
	Inclusion Scotland – <a href="http://www.inclusionscotland.org">www.inclusionscotland.org</a>	
	Independent Living Alternatives – <a href="http://www.ILAnet.co.uk">www.ILAnet.co.uk</a>	
	Leeds Disabled People's Organisation – <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LeedsDPO/">https://www.facebook.com/LeedsDPO/</a>	
	National Survivor User Network – <a href="https://www.nsun.org.uk">https://www.nsun.org.uk</a>	
	North Yorkshire Centre for Independent Living – <a href="http://www.nycil.org.uk">www.nycil.org.uk</a>	



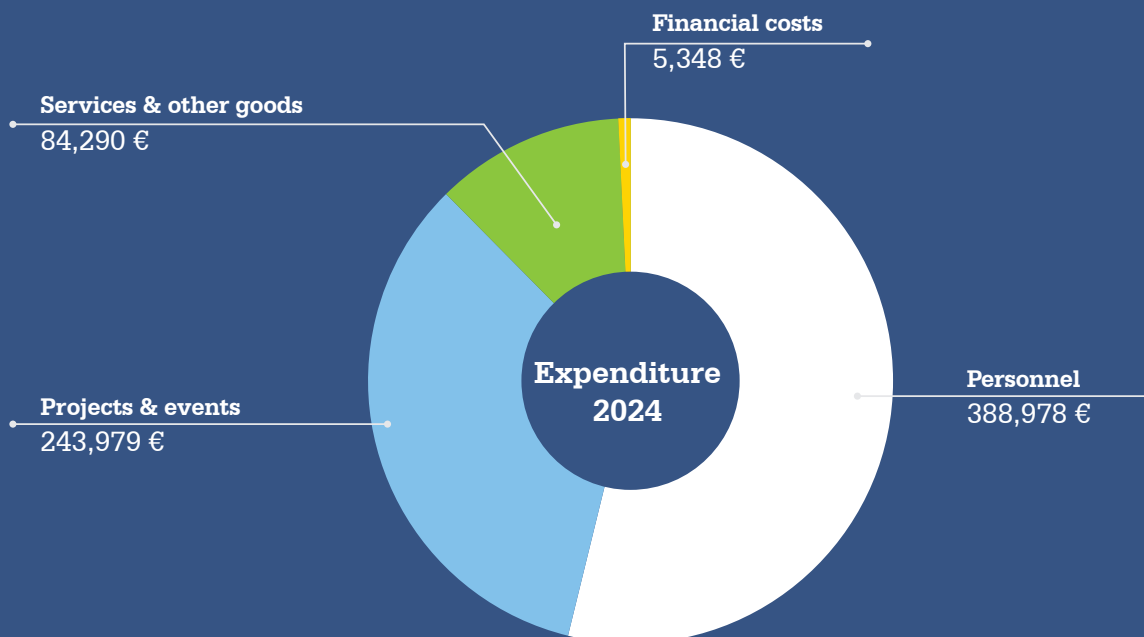
	Full members	Associated members
	Reclaiming our Futures Alliance (ROFA) – <a href="http://www.rofa.org.uk">www.rofa.org.uk</a>	
	Self-Directed Support Scotland – <a href="http://www.sdsscotland.org.uk">http://www.sdsscotland.org.uk</a>	
	SPECTRUM Centre for Independent Living – <a href="http://www.SpectrumCIL.co.uk">www.SpectrumCIL.co.uk</a>	

