Date Adopted: 01.11.2026

ENIL YOUTH NETWORK CONSTITUTION

Organization's Name

Article 1- (1) The organisation has the name "European Network on Independent Living" hereinafter referred as ENIL. Within ENIL a subgroup has the name "European Network on Independent Living Youth Network" hereinafter referred as "ENIL Youth Network".

Purpose

Article 2- (1) ENIL Youth Network's purpose is to work in the interest of disabled youth within ENIL and European level platforms. ENIL Youth Network abides by ENIL's principles and Independent Living philosophy. The Youth Network supports and promotes the work of ENIL.

(2) ENIL Youth Network works towards building a closer network amongst young disabled people between the ages of 18 and 35 years coming from the Member countries of the Council of Europe. Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. ENIL Youth Network considers ages 18-35 as youth.

Core Principles

Article 3- (1) ENIL Youth Network abides the following core principles:

a) Youth-led
b) Relying on youth work and non-formal education
c) Human Rights based approach
d) Inclusive of all disabled young people across all impairment groups

Strategic Plans of ENIL Youth Network

Article 4- (1) ENIL Youth Network strategic plan will be revised every three (3) years and will be approved and agreed by both ENIL Youth Board & ENIL Board.

(2) The work priorities will be identified and agreed at the youth network general assembly. Every December, the Youth Board shall adopt a workplan for the following calendar year. The workplan is thereafter presented and approved at the annual ENIL face-to-face staff meeting, ensuring alignment across the organisation.

(3) ENIL Youth Network specifically focuses on matters that impact young disabled people, while working on all matters related to human rights of all disabled people.

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Membership to ENIL Youth Network

Article 5- (1) ENIL Youth Network full membership is free and open to all young disabled people between the ages of 18 and 35 years, coming from the Member countries of the Council of Europe.

(2) ENIL Youth Network associated membership is free and open to young non-disabled disabled people between the ages of 18 and 35 years coming from the member countries of the Council of Europe, as well as young disabled and non-disabled people between the ages of 18 and 35 years coming from countries that are not member to the Council of Europe.

(3) Matters regarding ENIL Youth Network membership shall be handled and processed by the ENIL Youth Board.

Cancellation and Termination of Membership

Article 6- (1) If any member of the ENIL Youth Network wishes to leave the ENIL Youth Network they should inform the ENIL Youth Board by sending an email.

(2) An individual's membership in the ENIL Youth Network will end if their age no longer suits the age-range of 18 to 35 years. They will automatically move to ENIL general membership unless they wish to leave the Network, as explained in section 1.

(3) If a full member moves their permanent residence outside of the Member Countries of the Council of Europe, they become an associated member of the ENIL Youth Network.

(4) A member of the ENIL Youth Network may be stripped of their membership of said network if:

a) Does not follow the Independent Living Principles
b) They bring the network into disrepute
c) They have been uncontactable in a three-year period

(5) Decisions about the removal of membership (based on the circumstances in section 4 of this article), will be made by the board. The board will inform the member concerned within fourteen (14) days of a decision.

(6) An individual has the right to appeal the removal of their membership within thirty (30) days of receiving the formal notification.

Governing Bodies of ENIL Youth Network

Article 7- (1) ENIL Youth Network governing bodies are the ENIL Youth Network General Assembly (herein after referred as Youth GA) and ENIL Youth Network Board (herein after referred as Youth Board).

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ENIL Youth Network General Assembly Structure

Article 8- (1) ENIL Youth Network General Assembly is composed of ENIL Youth Network's full members. The associated members have the right to join the Youth GA; however, they cannot vote in the Youth GA.

(2) The youth network coordinator is ineligible to vote due to their responsibility to oversee the voting and counting process.

(3) Ordinary ENIL Youth General Assembly shall be held once every three years, during the month of **May**, on a date, at an online venue and at a time to be determined by the Youth Board. The Youth GA date is announced to members by email at least thirty (30) days in advance. The notice has to contain the place, date and time of the day and include an agenda. The agenda shall contain all the items to be taken up at the meeting.

