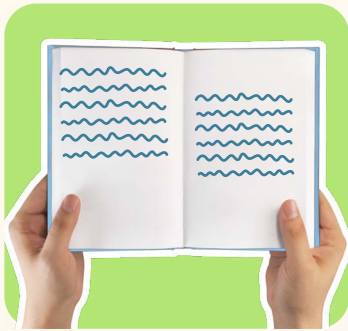


Freedom to Live

Malta's 2021-2030 National Strategy
on the Rights of Disabled Persons





This booklet will help you to understand, in an easier and shorter way, the things written in the document called ***Freedom to Live – Malta’s 2021-2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons.***



To know exactly what is written in the full document, you can read it by following the link below:

<https://inclusion.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Disability-Doc-ENG-SEP-21.pdf>

This booklet was prepared by Lorraine Pleven and Isabelle Bonello from the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). Dr. Alistair De Gaetano translated the booklet from Maltese to English.



The **National Strategy** is a document with a list of things that the Government of Malta will be doing over the next years in the disability sector.



This **National Strategy** was made so that we will be able to know what will be done about the rights of disabled persons in Malta, between the years 2021 and 2030.



The year 2030 is also the same year chosen by the United Nations for finishing all the things that were written in the document called “Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations”.

The United Nations is a group of countries which works together to do things that make people’s lives better, in the present and in the future.



The National Strategy also mentions things written in another document that was made in the year 2014, and that is called “National Policy on the Rights of Persons with Disability”, which says that all disabled persons should be treated equally (in the same way as other people).

In this National Strategy document, the things that changed in Malta and in other countries since 2014 are also written.



How was this National Strategy made?

In the year 2015, we started to work and talk to different persons, so that we could make this National Strategy document, that would have a list of things that need to be done in the Maltese disability sector.



Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI)

The Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) will work on the things written in this National Strategy document.



This Office (DDI) has a group that works with persons from different Government departments, that is called the 'Inter-Departmental Coordination Committee'

and

a group that works with persons from different Government Ministries, that is called the 'Inter-Ministerial Administrative Committee on Disability' (IACD).



These groups are there to talk about the things written in this National Strategy document, and to work on these things.

Every 3 months, a report that explains the work that is being done will be written.



The Commission on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) will regularly check that the things written in this document are being done.



A very important thing that is written in this document is **“Nothing About Us, Without Us”**, which is the main reason why the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was written.

This means that nothing can be decided or done about disabled persons, if disabled persons are not involved in the things that are being decided upon or done.



This should happen by making sure that:

Disabled persons are involved every time a decision is going to be made;

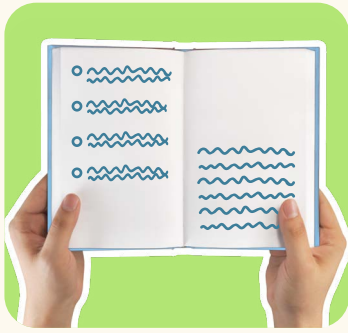
and

That there is the also involvement of other people in society.



This group of people includes academics (teachers), organisations that work to make sure that everyone is treated in the same way, and other persons who work with disabled persons. This group shall be called ‘ENGAGE’.

It will be disabled persons themselves, however, who will decide about their own future.



In this National Strategy document, we can find a list of things that need to be done over the next years, and for every thing written, the date by when this thing has to be done is also written.

The colour of the title of a thing that is written, shows by when that thing needs to be done:

If the colour of the title is Blue	The thing must be done within the next 2 (two) years
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If the colour of the title is Yellow	The thing must be done within the next 5 (five) years
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If the colour of the title is Green	The thing must be done within the next 9 (nine) years
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These are the things that are written in the National Strategy and that must be done over the next few years:



Objective 1: Reforms (Changes) and Equality (Making sure everyone is treated in the same way)

Action 1.1: Development and Changes to Laws about Disability, and Systems used in the Disability Sector

This means that there would be changes to some laws, and that there would be some new laws about the rights of disabled persons.

People working with CRPD will also be given training (lessons) about the changes that will happen to the law.



Action 1.2: Working in a Group to talk about existing Laws and other Important Documents about Disability

This means that there is a group of persons who read the laws and other important documents that exist about disability, and talk about what needs to be changed in these laws and documents.

People working with CRPD will also be given training (lessons) about the changes that will happen.



Action 1.3: Changing the way we make decisions about support needed by Disabled Persons

This means that meetings will continue to be held to talk about the ways in which different organisations must work, to see what the needs of disabled persons are. To make things easier, one organisation will start to take care of these needs, instead of many organisations.

Afterwards, disabled persons and their family members should be given a list that mentions all the services that they can make use of.



Objective 2: Research (Looking at Information) and Collecting Information

Action 2.1: Working Together to Look at New Technology to Support Disabled Persons

This means that there will be meetings held with different organisations that create technology (such as computers or tablets) that can support disabled persons. This will be done to get more information, and to be able to know what needs to be done.