## Rest of the world

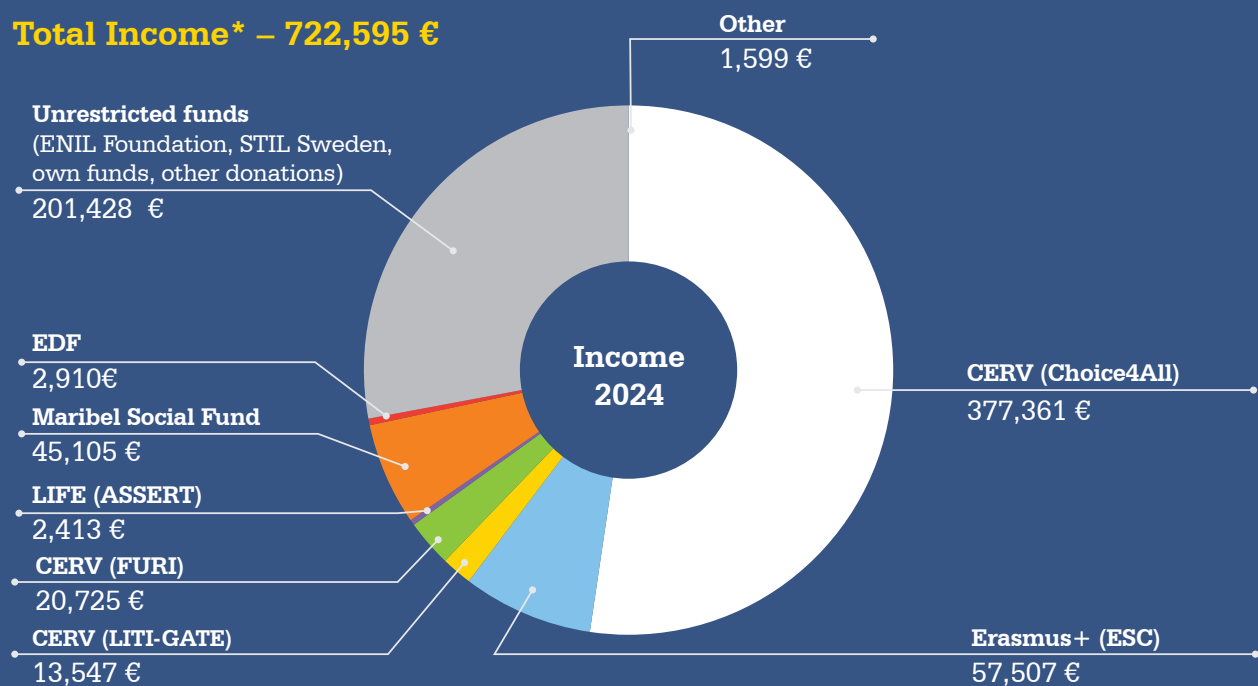
Country	Associated members
Bangladesh	Community Development Centre
India	Abled Fitness Foundation
Israel	AlManarah – <a href="http://www.almanarah.org">www.almanarah.org</a>
Japan	Independent Living Center Arc Spectrum – <a href="http://arcsp.sakura.ne.jp/">http://arcsp.sakura.ne.jp/</a>
Lebanon	Forum Of The Handicapped In North Lebanon – <a href="http://www.theforum-lb.org*">www.theforum-lb.org*</a>
Nepal	Center for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities, CIL-Kathmandu – <a href="http://www.cil.org.np">http://www.cil.org.np</a>
Nepal	KOSHISH National Mental Health Self-Help Organization – <a href="http://www.koshishnepal.org">www.koshishnepal.org</a>

# 11. Financial Report

**Total expenditures for 2024 – 722,595 €**



**Total Income\* – 722,595 €**



Funds paid into ENIL Foundation are a donation from Uloba – Independent Living Norway and provide co-funding for EU funded projects, along with other unrestricted funds.

Funds from the Council of Europe Youth Foundation are not shown in the income or expenditure, because they are paid directly to the study session participants to cover their travel expenses.

	2022	2023	2024
<b>Expenditure</b>	643,347.35 €	619,043 €	722,595 €
<b>Income</b>	684,943.76 €	619,043 €	722,595 €



# 12. Our team

## (January – December 2024)

### ENIL Board members

Nadia Hadad (Co-Chair, Belgium)  
Jamie Bolling (Co-Chair, Sweden)  
Radoš Keravica (Serbia)  
Suela Lala (Albania)  
Vibeke Marøy Melstrøm (Norway)  
Tess van Deynse (Belgium)  
Elena Kocoska (North Macedonia)  
Ingrid Thunem (Norway)  
Mirko Tomassoni (San Marino)

### ENIL Youth Board members

Charlie Willis (UK)  
Clementine Doevendans (Netherlands)  
Nina Portolan (Serbia)  
Melike Bal (Turkey)  
Nicolas Joncour (France)  
Bram O'Dea (Ireland)

### Staff

Ines Bulić Cojocariu, Director  
Florian Sanden, Policy Coordinator  
Kamil Goungor, Policy and Movement Support Officer  
Michael Goossens, Communications Officer and Digital Organiser  
Stanislas Roisin, Finance Manager (part time)  
Rita Crespo Fernandez, Human Rights Coordinator  
Antonella Candiago, Policy Officer (from April 2024)  
Aoife McGarry, Office and Events Coordinator (until March 2024)  
Vita Vaisnyte, Projects and Administration Officer (from April 2024)  
Adela Santos Lavigne, LITI-GATE Project Coordinator (from September 2023)

### Volunteers, interns and advisors

Fionn Crombie Angus  
Michael Brennan  
Francesca Spanghero  
Achanyang Atabong  
Vy Nguyen  
Max Thurston

Alessandra Grotta (Personal Assistance Watch)  
Dr. Teodor Mladenov (Independent Living Research Network)  
Zara Todd (Youth/Leadership)  
Frank Sioen (Independent Living training)  
Many Freedom Drive volunteers

We wish to thank our outgoing staff, all our volunteers, interns and Board members for their contribution to our work. We are, as ever, grateful to our members – ULOBA Independent Living Norway and STIL – for their continued generous support of our work, as well as to other all other funders.



## About the European Network on Independent Living

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is a disabled-led, cross-disability network of disabled people and their representative organisations. ENIL promotes the right to independent living, as set out in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), its General Comments and the *Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in emergencies*. ENIL's work is guided by the CRPD and the Independent Living principles, enshrined in the Independent Living Pillars. ENIL is active at the European level, and internationally, through cooperation with Centers for Independent Living from around the globe. ENIL's actions and activities are based on the social and the human rights models of disability, and on the principles of inclusive equality, self-determination, solidarity and intersectionality.

ENIL has participatory status with the Council of Europe (i.e. is a member of the Conference of INGOs) and consultative status with ECOSOC.

### Contact us

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Website: [www.enil.eu](http://www.enil.eu)



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[www.enil.eu](http://www.enil.eu)