(4) Should more than half of Youth Board positions become vacant, the remaining Youth Board members or the ENIL Secretariat shall call for an extraordinary Youth GA within fifteen (15) days.

Proposals for the General Assembly Agenda

Article 9- (1) Any member can propose an amendment to the constitution for the Youth Network; however, this must be done within fifteen (15) days prior to the General Assembly, in writing, and sent to the Youth Board.

(2) Any member can propose an item of discussion for the General Assembly. This must be done within fifteen (15) days prior to the General Assembly, in writing, and sent to the Youth Board. The agenda for the General Assembly will be composed by the Youth Board; however, if an issue is not addressed during the General Assembly, a member can raise the issue in person during any other business.

Quorum and the Decision-Making Majority

Article 10- (1) In order for a quorum of a GA to be met two youth representatives from each of ENIL's regions should participate in the Youth GA.

(2) Decisions must be made by more than half of those voting at the Youth GA. The board should be guided by the will of the Youth GA.

(3) If the Youth GA quorum wasn't met, more than half of the Youth Network full members should electronically vote for the election of the Youth Board members within ten (10) business days of the Youth GA convening.

(4) If more than half of the Youth Network doesn't vote within ten (10) business days, votes cast previously are deemed valid, and the candidates receiving the most votes are elected to the Youth Board.

Duties of the Youth General Assembly

Article 11- (1) Youth GA has the following duties:

a) Electing the new ENIL Youth Board.
b) Adopting the amendments to the constitution.
c) Advising on the strategic plan for the following term.
d) Deciding on any other matters for discussion that are brought by members.

ENIL Youth Network Board Structure

Article 12- (1) The Board of ENIL Youth Network is comprised of an odd number of members, ranging from 5 to 9.

(2) The Youth Board members are elected by the network's full members, in accordance with the procedure outlined in Article 10 (3).

(3) All ENIL Youth Board members must be young disabled people who meet the membership criteria of the network.

(4) Representation on the ENIL Youth Board should be of different countries, regions, cultures, and impairments. An equal balance in gender should be sought.

(5) The term of the ENIL Youth Board is from General Assembly to the next General Assembly.

Applications for the ENIL Youth Network Board Membership

Article 13- (1) Candidates wishing to be an ENIL Youth Board Member should send an application package to the ENIL Secretariat by five (5) business day before the Youth GA at the latest.

(2) The application package should include a professional picture of the candidate, a short biography, a CV, and a cover letter.

(3) The cover letter should outline the candidate's motivation to join the Youth Board, what skills and/or experiences can the candidate bring to the Youth Board's existing work, and the candidate's three priorities for their term.

(4) The application package should be prepared in English.

(5) Reasonable accommodations for the candidates who request will be made.

Limitations on Re-election of Incumbent and Former Board Members

Article 14- (1) Board members can only serve two terms, consecutively or nonconsecutively.

(2) During the election of the ENIL Youth Board, a 50% (maximum) of the incumbent board can be elected to serve another term.

(3) In the event that more than 50% of the incumbent board seek election, the ENIL Youth Board members that are elected with the most votes will be appointed until the 50% threshold is reached.

(4) Interim appointments made by the Youth Board to fill a vacant seat do not count towards the appointee's term limit, if they begin more than six (6) months after the beginning of term.

(5) The following board members cannot run for re-election:

a) Those who resigned due to serious disagreements with ENIL Board members, ENIL Youth Board members or ENIL staff,
b) Those who resigned due to legitimate conflict of interest (as long as the conflict of interest continues),
c) Those removed in accordance with Article 15 (6).

ENIL Youth Board's Responsibilities and Duties

Article 15- (1) ENIL Youth Board is mainly tasked with executing the Youth Network's strategic plan for the term.

