

THE WAY AHEAD: ACTORS AND ACTIONS

ESCFI CONGRESS,
LUCIGNANO, AREZZO, ITALY
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EUROPEAN NETWORK ON INDEPENDENT LIVING
(ENIL)

ENIL IS:

- **Cross-disability organisation**
- **To promote independent living and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **To advocate and lobby for independent living values, principles and practices, which is barrier-free environment, de-institutionalisation, provision of personal assistance support and adequate technical aids,**

**ALL OF THE ABOVE MAKE FULL CITIZENSHIP OF
DISABLED PEOPLE POSSIBLE**



WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Connect people!**
- **Change minds** – mobilise, humanise, personalise, professionalise and de-institutionalise – **both disabled and non-disabled people**;
- **Try to help politicians** with evidence of wrong policies and proposals for solutions in favour of IL – **embarrass them** when they don't want to listen;
- **Encourage participation** of IL advocates in mainstream life, events, systems, etc. and **depreciate special solutions.**



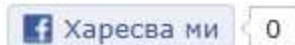
European Network on Independent Living

Nothing about us without us

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ENIL Calls for the Structural Funds to Support Independent Living

May 14, 2012 under [Disability Cuts in Europe](#), [Human Rights](#), [News](#), [press release](#), [UNCRPD](#)



The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) joins the European Expert Group on Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG) in calling upon the Council of the EU and the European Parliament to uphold the ex ante conditionalities relevant to the Structural Funds' support of community-based alternatives to institutional care for

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POLICY ACTION:

- **Resolution of the European Parliament on the effect of cuts in public spending on persons with disabilities in the European Union – ENIL proposal submitted;**
 - **Hearing at the EP in February 2012**
 - **Promote change in Structural Funds and EU disability policies through mainstream channels (FRA, etc.)**
 - **Encourage direct action – marches, demonstrations, etc.**
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ENIL DEFINITIONS:


- **These definitions are intended for use in the development of guidelines, policy and legislation at EU level, Member State level and local level. They are to give decision makers clear guidance for the designing and implementation of disability policy. They have been developed to stop manipulation and the use of our language in the production of counter-active policy. These definitions were adopted at the ENIL Board meeting in Norway June 2011.**

INDEPENDENT LIVING (IL):

- **IL is the daily demonstration of human rights based disability policies. IL is possible through the combination of a set of environmental and individual factors that allow all disabled people to have control over their own lives, with the opportunity to choose and decide as to where to live, with whom to live and how to live. Access of services should be provided for equal opportunity allowing disabled people choice in the organisation of daily life. IL requires accessibility of the built environment, accessible transport, availability of technical aids, access to personal assistance and access to community-based services.**

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE (PA):

PA is a tool for IL. PA is earmarked cash allocations to disabled people for the purpose to pay for the assistance needed. PA should be provided on the basis of individual needs assessment depending on the life situation of each individual and in consistency with the domestic labour market. Disabled people should have the right to recruit and manage their assistants as well as the choice of the employment model. PA allocations should cover the salaries of personal assistants and other performance costs, such as all contributions due by the employer, administration costs and peer support for the user.



DEINSTITUTIONALISATION (DI):

DI is a political and social process, which provides for the shift from institutional care and other isolating and segregating settings to IL. Effective DI is attainable when a person placed in an institution is given the opportunity to become a full citizen and take control of his/her life when been provided with: affordable and accessible housing in the community; access to public services; personal assistance; and peer support. DI is to ensure that children are able to grow up in families and that people are not placed forcefully in institutions.

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (CBS):

- **CBS is both a political and social approach as well as policy measures for making all public services, such as housing, education, transportation, health care and others, available and accessible to disabled people in mainstream settings. CBS mean the provision of appropriate accommodations to ensure that disabled people can access mainstream services and opportunities and live as equal citizens. CBS eliminate the need for parallel services, such as residential institutions, special schools, long-term hospitals for health care, para-transit facilities for transport, sheltered jobs etc.**

ACTORS:

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

IT'S MY LIFE



ACTION:

1. Collection of data and **reporting from human rights and IL perspective**
 2. Identification of **partners – not necessarily DPOs**
 3. Develop **proposals** for change – **don't buy the argument 'there is no money'!**
 4. **Communication** with authorities at all levels – local, regional, national, European, UN (CRPD allows for that too)
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