



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



EUROPEAN NETWORK ON INDEPENDENT LIVING – ENIL

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**Photo description:**

- Cover page: Katrin Langensiepen MEP and other speakers and participants during ENIL's event in the European Parliament.
- P. 3: ENIL team during the European Day of Persons with Disabilities event, in front of a large poster.
- P. 4: Nadia Hadad and Jamie Bolling during ENIL's 35th Anniversary event.
- P. 6: Jamie Bolling and John Evans side by side, smiling at the camera.
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# Plain Language Summary

This report is about ENIL's activities in 2025.

It starts by remembering **John Evans**. John was one of the founders of ENIL and a President for a long time. Thanks to him, many disabled people in England now live independently.

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

- Our work with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to help them decide how well the European Union applied the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People – the CRPD
- Asking the European Union to make sure money is used for independent living, not sheltered workshops or institutions
- Activities done by our Youth Network, for young people, such as summer schools
- Meeting with our members in Sarajevo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Our new Strategic Plan for the next 4 years, which explains what we are going to do as ENIL and how

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 the money is spent, if on independent living or sheltered workshops or institutions
- If disabled people get to make decisions about their lives
- Where disabled people live
- How disabled people can be protected from discrimination

We also worked on some important topics:

- What the European Union should do to make the Convention on Disabled People a reality
- Some advice on what is needed for independent living, which we called a Roadmap
- If disabled people should be helped to end their life, which is called 'assisted dying'
- How disabled people live in group homes in Bulgaria, and what are the day care centres like

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

We organised 27 events on different topics. Most of these events were online.

The second part is called:

## **awareness raising**

Our main activity was the European Independent Living Day in May. We showed a film about personal assistance in Sweden. We also protested in Brussels for independent living.

We supported friends in Ukraine to work on deinstitutionalisation.

The third part is called:

## **capacity building**

These were our main activities:

- Meeting with our members in Sarajevo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Helping people understand about Personal Assistance
- Working on the rights of women and girls with disabilities
- Promoting Centers for Independent Living and helping disabled people understand how to establish these organisations

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 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 that are about disabled people outside Europe.

Our main activity was to take part in a big event called the Global Disability Summit in Brussels.

The next part is called:

**for young people by young people**

ENIL has a Youth Network and they were very active in 2025.

They organised a summer school in Sarajevo, which was about how disabled people are presented in newspapers and other media.

They published some guidelines about this topic.

They also organised a summer school for women and girls from Ukraine and Georgia in Brus-

sels. They wanted to show them how to be politicians and fight for their rights.

Some of these girls then stayed with DPOs for one week, to see how they work.

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 2025 and how we got money for our work.

It also says that we had our General Assembly in 2025. This is where many of our members come together online.

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





# Message from the Co-Chairs

ENIL's work is more and more important!

The world is becoming less democratic, and times are characterized by uncertainty. Disabled people around Europe live with too many obstacles and unequal conditions. ENIL through its activity in Europe is following with concern the developments of their lives. We see how support is being questioned, there are higher taxes and less benefits and this results in people becoming poorer and especially disabled people. Our conviction is the same as expressed in the 2030 Agenda: Leave no one behind – which makes our work a challenge as the area is so vast and then it is so much more important that action is taken.

During the year, ENIL has carried out projects and activities that raise our voices and show the inequality that we face. Through information and training, ENIL has made it possible for more disabled people to become empowered. We have worked to make sure that those in charge grasp the impact of bad laws and policies on disabled people and understand what must be done to ensure we can access our rights.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to the ENIL members and our partner organisations that help us to promote the rights of disabled people in Europe and around the world.

It is the changes for a better world that give hope. They show that change is possible when people organise themselves and work together. And soon we have the 2026 Freedom Drive when we can inspire one another for our quest.

In solidarity,

**Jamie Bolling & Nadia Hadad**  
Co-Chairs, ENIL

# 1. In Memoriam: John Evans Obe



John Evans & Jamie Bolling – European Parliament for Disabled People, 2012 (@L. Michalak)



After the death of Adolf Ratzka in 2024, the beginning of 2025 was marked by the passing of another of ENIL's founders. On Monday, 13 January 2025, we lost a pioneer of the Independent Living movement in England and in Europe, a long-term President of the European Network on Independent Living and a dear friend and colleague, John Evans OBE.

John was born in Swansea, Wales on 25 May 1950. In his youth, he travelled around the world, practiced yoga and meditation and was among a group running a peace project in Jerusalem. After becoming disabled during a stay in the US, he was first supported by friends, but eventually ended up in a Leonard Cheshire institution called 'Le Court'. John described his escape plan and the eventual break out from the institution in a book 'From Le Court to Strasbourg – Fighting for Independent Living for 30 years', published in 2014 by Spectrum CIL (formerly Hampshire CIL).

As part of what was famously called 'Project 1981', John convinced the local authorities to give him and other disabled people a budget to employ their own personal assistants. He moved into his own place in Petersfield, Hampshire and got his freedom back. This was the beginning of independent living for John, but it changed the lives of countless disabled people too. John described his journey in a short film he co-produced in 2022 with his wife, Jana Bleckmann-Evans, called "[My Fight for Freedom](#)".

John went on to establish the European Network on Independent Living in Strasbourg, in 1989, alongside late Adolf Ratzka and many others. He always stressed it was not just him and that the fight for independent living was a collective effort. John was closely involved in ENIL's work throughout his life, until the very end. Between 1996 and 2014 he served as ENIL's President for 10 years, as well as representing ENIL on the Board of the European Disability Forum.

With his powerful speeches and clear messaging, John addressed many Freedom Drives (including the last one in 2024) and travelled to Strasbourg and Brussels until recently, when he was no longer able to do due to his health. He was radical in his fight for independent living and against any form of segregation, yet had the ability to convince many politicians to do the right thing. Thanks to his diplomatic skills and warmth, he made sure ENIL received its first operating grant from the European Commission in 2007.

John shared his thoughts with ENIL about the past, present and the future of Independent Living in an [interview](#) for the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice, in September 2022.

In all that we do – as described in this Annual Report – we aim to continue John's legacy and the fight for freedom for all disabled people. We carry the memory of John with us along the way and miss him greatly.

## 2. Our Main Achievements in 2025

### Implementation of the CRPD in the European Union

The second and third combined review of the European Union by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) provided a crucial opportunity to improve implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We published an update to our shadow report on Article 19, which was very well received. The Concluding Observations – particularly those on Article 19, but also on Article 27 – include many of ENIL’s recommendations. A great advocacy success, which will be of immense use for our future work.

### Promoting legal capacity

Our advocacy on the proposed Regulation on cross-border protection of vulnerable adults and the EU Members States’ ratification of the Hague Convention, together with a group of other disability rights organisations in Brussels paid off. Thanks to a great effort, including speaking to MEPs and Member State governments, we managed to ensure that the new proposals are more aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### Use of state aid for sheltered workshops

Thanks to our campaign, we managed to put the use of state aid for the building of sheltered workshops and institutions on the EU agenda.



Our work has been reinforced by the recommendations of the CRPD Committee to the EU and has come at the time of revisions of the relevant EU legislation. In addition to highlighting problems with the use of state aid, our aim was to advise on what should be funded – with a view of including disabled people in the open labour market.

### Creating opportunities for young people

The ENIL Youth Network has been going from strength to strength, thanks to additional funding from the European Youth Foundation. Two successful summer schools were held – in Sara-



jevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brussels – as well as a number of other activities. The Youth Network has been focusing on issues of importance to young disabled people, such as media representation and political participation of women and girls with disabilities.

### Connecting with members from the Western Balkans and Caucasus

The Regional Meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia was a great occasion to bring together our members from the Western Balkans and Caucasus. It provided us with many learning and exchange opportunities – focusing on personal assistance, good practices in advancing Independent Living

and EU accession. We have been impressed with the great motivation of our members from this region for coming together, learning and promoting independent living, despite the many challenges they face in their work and their daily lives as disabled people.

### Strategic Plan 2026 – 2029

After broad consultation with ENIL members, we adopted our Strategic Plan 2026 – 2029 during the General Assembly in May. The Strategic Plan sets out the priorities for ENIL with coming years – based on the Independent Living Pillars and reinforcing an intersectional approach to our work.

## 3. 2025 in Numbers

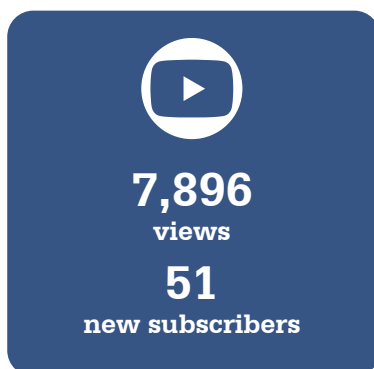
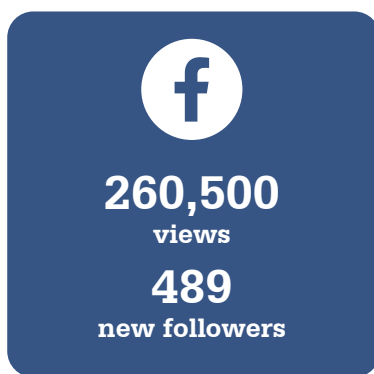
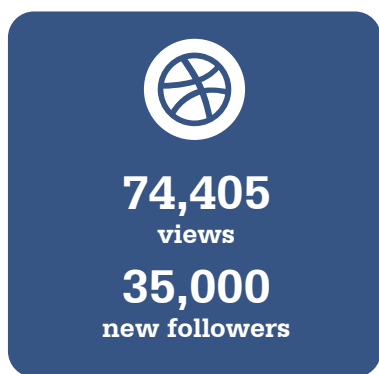