(2) Youth Board members should contribute to the actions outlined in the strategic plan and the following workplans to the best of their ability and availability.

(3) Youth Board members' responsibilities are outlined in the "Terms of Reference" (hereinafter TOR). When elected, Youth Board members must accept the TOR.

(4) All Youth Board members must act professionally when representing the ENIL Youth Network and acting in official capacity. The expected manner of conduct is outlined in the Terms of Reference's Rules of Conduct section.

(5) Additionally, ENIL's Secretariat or main board can assign the Youth Board or its members tasks or projects in order to realize ENIL's goals.

(6) Not complying with the TOR will result in the Youth Board member's term on the Youth Board being terminated by ENIL Youth chair and vice-chair, in agreement with the ENIL co-chairs.

Working Language of the ENIL Youth Board

Article 16- (1) The working language of the ENIL Youth Board & Network should be in English or a sign-language with English translation; exceptions will be made for those with intellectual impairments.

ENIL Youth Network Board Meetings and Working Procedures

Article 17- (1) The ENIL Youth Board will meet at least three times a year. The meetings can be conducted by face-to-face, virtually or hybrid of both methods.

(2) The first Youth Board Meeting following the Youth GA should be held within a month of the completion of the elections. In the first meeting board members must elect a chair and a vice chair, among those who indicated interest in the positions by a simple majority. The TOR is adopted in this meeting and in effect for the whole term.

(3) Majority of the board members should be present for the meeting quorum to be met.

(4) The chair and the vice chair must do the best they can to participate to the board meetings.

(5) If both cannot participate in a meeting, they should notify the other board members in writing seven (7) days before the agreed date of that meeting.

(6) The vice chair leads meetings in the absence of the chair. In case of exceptional circumstances, where neither the chair or vice chair are able to attend, the board shall appoint an acting chair of the meeting by majority vote.

(7) In a meeting the majority of the board members must approve a decision for it to pass.

Vacancy in the ENIL Youth Network Board

Article 18- (1) A board seat may become vacant due to the board member's death, removal or resignation. In that instance, the remaining ENIL Youth Board members may decide on a procedure to fill the vacancy, and the chair and the vice chair can appoint interim Youth Board members after the established procedure is complete.

ENIL Youth Board's relation with ENIL

Article 19- (1) The ENIL Youth Network operates within ENIL as a subgroup.

(2) The ENIL Youth Board decision making process will be autonomous from the ENIL Board; however, all the decisions that will have an impact on ENIL's operations and/or reputation will have to be approved by the ENIL Board.

Reporting to the Main Board

Article 20- (1) ENIL Youth Network Board is due to report regularly on its activities to the main ENIL Board and at least on each of the ENIL Board's meetings, either through a youth rapporteur or by submitting a brief report in writing. The ENIL Board shall receive copies of the Youth Board papers and minutes.

(2) Before concluding any partnerships with third parties or making the decisions to apply for external funding, Youth Board is due to obtain an approval from ENIL's Executive director or other management bodies.

Communications with the ENIL Youth Network Board

Article 21- (1) ENIL Youth Network Board uses the email address enilyouthboard@gmail.com for all official communication with its members.

(2) ENIL Youth Board uses its social media accounts in accordance with its "Communications Strategy" and directives from ENIL's Secretariat.

Additional Changes to the Constitution

Article 22- (1) In exceptional circumstances, if the Youth Board deems absolutely necessary to be able to function, changes to the constitution can be proposed to the Youth Network full members outside the Youth GA by silent procedure outlined in the Article 22 (2).

(2) If proposed changes are not challenged, in writing, addressed to the email from Article 21 (1) within fifteen (15) days of announcement, changes go in effect at the end of the waiting period.

First Terms of Reference

Provisional Article 1- The first version of the TOR shall be adopted in the Youth Board's December 2026 meeting.

Article 23- This "Constitution of ENIL Youth Network" is comprised of twenty-three (23) articles and one (1) provisional article.