ENIL Youth Network

Constitution: Plain Language Summary & 2026 Updates

Summary of 2026 Constitution Additions

Based on the latest review, several new rules and procedures have been added to the constitution:

- **Workplans:** The Youth Board must now adopt a yearly workplan every December, which gets approved at the ENIL annual staff meeting.
- **Emergency General Assemblies:** If more than half of the Youth Board seats become empty, an extraordinary General Assembly (GA) must be called within 15 days.
- **Quorum & Electronic Voting:** A GA requires two youth representatives from each ENIL region to be valid. If this quorum isn't met, an electronic vote will be held over 10 business days.
- **Application Requirements:** Board candidates must submit a professional photo, short bio, CV, and cover letter 5 business days before the GA.
- **Strict Re-election Bans:** Members cannot run for re-election if they previously resigned due to serious disagreements/conflicts, or if they were removed for violating the Terms of Reference (TOR).
- **Board Terminations & Vacancies:** The Chair and Vice-Chair can terminate a board member for not following the TOR. Procedures for filling empty seats with interim members were also added. (Interim terms starting after 6 months do not count toward term limits).
- **New Board Kick-off:** The newly elected board must hold its first meeting within a month to elect a Chair/Vice-Chair and adopt the TOR.
- **Communications & Rules:** Board social media use must follow ENIL’s strategy. A "silent procedure" allows emergency constitution changes via email if no member objects within 15 days.
- **Provisional Timeline:** The very first version of the TOR will be adopted in December 2026.

Plain Language Constitution

1. Who We Are and What We Do

The **ENIL Youth Network** is a subgroup of the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL). Our mission is to represent and support disabled young people (ages 18 to 35) across Europe. We are youth-led, focus on human rights and non-formal education, and welcome disabled youth from all impairment groups.

2. Membership Rules

- **Full Members:** Disabled young people (ages 18-35) living in Council of Europe countries. Full members have the right to vote and run for the board.
- **Associated Members:** Non-disabled young people, or disabled young people who live outside the Council of Europe. You can join network activities but cannot vote.
- **Leaving or Removal:** You can leave by emailing the board. You automatically lose membership if you turn 36. You become an associated member if you were a full member and you move outside the Council of Europe. You can also be removed if you violate Independent Living principles, harm the network's reputation, or vanish for 3 years without contact (though you have 30 days to appeal a removal).

3. The General Assembly (GA)

The GA is our main democratic meeting. It takes place online every three years in May. During the GA, full members vote to elect the new Youth Board, change the constitution, and advise on future strategies. To make valid decisions, more than half of the voters must agree.

4. The Youth Board

The Youth Board has an odd number of members (between 5 and 9) who run the network between GAs. Members can serve a maximum of two terms. To ensure fresh perspectives, no more than 50% of the old board can be re-elected. The Board is responsible for executing the strategic plan, meets at least three times a year, and must follow strict professional conduct rules.

5. Relationship with ENIL Main Board

While the Youth Network makes its own day-to-day decisions, it is still part of ENIL. The Youth Board must report its activities regularly. If the Youth Board wants to apply for funding, partner with other organisations, or make a decision that affects ENIL’s reputation, it must get approval from the main ENIL Board or Director first.

6. Changing the Constitution

Usually, rules are changed at the GA (members must propose them in writing 15 days in advance). However, in emergencies, the board can propose a rule change by email. If no member objects in writing within 15 days, the change becomes official without waiting for the next GA.