### We organised 27 public events in 2025 ...

1. Adolf Ratzka memorial, 21 January (online)
2. Personal Assistant Watch, 6 February (online)
3. Independent Living Task Force I, 25 February (online)
4. Online briefing for Member States on legal capacity, 7 March (online)
5. Personal Assistant Watch, 6 March (online)
6. Feminist and Disability Activism: Building an Inclusive Movement, 14 March (online)
7. Pop up protest and networking event on independent living during the Global Disability Summit in Berlin, 2-3 April (in person)
8. Personal Assistant Watch, 3 April (online)
9. Independent Living Task Force II, 23 April (online)
10. Independent Living Day 2025, 5 May (in person)
11. Personal Assistant Watch, 15 May (online)
12. Youth Café, 16 May (online)
13. EU Policy Briefing I (CRPD Review of the EU, MFF and Legal Capacity), 20 May (online)
14. Personal Assistant Watch, 5 June (online)

15. Independent Living Task Force III, 17 June
16. Meeting with Markus Scheffer and other EU level organisations, 24 June (in person)
17. Mainstreaming the UN CPRD into EU legislation on state aid – Which way forward?, 24 June (in person)
18. Launch of the Independent Living Survey, 10 July (online) – 44 ppts
19. EU Policy Briefing II (EU Disability Rights Strategy, EU Youth Policy, and ENIL Strategic plan 2026 – 2029, 16 July (online)
20. Neurodivergent Women: Neurodiversity, Gender, Disability Rights, 3 September (online)
21. Regional meeting, 16 – 17 September (in person)
22. Personal Assistant Watch, 25 September (online)
23. Make Independent Living Services a priority in the EU Disability Strategy, 19 November (hybrid)
24. EU Policy Briefing III (Artificial Intelligence, Hate Crime/Speech, and Housing), 25 November (online)
25. Independent Living Roadmap Consultation, 27 November (online)
26. From My Country to Yours, 18 December (online)
27. Youth Café, 20 December (online)

**... with just over 1,000 participants joining online or in person.**



## 4. Highlights by Work Area

### Influencing Policy



#### Monitoring CRPD implementation by the European Union

In February, we submitted an **updated shadow report on implementation of the CRPD by the EU** to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee), as part of the second and third combined review of the European Union. Our updated report provided additional information, focusing on the misuse of EU funds, the proposal for a regulation on cross-border situations of vulnerable adults, and participation in public life.

On behalf of ENIL, Ines Bulic Cojocariu delivered a statement focused on Article 19 at a **private briefing** with other civil society organisations and the Committee rapporteurs for the EU (Markus Scheffer and Laverne Jacobs), organised by the International Disability Alliance.

Together with Validity Foundation (in cooperation with the CRPD Committee Secretariat and IDDC), we organised a **training for the CRPD Committee on EU funds**, covering legislation,

terminology and key issues, to support the preparation of the review.

We attended the **EU review in Geneva** at the United Nations headquarters, on 11 and 12 March; represented by Nadia Hadad, Rita Crespo Fernandez and Michael Goossens. We were also part of the **civil society briefing** on 10 March, where our Co-Chair Nadia Hadad delivered a statement on the implementation of Article 19 by the EU.

ENIL followed the review in person, and met with different members of the Committee, providing input when requested. We also met with representatives of the International Labour Organisation and with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, to discuss other topics.

During our time in Geneva, we recorded several videos for our social media, including a video explaining [why we were there](#), and [videos of partners and Committee members](#). We also recorded a video on [our impressions on the review](#).

Following the review, we published a [reaction to the concluding observations](#) together with the Validity Foundation and an [explanatory video](#). Our activities before the review were successful, resulting in many of our recommendations being included in the Concluding Observations.

**Discover ENIL’s Shadow report:** click [here](#)

## Producing a Roadmap on Independent Living

The work on the Roadmap on Independent Living was supported by the **Independent Living Task Force**, under the leadership of Florian Sanden.

During the first Task Force meeting, Dr. Simon Duffy introduced personal budgets, while in the second meeting, Stig Langvad and Dorthe Stief Christensen explained how personal budgets work in Denmark. During the third meeting in June, Katrijn Ruts from GRIP, Belgium and Frank Sioen presented the personal budget scheme in Flanders, Belgium.

On [19 November](#), we held a hybrid event in Brussels, to launch the draft **Roadmap on Independent Living**. The event was titled *“Make Independent Living Services a Priority in the EU Disability Strategy”* and was attended by 18 participants in person and 101 participants online. Among them were representatives of the European Commission, national authorities, DPOs and other Brussels-based organisations.

Following the event, the final text of the Roadmap was agreed during the final Task Force meeting on 27 November.

On 2 December, it was presented by Florian Sanden during [an event](#) on Independent Living organised by the European Platform for Rehabilitation, and on 3 December, [at an event](#) in the European Parliament.

**Discover the Roadmap:** click [here](#)

## Campaigning against the use of state aid for segregation of disabled people

We were successful in getting the CRPD Committee to recommend to the EU reform of the General Block Exemption Regulation, as part of the EU review. We then worked to build an advocacy coalition on the issue by seeking support from other

organisations, specifically the European Disability Forum and Inclusion Europe.

On 24 June, we organised **an event in the European Parliament** on the use of state aid, hosted by MEP Katrin Langensiepen. The [event](#) was titled *“Mainstreaming the UN CRPD into EU legislation on state aid – Which way forward?”* and brought together 45 participants. Prof. Markus Schefer, rapporteur for the EU in the CRPD Committee, presented the relevant Concluding Observations and explained why sheltered employment is against the UN CRPD. Director in DG JUST Ana Carla Perreira responded to the contribution and advocated for caution.

Following the meeting, ENIL joined Disability Platform’s Subgroup on Employment. We also submitted a [contribution](#) to the European Commission’s public consultation on state aid.

Before the event in the European Parliament, we organised **a meeting between Markus Scheffer and other EU level NGOs**, to discuss follow up to EU recommendations by the CRPD Committee.

The **Report on state aid** was published in July, presenting evidence and advancing a proposal for reform. We expressed concern about the increasing use of state aid by Member States to finance sheltered employment, instead of supported employment. We proposed to remove sheltered employment from the list of options that can be funded entirely.

Thanks to our advocacy, the topic featured on the agenda of the Disability Platform on 19 June, which involved DG Competition. During the meeting, we recalled the importance of reforming the EU’s state aid regulatory framework in support of Independent Living.

**Discover the Report on state aid:** click [here](#)

## Promoting employment in the open labour market

Along with our advocacy on state aid, we published the report **New policy pathways for the labour market inclusion of disabled people**, released in November. The report provides an in-depth legal analysis, empirical arguments in support of mainstream employment and recommendations.

**Discover our Report on employment:** click [here](#)

## Advocating for a strong Equal Treatment Directive

Our work, like other rights groups, focused on [calling](#) on the Polish EU Presidency and the European Commission to put the Equal Treatment Directive back on the EU agenda.

On 3 September, we published a [statement](#) welcoming the EC decision to put the proposal back on the table and proposing what the directive should contain.

On 29 October, we **met with Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management Hadja Lahbib** and her team. We emphasised the need for the adoption of the Equal Treatment Directive and presented our proposal to add an amendment providing a right for disabled people living in institutions to access housing and social protection in the community.

## Challenging legislation on the protection of adults

We have continued our [advocacy campaign](#) against the Regulation on the cross-border protection of vulnerable adults and the ratification of the Hague Convention, started 2024.

We added additional arguments to our position and distributed [a position paper](#) and [amendments](#) to all members of the Committee for legal affairs (JURI) of the European Parliament. We held **meetings with the teams of five MEPs**: [Yana Toom](#) (Renew), [Krystoff Smiszek](#) (S&D), [Katrin Langensiepen](#) (Greens), Jagna Marczałajtis-Walczak (EPP), Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew).



We also had **meetings with representatives of three national governments**: [Poland](#), Malta and Germany. We have established informal contacts with some national governments and have been working on expanding those.

Since the beginning, we have been **coordinating closely with EDF** on the matter and have agreed [to issue joint amendments](#). Next to ENIL and EDF, Mental Health Europe, Inclusion Europe, AGE Platform and EUCAP joined the advocacy efforts. Together, our organisations demanded the complete removal of all concepts that limit the legal capacity, of all references to institutionalisation and of the central registers. We were able to do so at a crucial moment. The joint amendments provided a strong argument in favour of supported decision-making and for data protection on a level equal to others.

Together with coalition partners, ENIL hosted **an online briefing for Member State governments** on 7 May. The objective was to establish trust, by giving government representatives a safe space to exchange views and concerns. In total, 40 government representatives attended.

We also explained the plans to ratify the Hague Convention in the EU to the CRPD Committee –

during the EU review – which agreed about the incompatibility with the UN CRPD and has made a recommendation to stop ratification.

[Our advocacy campaign](#) was a success, in that we contributed to compliance with Article 12 and 19 of the CRPD at EU level. While the EU Council persisted with a cautious approach, the European Parliament fully supported our position. The final report of the JURI Committee proposed to remove the most problematic “measures”, from the implementing regulation. Among those measures were guardianship, placements in institutions and third-party management of a persons’ property. Supported decision-making has been added as a measure.

### Improving access to housing

We contributed to efforts to improve access to housing at EU level. In October, we [published a position paper](#), contributed to [a public consultation](#) and to [a European Parliament report](#). We recommended to improve access of persons confined to institutions to housing in the community and to improve access of disabled people to housing overall.

### Campaigning for EU budget to support Independent Living

Throughout 2025, we ran a [campaign](#) to influence the legal framework for the next **Multinational Financial Framework (MFF) 2028 – 2034**.

After the Commission launched its proposal in July, we sent our recommendations to the Parliament and the Council. Our members were invited to address their MEPs.

In order to contribute to the open consultations by the European Commission on the MFF, we produced a [position paper](#) gathering evidence of misuse of EU funds, the key issues and recommendations. Towards the end of the year, a [new working paper](#) on MFF was drafted and shared with the Board.

We submitted **responses to two EC public consultations** – on the *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034*, and another on the *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and*



*the Council establishing a budget expenditure tracking and performance framework and other horizontal rules for the Union programmes and activities.* We called for including the CRPD as a horizontal principle, adding stronger safeguards to prevent investments in segregation, and reinforcing the complaints system and the partnership principle.

### Undertaking the study visit of EU funded services in Bulgaria

From 12 – 16 October, we organised a **study visit to Bulgaria**, to collect evidence about the use of EU Funds for deinstitutionalisation of adults with disabilities. The study visit was implemented by Rita Crespo Fernandez as the coordinator and Michael Goossens, as the photographer, supported by Aneta Genova and Tanya Tsaneva from the Network of Independent Experts – NIE in Bulgaria.

The team visited three small group homes and two day-care centers, all funded by the EU, in the province of Kyustendil. They spoke to the management, staff and residents about the people who were moved from larger institutions,



living conditions, mandatory regimes, and other topics. The objective was to establish whether these settings allow disabled people to live independently, as Bulgaria claims.

They also interviewed leaders from the Center for Independent Living Sofia – a member of ENIL – and from the Network of Independent Experts, to understand the legal background and the extent of services available in the community. In addition, they met the National Human Rights Institution in Bulgaria, to discuss how they could support the process of deinstitutionalisation.

After the study visit, the team met with representatives from DG REGIO and DG Employment at the European Commission to discuss the use of EU funding for building institutions in Bulgaria.

The report “**I’m Here for Life**” was published at the end of December, accompanied by two videos recorded during the visit, including interviews with survivors of institutions.

Throughout the year, ENIL was active in the **Community of Practice on ESF+**, represented by Rita Crespo Fernandez. ENIL co-led the working group on the role of change agents in implementing the code of conduct of partner-

ship in Monitoring Committees. A survey on how the group views the role of change agents was carried out.

**Discover the study visit report:** [click here](#)

**Discover the videos:** [here](#) and [here](#)

## **Engaging with the Polish and Danish Presidencies**

Our [recommendations to the Polish Presidency](#) were published on 3 January. On 27 – 28 March, ENIL participated in the meeting of the Disability Platform and the Polish Presidency Conference in Brussels, where Nadia Hadad and Ines Bulic Cojocariu delivered a joint presentation in the panel on Independent Living.

On 13 July, we came out with [recommendations to the Danish Presidency](#). Following this, we met with the Social Attache of the Danish Government in Brussels to discuss the EU Disability Rights Strategy and other files.

As the Danish Presidency was working on the Council Conclusions on Independent Living, we proposed a number of [amendments](#), and after they were published in October, our [reaction](#).

On 6 – 7 November, ENIL Co-Chair Jamie Bolling spoke during the High-Level event on Independent Living, organised by the Danish Presidency in Copenhagen.

## Formulating ENIL's Position on Assisted Dying

Based on a survey sent to the Board and members, as well as targeted outreach, Antonella Candiago drafted the **position paper on assisted dying**, balancing all the perspectives. There was a lot of interest in the topic, which is sometimes a divisive one among disabled people.

A dedicated meeting was held to discuss the findings and to identify ways to strengthen ENIL's position. Based on these exchanges, ENIL reaffirmed its position against assisted dying under the current conditions, emphasising that the existing structural discrimination, lack of adequate support services, and barriers to independent living make it impossible to consider assisted dying as a free and informed choice.

**Discover ENIL's Position on Assisted Dying:** [click here](#)

## Other policy initiatives:

- We took an active part in all meetings of the Disability Platform during the year, where we are members of the subgroups on Independent Living and on Employment.
- In March, we contributed to the development of the EU FRA's social media campaign on inclusivity, participating in message testing sessions.
- We provided extensive comments to the Commission's draft document with good practices accompanying the EC Guidance on Independent Living in April, highlighting which practices are not compatible with the CRPD.
- During February, we submitted written input to the CRPD Committee for the day of general discussion on the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life.
- We collected examples from our members about the impact of USAID closure on their

work, focusing specifically on Independent Living projects. These were presented at a meeting organised by the Disability Unit at DG JUST in March.

- On 30 April, we submitted [input](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on the care and support for children with disabilities in the family environment and its gendered dimension.
- In July, we submitted [input](#) into the second phase of the European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Specific [suggestions for action](#) have been disseminated to the various Commission services and EU Institutions by order of priority.
- [On 4 September](#), we presented ENIL's activities to Ana Carla Pereira, Director for Equality at the Directorate General Justice of the European Commission.
- On 10 -11 June, we joined the Facing Facts Network members meeting and in July, the EU Anti-Racism Strategy Consultation. In addition, Kamil Goungor was interviewed for the online three-week course on [Understanding and Responding to Hate Speech](#).
- On 26 June, we met with Nevena Peneva from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, to discuss cooperation between ENIL and EU FRA.
- We took part in the 1st Consultation meeting of OHCHR's Equality and Quality in Disability Inclusive Human Support Provision (EQUIP) project on 11 July.
- On 23 September, we attended the "European High-Level Expert Workshop: (Re) Designing Healthy Ageing: A Dialogue on Innovations, Interventions and Policies" and contributed to the policy briefing "[\(Re\)Designing Healthy Ageing: A Dialogue on Innovations, Interventions and Policies](#)".
- We took part in many other strategic dialogues, surveys, meetings and events, with a view of promoting the right to Independent Living and implementation of the CRPD. We spoke on topics such as employment, assistive technology, artificial intelligence, intersectionality, gender-based violence, quality of services for disabled people, mobility justice, digital accessibility and climate justice.

## Awareness Raising

### European Independent Living Day

To celebrate the Independent Living Day on 5 May, we published a statement, organised an in-person event in Brussels, supported our local members in holding a street protest and raised awareness through our website and social media.

In [our statement](#), we sought to raise awareness on the current disability rights regressions taking place and to show to the public that the Independent Living Day is a Europe wide day of action.

The main event was a **film projection and discussion**, organised in cooperation with the UN OHCHR Brussels Regional Office. During the event, we showed a documentary co-produced by STIL, Sweden titled *“The Struggle to have a life – Disability Politics in Sweden”*. The documentary highlighted the impact of budgetary cuts on the countries’ personal assistance scheme by telling stories of disabled people. To provide context, a number of speakers gave contributions, including Christina Meinecke, the Regional Representative of OHCHR for Europe.

ENIL staff joined a **protest** in Brussels on 5 May, organised by the BAP collective. This was in response to plans by the Brussels Region to terminate its personal assistance budgets, with negative effects for many disabled people.



In addition to activities in Brussels, we travelled to **San Marino** from 5 – 7 May, to attend a series of events organized by our Board member Mirko Tomassoni and his organisation Attiva Mente under the title [‘It’s OUR time!’](#). The focus of the events was on Independent Living and employment. It included an international conference on Independent Living and a meeting with the Heads of State.

### Deinstitutionalisation in Ukraine

ENIL joined the **Strategic Planning Workshop** “Towards a Reconstruction and Recovery Strategy for Deinstitutionalization and Full Inclusion





in Ukraine”, held in Budapest, Hungary. The workshop was organised by our member Fight for Right, with the support of the Validity Foundation and the New Society Institute.

During the meeting, the participants shared updates since the last meeting on deinstitutionalisation in Uzhhorod, Ukraine and worked on the next steps through the development of an action plan. ENIL supported through our expertise on topics such as community-based services and advocacy at EU level.

ENIL met with representatives from Fight for Right on 3 November during their advocacy visit in Brussels, to discuss updates on the Ukrainian deinstitutionalisation strategy and the accession process.

Prior to that, we supported **FFR’s Disability Rights and EU Integration Course**, from 23 – 26 June, with a training on advocacy for Independent Living and deinstitutionalisation at EU level. During the summer, we co-delivered a week-long **LEADERKA Summer school** in Brussels, for women and girls with disabilities from EU accession countries.

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

The main outcome of FURI – EU Funds for Fundamental Rights project in 2025 was the publication of [national reports](#) and the [European](#)

[report](#). The research, undertaken by partners in Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria, led to significant findings: [63 projects](#) identified across partner countries, involving over 1.1 billion euros in EU funds linked to fundamental rights concerns affecting Roma communities, disabled people, and people with a migrant background.

The national and EU-level research reports were widely disseminated and received significant media attention. Several highly recognised international media outlets, including [The Guardian](#), EU Observer, and Politico, reflected on the findings, contributing to broader public awareness and visibility of the issues addressed by the project.

Based on the findings of the research reports and outcomes of the advocacy actions, the consortium put together a [common position](#) on the new regulatory package of the 2028 – 2034 period. It has mainly focused on better alignment of the EU funds measures with fundamental rights requirements, primarily enshrined by the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

[Six national and one European guidance](#) were prepared by partner organisations to provide suggestions, recommendations how the draft EU funds regulatory package for the 2028-2034 period should better prevent and tackle fundamental rights violations.

## Capacity Building



### Regional members' meeting in Sarajevo

Our **regional meeting for the Western Balkans and the Caucuses** took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 16 – 17 September, in cooperation with our member IC Lotos from Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting was largely in person, but provided an opportunity for a smaller number of participants to join online. There were 52 participants joining in Sarajevo with their Personal Assistants, from Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden and Turkey.



The meeting consisted of two parts – a conference and a discussion between the members.

During the first day of the meeting, we organised a **regional conference 'The Road to Independent Living in the Western Balkans'**, which was open to outside participants. The conference started with a keynote presentation on access to Independent Living in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Chairwoman of IC Lotos Zumreta Galijasevic Bakulovic. It then continued with two panels:

**Panel 1** – Personal assistance laws and schemes in the region: lessons learned, where we heard about the practices in Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Turkey and Montenegro.

**Panel 2** – European Experiences providing a roadmap for IL to EU candidate countries, where we heard about personal budgets in Belgium, incorporating the UN CRPD into law in Norway, lessons learnt from the process of deinstitutionalisation in Greece, and the role of CILs in supporting Independent Living in Serbia.

At the end, we spoke about possible joint actions for the region and heard about the Commission's Guidance on Independent Living, and ways that participants could use it in their advocacy work.

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to exchange among the participants about their work, suggestions for ENIL and joint activities. There was a lively discussion and a lot of common issues shared by organisations in the region, as well as great motivation to continue working together.

## Guidance on running Centres for Independent Living

We distributed a questionnaire to CILs, aiming to collect detailed information on their structure, roles, activities, and definitions. Based on their responses and additional desk research, Antonella Candiago drafted the **Toolkit for User-Led and Intersectional Support and Advocacy for Centres for Independent Living (CILs)**.

The Toolkit provides practical and accessible guidance on what CILs are, how to establish and run them, and how to ensure they are genuinely user-led and intersectional. It is designed to support disabled people, their organisations, and allies in strengthening advocacy for independent living.

**Discover the Toolkit for CILs:** click [here](#)

## Peer support for Personal Assistance users

Our **Personal Assistance Watch (PAW)** started again in January, with the aim of supporting disabled people with using Personal Assistance. The [PAW webpage](#) was regularly updated, listing the upcoming topics. These were selected based on audience feedback following a survey.

A total of eight PAW sessions were organised during the year, on the first Thursday of the month:

- 6 February: PA for Persons with intellectual and cognitive disabilities
- 6 March: ahead of the International Women’s Day 2025, the session was dedicated to PA through a Gender and Intersectional Perspective
- 3 April: role of research on Personal Assistance in supporting the Independent Living Movement



- 15 May: connection between access to Personal Assistance and health, particularly mental health
- 5 June session, on the topic of ‘Disability and PA Representation in Popular Culture’.
- 25 September: Personal Assistance and Boundaries: Navigating Professionalism and Personal Connection
- 30 October: “Rethinking Care Systems: Care and Interdependence”, with the guest speaker Peter Torres Fremlin from the Disability Debrief
- 27 November: PA in Austria, with the guest speaker Julia Golser from SLIÖ

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.

## Technical support on Personal Assistance

As an expert on Personal Assistance, ENIL provided advice to Governments, NGOs, disabled people and international institutions on how to set up or run a CRPD compliant PA system. This



is a summary of ENIL’s **activities to promote and advance access to PA:**

- In February, we met with the **Czech** Deputy Minister for Social Affairs Sarka Jelinkova to discuss the lack of access by disabled people to personal assistance. The meeting was supported by our member Daniela Komanecka, from Slovakia, and Asistence (a PA provider from the Czech Republic).
- We were approached by the World Bank in **Romania** to provide technical assistance with a pilot on Personal Assistance, to be funded by ESF+. We organised two workshops, on 10 and 11 March, looking into how PA is provided in Portugal, Sweden and Slovenia, and presenting ENIL’s PA Checklist. The workshops were followed by a revision of the draft PA standards from the Independent Living perspective.
- On 14 January and 10 March, we joined workshops organised by the Greek Government on the Personal Assistant pilot project in **Greece**, learning about the developments, and contributing proposals for the second pilot.
- ENIL was invited to intervene as a panellist at the **United Nations Human Rights Council** expert workshop on the role of the family and family-oriented approaches, on 28 – 29 May at the UN headquarters in Geneva. We focused on the role of personal assistance in the family to promote the autonomy and wellbeing of the user and their family and to alleviate poverty.
- We met with the **Luxembourg** government to discuss their Independent Living Reform and the potential involvement of ENIL in advising on Personal Assistance. It was agreed that follow up would take place in 2026, with clearer steps forward.
- We supported our members in **Poland** with expertise on peer counselling and PA in general. This was in the context of the adoption of a law on personal assistance.
- In October, together with our members from Austria and Portugal, we led a session on independent living and personal assistance during a disability protection course, held in Vienna. The course was aimed at governments from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and was co-organised by the **World Bank and UNICEF**.
- We helped organise a number of workshops on Independent Living Pillars for DPOs in **Armenia**, coordinated by our member AG-ATE. They were on the topics of personal assistance, deinstitutionalisation, personal planning, employment, income and benefits, personal budgets, sexuality and rela-

tionships, and assistive technology. We also travelled to Yerevan, Armenia where we met with many stakeholders and spoke at a conference on Independent Living, from 20 – 24 October.

- We have been uploading **resources into the PA Resource bank**, which is open to everyone looking for materials on personal assistance. The Resource bank can be accessed from ENIL's Google Drive.

**Discover ENIL's Resource bank on Personal Assistance:** click [here](#)

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

On 16 January, we organised a **webinar on deinstitutionalisation** for DPOs and Ministry representatives in Armenia. Nic Crosby, from the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI) in the UK, spoke during the webinar, presenting the Small Supports Programme and their role in supporting deinstitutionalisation of people with complex support needs. In turn, Ines Bulic Cojocariu spoke at a roundtable event '[Deinstitutionalisation is a global challenge](#)', organised by NDTI on 17 October.

On 27 February, we held the second webinar on deinstitutionalisation, focusing on individual assessment of disabled people in the process of deinstitutionalisation. Jan Skroban from the **DI coordination centre in Slovenia** (funded by ESF+) spoke about their work.

On 3 June, we co-organised a very successful [webinar on legal capacity and deinstitutionalisation in France](#), under the title '*La capacite juridique sans conditions : serons-nous capables de faire evoluer la legislation en France ?*'. The event was organised at the initiative and under the leadership of Nicolas Joncour, a member of the ENIL Youth Board.

### Training on women's rights

On 14 March, in the framework of the International Women's Day & Month, we organised an online event **titled 'Feminist and Disability Activism:**

**Building an Inclusive Movement'**. The event, attended by 39 participants, explored the intersection of feminism and disability activism, addressing gender stereotypes, gaps in both movements, and the importance of strengthening the role of disabled women in the fight for gender equality and independent living. The discussion involved speakers from ENIL, EDF, and European Women's Lobby.

On 3 September, we organised the event **Behind Masking and Gender Bias: Exploring the Intersection of Neurodiversity, Gender, and Disability Rights**, attended by 110 participants. The focus of the event was on how ableism and gender bias affect neurodivergent women and girls, barriers to diagnosis, access to support, and pathways to full participation in society. It also highlighted the importance of Independent Living principles in supporting autonomy, choice, and empowerment for neurodivergent women.

On 18 November, our gender equality expert Antonella Candiago spoke at an event organised by UN Women on Inclusive Leadership. She also met with European NGO representatives, including European Women's Lobby and Polis Network, to explore possible cooperation on the rights of women and girls with disabilities. This area of work was also actively supported by Elena Ratoiu from Moldova, as ENIL's representative on EDF Women's Committee.



## Communication and Dissemination



Our Communications Officer Michael Goossens, with the support of other staff and volunteers, produced insightful content throughout the year, bringing out the experiences of disabled people from around Europe and the views of those promoting disabled people's rights.

### Testimonies

We recorded several **testimonies of survivors of institutionalisation**, published on ENIL's social media pages and YouTube

"Hey, it's Alex. I might not make it out alive."  
(Click [here](#) to watch.)

Interview with Petra Stokar from Switzerland.  
(Click [here](#) to watch.)

Survivors from Bulgaria, interviewed during the study visit for the report "I'm Here for Life". (Click [here](#) and [here](#) to watch.)

### Storytelling

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

Message from Nadia Hadad, ENIL Co-Chair on the Human Rights Day. ([Link](#))

What's the current state of Independent Living for Disabled People in the EU?, with Antonella Candiago, ENIL Policy Officer. ([Link](#))

Interview with Markus Scheffer, UN expert. ([Link](#))  
Autism, Independent Living and Segregation, with Heta Pukki, Finland. ([Link](#))

From Sheltered Employment to Inclusion, with Rhoda Garland, Malta. ([Link](#))

Advocating for Disability Rights at the UN, with Fred Jussien, Inclusion Europe. ([Link](#))

The Barriers faced by Disabled People in Europe, with Natalia Guala, UN expert. ([Link](#))

Are Disabled People Truly Protected in the EU?, with Amalia Gamio, UN expert. ([Link](#))

35 Years of Independent Living: A Portuguese Perspective, with Diogo Martins. ([Link](#))

A Conversation with an MEP, with Gabriele Bischoff. ([Link](#))

## 'European Disability Debrief' Talk show

**Episode 1: What about disabled parents?** A conversation between Kamil Goungor and Elizabeth Gosme from COFACE – Families Europe about the political ramifications of being a parent and a disabled people. COFACE – Families Europe is a network promoting the well-being, health and security of families and their members in a changing society. (Watch it [here.](#))

**Episode 2: Are disabled Europeans living independently?** A conversation between Kamil Goungor and Antonella Candiago, Policy Officer at the European Network on Independent Living. (Watch it [here.](#))

## Podcasts

A podcast episode with Jamie Bolling, ENIL Co-Chair and Nina Portolan, ENIL Youth Board, on intergenerational cooperation. (Listen to it [here](#))

## Blogs

- Personal assistance in Spain: Inequality and Segregation
- Marching for Freedom, Equality and Human Rights in Norway
- Poland's Personal Assistance Bill: Lifeline or Another Barrier for Disabled People?
- A story of Choice and Control



- Redefining Independent Living in Turkiye
- The Struggles of Disabled People in Georgia
- A Blow to Disability Rights
- Why Disability Inclusion Matters at Every Level

All blogs can be found on [ENIL website.](#)

## ENIL Newsletter & Members' mailing

Twelve issues of **Members' Mailing** were disseminated to members during the year. The mailing went to 893 subscribers each month via Mailchimp.

Twelve issues of the **Newsletter** were sent out to 1761 subscribers each month. The Newsletter was edited by Michael Goossens. All the Newsletters are available on the ENIL [website.](#)



# 5. Promoting Independent Living Globally

## Promoting Independent Living at the Global Disability Summit

In April 2025, the third **Global Disability Summit (GDS) and the Civil Society Forum** took place in Berlin, co-hosted by the governments of Germany and Jordan and the International Disability Alliance. ENIL was represented by our Co-Chair Nadia Hadad (in her capacity as a member of the Executive Committee of the European Disability Forum) Rita Crespo Fernandez and Florian Sanden (supported by our German members ISL).

In order to meet as many members and allies as possible, we organised **a networking meeting on Independent Living** on the first day, after the Civil Society Forum.

In addition, as independent living was absent from the GDS agenda, we initiated a successful **pop-up protest** gathering members and allies, raising banners calling to end investments in institutions, sheltered workshops, special schools... and asking Governments worldwide to redirect funding towards independent living services.

Together with the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalisation (GC-DI), we ran a **Fireside chat on deinstitutionalisation**, bringing to everyone's attention the organisers' failure to include deinstitutionalisation on the official programme of GDS.

During GDS, we were invited to attend an **IDA and WHO strategic meeting on health equity for persons with disabilities**, where we discussed their current work on disability and how to better engage DPOs. ENIL raised the importance of health services being accessible and taking place in the community, and how this should be a cornerstone of the WHO's work on disability and health.

Following GDS, we supported **two webinars** on 2 December – on the topic of digital violence against women and girls, organised by My Right, Sweden and on OPD-INGO collaboration, organised by IDDC.

**Discover our briefing on independent living and international cooperation: click [here](#)**



# 6. For Young People by Young People

## Independent Living in the Media

*“For me, it was an experience that shaped me with emotions, insights, challenges... An experience that opened a different kind of window in my mind. A window that helps me understand the world differently and, more importantly, imagine and create the kind of life that each of us truly deserves.”*

Quote from the Summer School Participant Isidora Lyrsti (read more about her [experience](#))

The European Youth Foundation at the Council of Europe supported the ‘Independent Living in the Digital Age’ project, implemented by the ENIL Youth Network throughout the year. The project team was made up of Nina Portolan (ENIL Youth Board, Serbia) as the coordinator, Laura Acčiauskaitė (Lithuania), Weronika Knowska (Poland) and Emmy Sefentin (Greece).

The main project outcomes were the **“Crip, Cut, Rewrite!” International Summer School on Disability Representation in the Media**, held in Sarajevo, and the **“Guidelines on Media Representation of Persons with Disabilities”**.

This project started with a survey for young people, based on which topics were decided for three online workshops. The workshops, which took place in April and May, focused on:

- Disability in the Media: Stereotypes and Language, co-facilitated by Simona Aginskaite and Niamh Ní Hoireabhaird
- Inspirational Narratives and Their True Impact, facilitated by Milica Veljkovic
- Authentic Representation and Storytelling, co-facilitated by Philippa Cooper and Romel Belcher

While attending the workshops, participants were able to explore representation of disability in different forms of media and how it impacts the views and attitudes in society. Their aim was to share knowledge about Human Rights, dignity and importance of authentic storytelling when



it comes to disabled people. The workshops provided young people with the skills to create change in their local communities or internationally. Young people who participated in workshops were invited to apply for summer school.

The International [Summer School](#) on Disability Representation in the Media took place from 25 – 30 August, in Sarajevo. Interactive workshops, using non formal education, were spread out over four working days, with 15 active participants and four personal assistants from 12 Council of Europe Member States (Albania, Spain, Italy, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Belgium, Georgia, Greece, Poland, Turkey, UK). On the last day of the programme, participants created the **“Guidelines on Media Representation of Persons with Disabilities”** by working in small groups, each led by one trainer, and adding their comments and feedback to what has been collected by the team throughout the week.

In the final phase of the project, from 1 – 4 December, the team held a series of meetings with youth and civil society organisations in Brussels. Their aim was to disseminate the outcomes of the project and explore possibilities for follow-up.

The “Guidelines on Media Representation of Persons with Disabilities“ were published on 3 December, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

**Discover the Independent Living Media Guidelines:** click [here](#)



## LEADERKA Summer School in Brussels

Together with Fight for Right from Ukraine, we organised a one-week [summer school](#) on political participation for girls and women with disabilities “LEADERKA”, held from 14 – 19 July, in Brussels. The summer school gathered 15 young women and girls with disabilities from EU candidate countries (mainly Georgia and Ukraine), who participated in an intensive programme on feminist leadership, political participation, independent living, and advocacy.

The agenda included visits to EU institutions, a meeting with MEP Tilly Metz, and exchanges with high-level speakers such as Katrin Langensiepen (MEP), Nadia Haddad (ENIL Co-Chair), and Nobel Peace Laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk.

The summer school was funded by the European Youth Foundation at the Council of Europe, with additional resources raised by Fight for Right. It was selected by the Council of Europe as one of the best from among the Special Call for Ukraine projects and featured in a travelling exhibition, which opened at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Antonella Candiago spoke

at the opening in Strasbourg, together with the Ukraine Ambassador to the Council of Europe.

**Discover the LEADERKA Summer school:** [click here](#)

## Youth Leadership Programme

As part of the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), ENIL **recruited four young disabled activists** to spend a week with an organisation advocating for independent living, shadowing the staff and joining different activities.

Four young disabled women – Ivanna Mykhailenko, from the NGO ‘World of Silence’ in Ukraine, Anano Lartsuliani, a digital artist from Georgia, Bojana Ljubojevic, an activist from IC Lotos in Bosnia, and Mariam Garakanidze, from the Ozurgeti Independent Living Centre in Georgia, were able to spend one week with the following organisations: European Disability Forum (Belgium), JAG Association (Sweden) and the Information Center for Persons with Disabilities “Lotos” (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The young women shared experiences from their placements on their social media channels and appreciated the opportunity, which will be use-

ful in their professional and personal journeys.

The selection was done by ENIL and Fight for Right following a call aimed at young disabled women. We prioritised participants from EU accession countries, as follow up to the LEADER-KA summer school.

To wrap up and celebrate the end of the Programme we hosted a [webinar](#) on 18 December. The event, titled **‘From My Country to Yours’**, provided an opportunity for the women to share their experience with the host organisation, their personal work as a disability rights activist and how they plan to utilize their learnings from this programme going forward.

**Discover the Youth Leadership Programme:** click [here](#)

### Other highlights from ENIL Youth:

- ENIL Youth Network was selected to join the [EU Youth Stakeholders Group](#), established by the European Commission‘ DG Education,

Youth, Sport and Culture. We are the only organisation representing the voices of disabled young people in this group.

- Four ENIL Youth Network members joined an advisory group to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) at the beginning of February, as part a global campaign on deinstitutionalisation of children. Nina Portolan and Melike Bal, from the Youth Board, and Youth Network members from Greece and Poland participated in several meetings and provided feedback on the campaign document (‘the Global Charter’).
- In November, Nina Portolan facilitated the” Making Way: Online seminar and capacity buildings on Disability Inclusive Youth Work” for members of the European Coalition of Youth Centres (ECYC). This project was initiated as a collaboration between ENIL Youth and ECYC, and included the publication of a toolkit on Disability Inclusive Youth Work.



# 7. Linking Research and Advocacy



## Independent Living Research Network (ILRN)

From 7 – 9 May, we organised the first Independent Living Stream at the [Nordic Network on Disability Research Conference](#) (NNDR) in Helsinki, Finland. To select abstracts for the Independent Living Stream, we disseminated a call through the ILRN. All abstracts were reviewed by the IL Stream coordinators, Dr. Teodor Mladenov from the University of Dundee (Independent Living Research Network Coordinator), Dr Rannveig Traustadóttir from the University of Iceland, Dr Miro Griffiths from the University of Leeds and Kamil Goungor, and the best were [selected](#) for the conference. Kamil Goungor opened the stream—co-moderated with Dr. Mladenov and Dr. Traustadóttir — with a talk on the history of the Independent Living movement.

The **Nordic Personal Assistance Centre of Excellence**, which involves many of our members from the North, came together during NNDR, where ENIL was represented by our Co-Chair Jamie Bolling.

Throughout the year, we updated the Independent Living Research Network database and shared relevant opportunities with researchers.

Discover the Independent Living stream: click [here](#).

## Independent Living Survey

The Independent Living Survey 2024 – 2025 was published on ENIL [webpage](#). It includes country-specific sheets as well as the complete summary report. The survey remains open to allow for

updates to the collected data and to include the missing countries. While the previous edition focused primarily on access to personal assistance, the 2024-2025 survey takes a more comprehensive approach, exploring how disabled people across Europe perceive the current state of independent living in their countries. It focuses on key pillars of independent living and offers detailed insights into how different countries comply with these principles.

On 10 July 2025, to celebrate the Disability Pride Month, we organised **an online event to launch the Independent Living Survey 2024 – 2025**. The programme featured country perspectives, with Hjörtur Örn Eysteinnsson sharing the experience from Iceland and Odile Maurin presenting the situation in France.

To maximise outreach and visibility, we ran a **media campaign**, recorded campaign videos, and raised awareness of the survey's findings, connecting the launch with the broader celebrations and reflections of Disability Pride Month.

Moreover, as the lead on the survey, Antonella Candiago presented the results on different occasions, including at our event 'Make Independent Living Services a priority in the EU Disability Strategy', where she explained the methodology, the summary report, and provided some good examples.

Copies of the Independent Living Survey report were disseminated during the European Day of Persons with Disabilities Conference in Brussels, in November.

# 8. Overview of 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/>

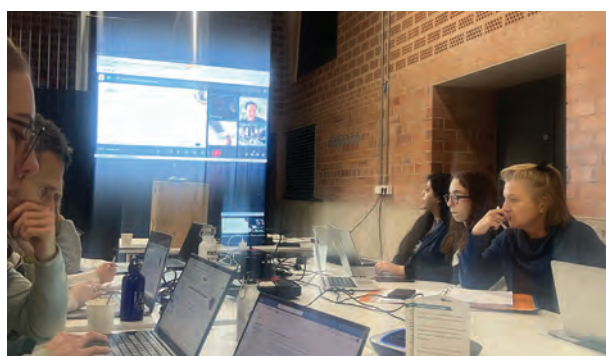
Coordinator: Adela Santos Levigne

## FURI – EU Funds for Fundamental Rights

March 2024 – February 2026

Project website: <https://furi.gcr.gr>

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



## European Youth Foundation – Independent Living in the Digital Age (Annual Work Plan)

January 2025 – December 2025

Project page: <https://enil.eu/project/independent-living-media-a-fresh-lens-on-disability-representation/>

Coordinator: Nina Portolan



## European Youth Foundation/Special Call Ukraine – Summer school for young disabled women LEADERKA

May 2025 – December 2025

Project website: <https://ffr.org.ua/en/leaderka-school-for-young-women-and-girls-with-disabilities/>

Coordinator: Ines Bulic Cojocariu

## StratAGEic – the Power of strategic litigation to tackle discrimination in old age

October 2025 – September 2027

Project website: <https://enil.eu/project/strat-ageic-strategic-litigation-to-tackle-age-discrimination/>

Coordinator: Adela Santos Lavigne



## 9. Project Highlight: Liti-Gate



**LITI-GATE – Strategic Litigation as a Gateway to address the rights of Persons with Disabilities in the European Union** – came to an end in 2025, after two years of work, coordinated by our lawyer Adela Santos Lavigne.

The project strengthened the use of strategic litigation and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to advance the rights of persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities. ENIL contributed to the project by bringing its expertise on independent living, deinstitutionalisation, access to justice, procedural accommodations and accessible communication.

A key achievement of the project was the development of practical resources for lawyers, organisations of persons with disabilities, advocates and other stakeholders. These include the [Strategic Litigation Guidebook](#), the [Accessible Guide to Strategic Litigation](#), [A Guide for DPO Professionals: How to Ask Questions About Rights Violations](#), and an [Easy-to-Read introduction to the LITI-GATE project](#). These tools

helped translate strategic litigation into accessible and practical information.

ENIL also contributed to capacity-building activities. In March 2025, ENIL coordinated two online [Regional Trainings on Strategic Litigation](#), attended by 66 participants from across Europe. The trainings covered strategic litigation frameworks, victims' rights, intersectionality, deinstitutionalisation, accessible legal communication and participatory research.

In May 2025, ENIL and Validity delivered a [Mentoring Programme](#), bringing together more than 20 lawyers, activists and disabled people from Europe and Southeast Asia to discuss real-life cases, procedural accommodations, forum selection and strategic legal framing.

In June 2025, LITI-GATE partners organised a series of International Labs. ENIL hosted the webinar [Strengthening Rights Through Strategic Litigation](#), focused on procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities in litigation. The session explored Article 13 CRPD, the EU

Charter, intermediary models, accessible communication, support persons, assistive technologies and procedural flexibility. Together with the sessions hosted by Victim Support Europe and Validity Foundation, the International Labs created a space for lawyers, OPDs, NGOs, victim support organisations and human rights advocates to exchange strategies for using litigation to address structural rights violations.

The project also produced the [LITI-GATE podcast series](#), which explains strategic litigation through concrete cases and expert conversations. Episodes include discussions on strategic litigation, legal advocacy organisations, institutionalisation, guardianship, EU funds and the Topház case. ENIL's work is especially reflected in the episode [No Voice, No Justice: Institutionalisation and Guardianships in the EU](#), which examines ENIL and Validity's litigation challenging the European Commission's role in EU funding for institutionalisation, and in [The Topház Case](#), which illustrates the link between neglect, guardianship, institutionalisation and strategic litigation.

The project concluded with the [LITI-GATE Final Conference](#) on 29 October 2025 in Brussels. The conference brought together EU institutions, academia, victim support organisations and the disability movement to reflect on project outcomes and future litigation strategies. ENIL played a visible role: Nadia Hadad delivered a keynote on independent living and deinstitutionalisation, while Adela Santos Lavigne presented a practical session on procedural accommodations for persons with disabilities. ENIL also published a follow-up article: [Strengthening Strategic Litigation and Advancing Access to Justice in Europe](#).

Overall, LITI-GATE strengthened ENIL's role in strategic litigation, accessible justice and EU-level accountability. The project created practical tools, training spaces, podcasts, webinars and partnerships that will continue to inform ENIL's future work, including the Disability Rights Defenders network and the StratAGEic project.

# 10. 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 remained very active in EDF, mainly through Nadia Hadad representing ENIL on the Executive Committee. She spoke on behalf of EDF in many events and attended numerous meetings, focusing mainly on Independent Living and disaster risk reduction.

ENIL representatives Elena Ratoi and Nina Portolan were very active in the Women’s and Youth Committee respectively, also attending many meetings and events. Moreover, we supported the nomination of our member Christian Bayerlein, from Germany, to the EDF AI Expert Group mailing list. Our Board member Ingrid Thunem represented ENIL during EDF’s Annual General Assembly.

## 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 all **internal and external meetings**. ENIL was invited to present evidence on the misuse of EU funds for the building of institutions in the EEG [open session](#) on 17 June.

We were active in the new **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) taskforce** within the EEG, which developed a [position paper](#) to influence the proposal for the 2028 – 2035 legislative period. It is available here:

On 16 December, ENIL joined other EEG members during the **open meeting** with Directors and the team at DG JUST and DG Employment at the European Commission.

## 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).

In June, we co-organised the eight [webinar](#) in the **‘From Words to Practice’** Series, on the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation, including in Emergencies. The webinar focused on the role of international cooperation in advancing deinstitutionalisation.

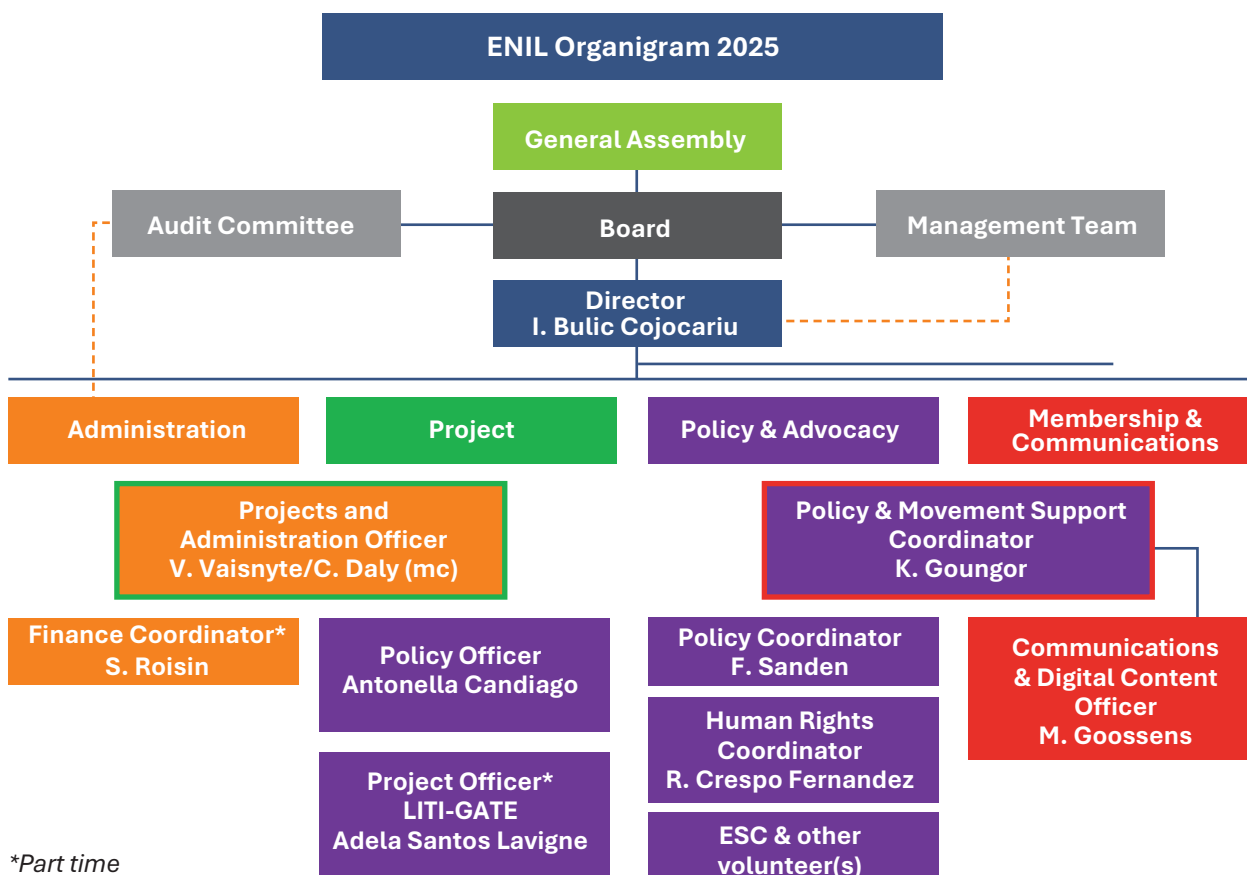
In October, we [published](#) a joint **Statement on adoption of the Global Charter on Care Reform for Children**, in reaction to the UK Government’s global campaign on children in institutions.

## 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. The work began to draft WIN’s Constitution and other documents which would allow it to become a formal network in the future. Monthly meetings were organised by the National Council for Independent Living in the US.

**Other expert groups or Networks ENIL is part of:** Disability Platform, Communities of Practice on ESF+, Common Provisions Regulation Expert Group, Erasmus+ Coalition, Youth Stakeholders Forum, Just Transition Alliance, Facing the Facts Network, Conference of INGOs at the Council of Europe, UN ECOSOC (consultative status).

# 11. Our structure



## Secretariat

In 2025, the ENIL Secretariat consisted of 7 full time staff members, 1 part time staff member, 1 project officer and 3 office volunteers.

There have been no changes in the team, apart from Catriona Daly replacing Vita Vaisnyte during her maternity leave, from September until December.

We hosted two ESC volunteers– Christos Meletis, from Greece, and Veronika Kovacs, from Hungary. We applied for a working visa for an ESC volunteer from Georgia, Esmé Gumberidze, but it was unfortunately rejected by Belgian Government.

Christos Meletis, from Greece, joined our team on 1 May and finished his volunteering on 31 October. As a disabled influencer from Greece, he focused on communications. As his personal project, Christos hosted a webinar on 20 October entitled ‘Disability and Bias: Uncovering the Hidden Barriers’.

Veronika Kovacs started her ESC on 15 September, with the end date of 28 February 2026. As a lawyer, it was decided Veronika would focus on policy work.

On 2 September, Grace Vallone, a student at the American University in the US, joined the ENIL team as a Policy trainee.

## Governance

Four regular Board meetings took place during the year – on 17 March, 16 June and 15 December, online. An in-person Board meeting took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 15 September. An additional Board meeting was organised online on 12 May. This was the last meeting of the old Board before the elections and was used to prepare the General Assembly.

The meetings in June and December doubled as General Assembly of the ENIL Brussels Office. During those meetings, the narrative and finan-



cial reports for 2024 were formally approved, as well as the work plan and budget for 2026.

During the June meeting, the Board elected the Co-Chairs, and confirmed members of the Audit Committee, Membership Committee and the Management Team. Nadia Hadad and Jamie Bolling were re-elected as Co-Chairs. Antonia Trikalioti joined the Management Team, alongside Jamie Bolling and Nadia Hadad. Martine Eliasson joined the Membership Committee and Antonia Trikalioti joined the Audit Committee.

Several working groups were formed to prepare for the General Assembly – on the Constitution and the Strategic Plan.

Two task forces were formed by the Board at the September meeting – Freedom Drive Task Force and Martin Naughton Task Force.

Before each Board meeting, the Board received the draft agenda and the meeting documents, including financial and membership documents. Secretariat and Youth reports were prepared before each meeting and shared in advance.

An induction meeting was organised for the new Board members, explaining in detail ENIL governance, their role and working methods of the Board. A skills audit was carried out among the Board members.

## General Assembly

ENIL General Assembly – organised every two years – was held successfully online on 24 May, chaired by Susanne Berg (Sweden). A total of 124 member representatives or individual members were registered to attend, and out of these 97 were registered to vote. Voting members came from 29 countries from the Council of Europe region: Sweden, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Armenia, Austria, France, Serbia, Georgia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Turkey, Spain, Bosnia, Montenegro, Denmark, Croatia, Norway, San Marino, Belgium, Slovakia, Italy, Finland, Switzerland, Lithuania, Albania, UK.

A [video message](#) from the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Heba Hagrass was played at the start of the GA and the outgoing Board member, founder and outgoing Secretary General of Uloba Independent Living Norway Vibeke Maroy Melstrom held a motivational speech.

Key decisions made by the General Assembly were adoption of the [Strategic Plan 2026 – 2029](#). In addition, minor changes were made to the [Constitution](#).

Altogether, 14 approved Board candidates stood for election, vetted by the Nominating

Committee (composed of Grega Fajdiga, Miro Griffiths and Mathilde Fuchs). Five new Board members were elected using the Choice Voting platform – Nadia Hadad (Belgium), Suela Lala (Albania), Antonia Trikalioti (Greece), Martine Eliasson (Norway) and Miroslava Mima Ivanović (Montenegro).

The new Board members replaced the outgoing members Radoš Keravica (Serbia), Vibeke Maroy Melstrom (Norway) and Tess Van Deynse (Belgium).

## ENIL Youth Network

The Youth Network was very active, thanks to the Choice4All Project, an Annual Work Plan grant from the European Youth Foundation (EYF) and a project on Ukraine, also funded by EYF. Thanks to this additional funding, Nina Portolan and Laura Alčiauskaite were recruited as project coordinators/trainers (on a consultancy basis), with Kamil Goungor continuing to coordinate youth activities as part of the core team.

The Youth Board had two regular online meetings – on 26 April and 2 July, and a hybrid meeting on 6 December.

The ENIL Youth Network General Assembly (GA) and Board elections were held on 31 May on Zoom. On the agenda was the overview of activities in the last 3 years, plans for the next term, updating and upgrading the Youth Constitution.

Before the GA, the Youth Board published a call for nominations, increasing the number of places on the Board from six to nine to ensure that the Board becomes more active and does not rely on a small number of members. Choice Voting platform was used to hold a secret ballot and the following Board members were elected: Fionn Crombie Angus (Ireland), Melike Bal (Turkey), Michael Brennan (Ireland), Tugrul Caglar (Turkey), Ivana Jankovic (Montenegro), Nicolas Joncour (France), Nina Portolan (Serbia), Catarina Vitorino (Portugal) and Fatma Yazici (Turkey).

On 2 July, the new ENIL Youth Network Board elected Melike Bal as its Chair, and Nina Portolan as its Vice-Chair.

On 12 August, the ENIL Youth Network celebrated the International Youth Day with its 1st online Youth Café of the year. This time the main topic discussed was disability biases, ableism and stereotypes. The second Youth Café took place on 20 December, with the meeting dedicated to the evaluation of 2025 and hopes for the coming year.

Using members' input, the Youth Board drafted the ENIL Youth Network Strategy 2026 – 2028. During the meeting in Brussels, they agreed on the action plan, which gives concrete goals from communication and representation to activities' engagement and application. The Strategy and Action Plan were finalised in December and will serve as a basis for activities in 2026 and onwards.

Nina Portolan, the Vice-Chair, represented the ENIL Youth Network in the “Unleashing Human Rights” Human Rights Education Forum, organised by the Council of Europe Youth Department, United Nations and Amnesty International, with support of other partners. The forum was held from 9 – 11 December in the European Youth Centre in Budapest, and it was attended by 200 young activists, advocates, educational professionals, government representatives and civil society organisations.

Also in December, Nina Portolan was appointed to the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe for the period 2026-2027, following nomination by ENIL.

## Membership

As of January 2026, ENIL had 124 organisational and 1,099 individual members in all 27 EU Member States and 53 other countries – 19 European and 34 rest of the world. An overview by category and a full list of organisational members is presented in the tables below.

In 2025, we increased our membership by 115 new members – 2 organisations and 113 individuals.

We welcomed **Cool Crips from Greece** as a full organizational member and the Association for the **Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE), from Austria**, as an associated organisational member.

| Type of membership        | Number | Countries | EU Member States |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------|------------------|
| Full organisational       | 94     | 38        | 23               |
| Associated organisational | 30     | 21        | 8                |
| Full individual           | 542    | 44        | 25               |
| Associated individual     | 186    | 54        | 21               |
| Full youth                | 284    | 38        | 24               |
| Associated youth          | 87     | 41        | 16               |

## Funding & fundraising

In 2025, we continued to receive core funding from the European Union (Choice4All Framework Partnership Agreement 2022 – 2025), with our members in Norway, ULOBA, and Sweden, STIL, providing the co-funding through the ENIL Foundation. Additional co-funding was provided 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 (European Youth Foundation) and Maribel. We are also thankful to smaller, individual donors for their support.

The main fundraising effort of the year was the application for a new CERV operating grant for EU-level disability networks from 2026 – 2028, which was due at the end of August.

After much uncertainty, we received the positive news from the European Commission at the end of October that our operating grant PRIDE – Promoting the Right to Independent Living for All Disabled People in Europe (2026 – 2028) was approved, as well funding for the PRIDE 2026 Work plan. We went through a number of administrative steps and adjustments to the workplan to get to the grant signing stage in December.

At the end of April, we won 25,000 EUR for the LEADERKA summer school, under a Special Call for Ukraine by the European Youth Foundation.

At the beginning of the summer, we learned that the StratAGEic project, led by AGE Platform Europe, was approved and the starting date was set for 1 October. The same month, we finalised the LITI-GATE Project, led by Victim Support Europe. Both projects focus on strategic litigation, so StratAGEic presented a great opportunity to continue, this time with a focus on the rights of older people. It is ENIL's first collaboration with AGE Platform Europe and national organisations representing older people.

Following invitation by the Robert Bosch Foundation, we submitted a proposal for support of Freedom Drive, youth work, intersectionality and the Disability Rights Defenders Network at the end of September. Our 3-year proposal was approved and we signed the grant agreement in December.

Our applications to the European Youth Foundation international activity and for the European Solidarity Corps Programme (Erasmus+) in 2026 have been successful.

We also submitted at least seven proposals, mostly as part of consortia, which were not successful. Among these was a proposal under Horizon Europe for work on user-led services as means of supporting autonomy of persons with disabilities, led by the University of Innsbruck.

## External evaluation

After an open call for an external consultant, we hired Patrick Wauters, formerly of Deloitte, to carry out ENIL's external evaluation. He held meetings with the Director, the Management Team, a workshop on 26 November with the Secretariat staff, a focus group with the Board (and bilateral meetings with those who could not join), as well as bilateral meetings with external partners of ENIL.

The [External evaluation report](#) was published and shared with members through the Members' Mailing

## 12. Membership (as of January 2026)

|                               | 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<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/agate.ngo">https://www.facebook.com/agate.ngo</a>        |  |
|                               | ‘Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities’ NGO for people with disabilities<br><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>                                    |  |
|                               |   | Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) – <a href="http://www.aaate.net">www.aaate.net</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://bosniadoctorsfordisabled.ngo/">https://bosniadoctorsfordisabled.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>                                       |  |

|                       | Full members   | Associated members |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
|                       | Spinalne ozljede Zagreb (Spinal Injuries Zagreb) – <a href="http://www.soz.hr">www.soz.hr</a>  |                    |
| <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="https://lesdevalideuses.org/">https://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 – <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>                       |                    |

|                        | Full members  | Associated members  |
|------------------------|---|---|
|                        | Paraplegicss' Association of Drama – <a href="http://spnd.gr/">http://spnd.gr/</a>  |   |
| <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 Independente 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>   |   |
|                        | Comitatio Lombardo per la Vita Independente delle Persone con Disabilitá – <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-l-MI-Boke-111829123575190/">https://www.facebook.com/Inicijativa-mladih-s-invaliditetom-Boke-l-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.omdvsr.sk">www.omdvsr.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 Egínez – <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>     | <p>GIL – Individual Independent Living – <a href="http://www.gil.se">www.gil.se</a></p> <p>Independent Living Institute (ILI) – <a href="http://www.independentliving.org">www.independentliving.org</a></p>   |   |

|  | 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<br><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> |  |  |

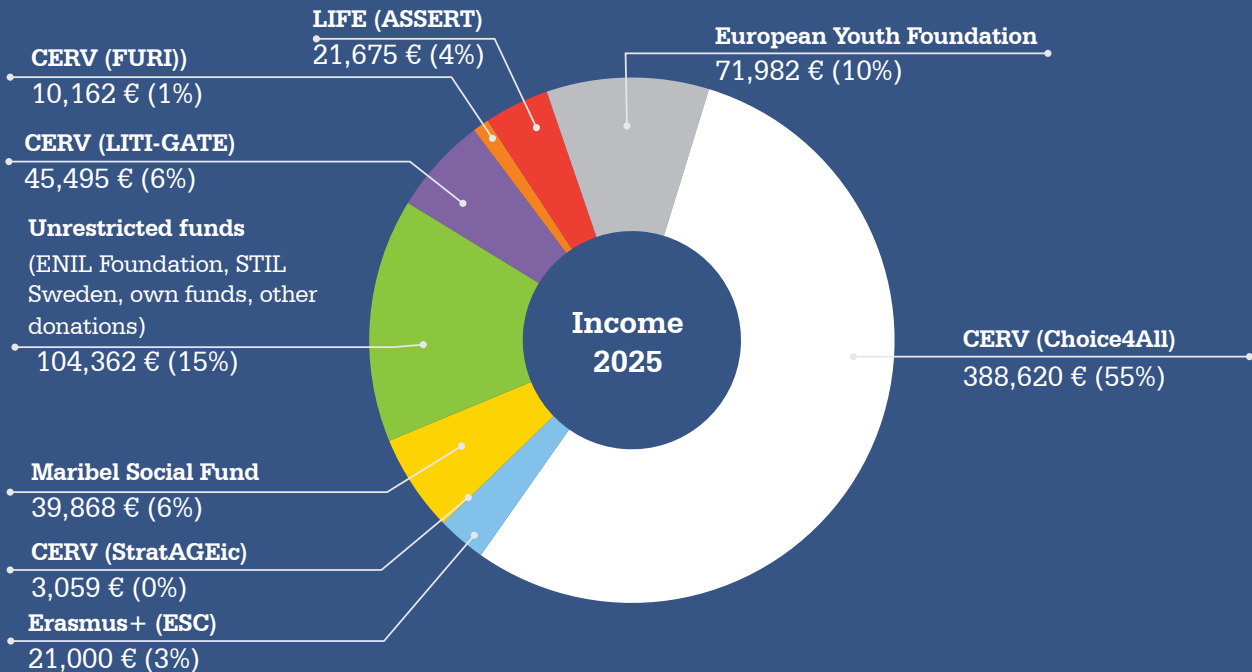
|  | Full members   | Associated members |
|--|--|--------------------|
|  | Reclaiming our Futures Alliance (ROFA) – <a href="http://www.rofa.org.uk">www.rofa.org.uk</a>              |                    |
|  | Self-Directed Support Scotland – <a href="http://www.sdsscotland.org.uk">http://www.sdsscotland.org.uk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

## Rest of the world

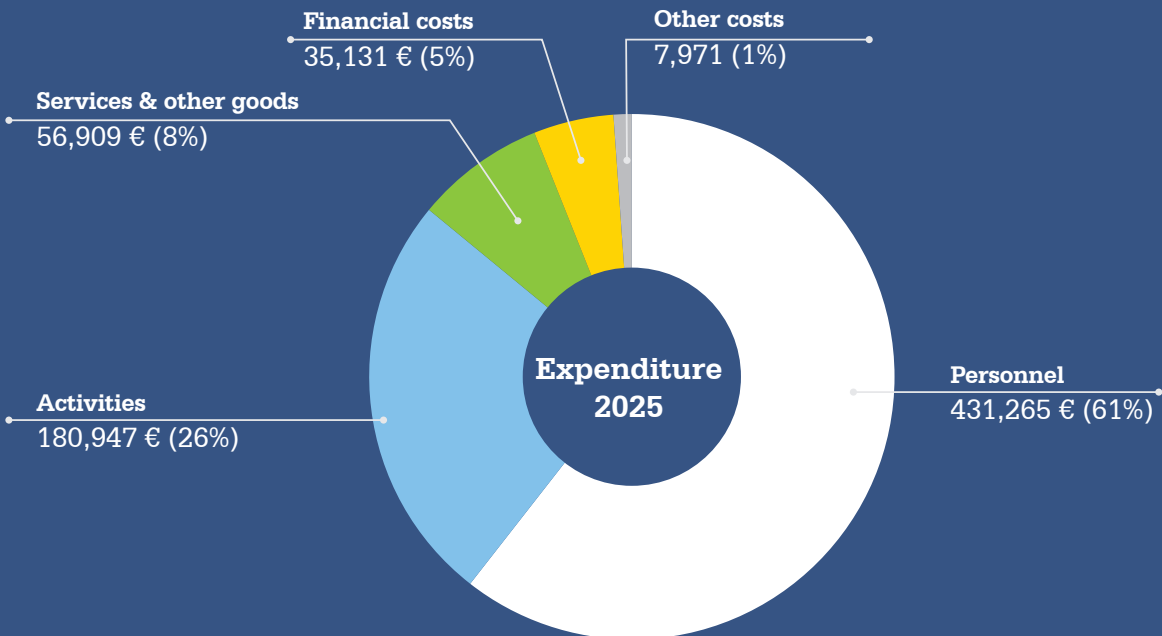
| Country    | Associated members  |
|------------|---|
| Bangladesh | Community Development Centre  |
| India      | Abled Fitness Foundation  |
| Israel     | AlManarah – <a href="http://www.almanarah.org">www.almanarah.org</a>  |
| Japan      | Independent Living Center Arc Spectrum – <a href="http://arcsp.sakura.ne.jp/">http://arcsp.sakura.ne.jp/</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>                |

# 13. Financial Report

## Income 2025: 712,223 EUR



## Expenditure 2025: 712,223 EUR



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

|             | 2022         | 2023      | 2024      | 2025      |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Expenditure | 643,347.35 € | 619,043 € | 722,595 € | 712,223 € |
| Income      | 684,943.76 € | 619,043 € | 722,595 € | 712,223 € |

# 14. Our People

## (January – December 2025)

### ENIL Board members

#### Until May 2025:

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

#### From May 2025:

Jamie Bolling (Co-Chair, Sweden)  
Nadia Hadad (Co-Chair, Belgium)  
Martine Eliasson (Norway)  
Miroslava Mima Ivanovic (Montenegro)  
Elena Kocoska (North Macedonia)  
Suela Lala (Albania)  
Ingrid Thunem (Norway)  
Mirko Tomassoni (San Marino)  
Antonia Trikalioti (Greece)

### ENIL Youth Board members

#### Until May 2025:

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

#### From May 2025:

Melike Bal (Turkey)  
Michael Brennan (Ireland)  
Tugrul Cagral (Turkey)  
Fionn Crombie Angus (Ireland)  
Ivana Jankovic (Montenegro)  
Nicolas Joncour (France)  
Nina Portolan (Serbia)  
Catarina Vitorino (Portugal)  
Fatma Yazici (Turkey)

### 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 Coordinator (part time)  
Rita Crespo Fernandez, Human Rights Coordinator  
Antonella Candiago, Policy Officer  
Vita Vaisnyte, Projects and Administration Officer  
Adela Santos Lavigne, LITI-GATE Project Coordinator  
Catriona Daly (maternity cover September – December 2025)

**Volunteers,  
interns  
and  
advisors** Christos Meletis (ESC volunteer)  
Veronika Kovacs (ESC volunteer)  
Grace Vallone (American University volunteer)  
Elena Ratoi (EDF Women's Committee)  
Dr. Alessandra Grotta (Personal Assistance Watch)  
Dr. Teodor Mladenov (Independent Living Research Network)  
Zara Todd (Youth/Leadership)  
Frank Sioen (Independent Living training)

We wish to thank our outgoing Board members Radoš Keravica, Vibeke Maroy Melstrom and Tess Van Deynse, the outgoing Youth Board members Charlie Willis, Clementine Doevendans and Bram O'Dea, all our outgoing staff, volunteers and interns, and our current staff, volunteers, interns, advisors and Board members for their commitment and efforts to make all the activities included in this report come to life.

We are, as ever, grateful to our members – ULOBA Independent Living Norway and STIL – for their continued generous support of our work throughout 2025, 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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Written by: Ines Bulić Cojocariu

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