Action 2.2: Working Together to Look at What Leisure (Fun) Activities For Disabled Children, Teenagers and Young Persons Do Not Exist

This means that there will be discussions held with different organisations about leisure (fun) activities, in order to see how these activities can be made accessible, and changed so that they can be enjoyed by disabled children, teenagers and young persons.



Action 2.3: Work between the Ministry responsible for Disability and academic entities (schools)

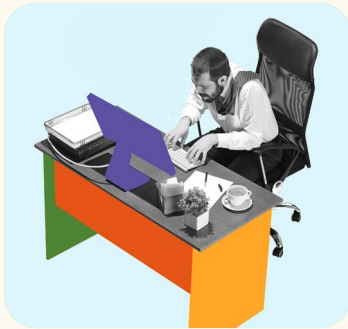
This means that there should be a document that explains how the Ministry responsible for Disability and the University of Malta's Department (section) responsible for Disability, will be working together to make research.

Research means looking at information to get to know more about a specific thing or things.



Action 2.4: Making Research Available to Everyone

This means that meetings will be organised, and work will be done, so that the University of Malta's Department (section) responsible for Disability can let more people know about the research happening in Malta about Disability.



Action 2.5: Collecting Information in the Best Way Possible

This means that the Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) will be working with the National Statistics Office (NSO) to make sure that information about disability is collected in the best way possible.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) is a Government office that is responsible for collecting information about different things in Malta.



Objective 3: Knowledge about Disability

Action 3.1: Making Knowledge about Disability Available Regularly

The Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) and the Ministry for the Rights of Disabled Persons, shall work so that people will have more knowledge about disabled persons and their lives, through Television, internet, and in other ways too.



Action 3.2: Knowledge about How a Person can Use the Law When they are Not Treated Well Because of their Disability

This means that CRPD should work to make sure that people will know more about how to use the law when they are discriminated (not treated well) because of disability.



Action 3.3: Training (lessons) About Disability to Government and Private Organisations that Give Services to disabled persons

This means that CRPD has to work to give more training (lessons) about disability to persons who work for Government organisations and private companies that give services to disabled persons.



Action 3.4: Basic Teaching of Sign Language to certain Workers and to Students

This means that there should be teaching of Maltese Sign Language to workers (such as doctors or social workers) who would regularly meet Deaf people, and to students in secondary schools.

Maltese Sign Language is the language used by Deaf people in Malta.



Objective 4: Accessibility

Action 4.1: Accessible Roads and Transport

This means that there will be meetings and work done, with Transport Malta and with others, so that roads and transport will become more accessible.



Action 4.2: Accessible Public Transport and Taxi Services

This means that there will be meetings and work done, so that public transport and taxi services will become more accessible for disabled people, and training (lessons) will be given where necessary.



Action 4.3: Accessible Beaches and Accessible Tourism

This means that there will be meetings and work done, to make sure that beaches and tourism can become more accessible, in the best possible ways.



Action 4.4: Accessible Information Policy (Document)

This means that there will be meetings and work done, to make a document explaining how to make information accessible for everyone, in general.

Meetings will also be organised, to make sure that there will be people who can work on making different documents accessible.



Action 4.5: Better Access to Books and Other Materials in Accessible Formats, in Educational Institutions (Schools)

This means that work will be done to make sure that more accessible books and other accessible materials are available for disabled persons, in places like libraries.



Action 4.6: Checking that Buildings and Services are Accessible

This means that CRPD must continue working to make sure that buildings and public places are built in a way accessible to disabled persons.



Action 4.7: Guidelines (Document) explaining how to Present Information in different Accessible Formats (Ways)

This means that work will be done to create a document that explains how information should be made accessible in different ways, for persons having different disabilities.



Action 4.8: Checking Accessibility in Government Organisations and Making Reports (Documents) about this

This means that work will be done, so that Government buildings and workplaces will be checked, to see whether they are accessible or not.



Action 4.9: New Disability Logo (Picture)

This means that work will be done, so that we will have a new logo (picture) to describe disability.



Action 4.10: Access to Justice and Making Sure Everyone is Equal before the Law

This means that work will be done, so that the Courts, the services offered by the Courts, and others such as the Police, who make sure that people follow the law, do this in a way that is accessible to disabled persons.

A new law will also be made, so that disabled persons would be able to truly make their own decisions in life.



Objective 5: Participation in Culture, Entertainment, Leisure (Fun Activities) and Sports

Action 5.1: Making Places used for Cultural, Entertainment (Fun) and Sports Events, these Events, and Open Spaces, Accessible for Everyone

This means that there will be meetings and work done, so that Places used for Culture, Sports and Entertainment (Fun), are made Accessible for Everyone.



Action 5.2: Making Public Activities Accessible for Everyone

This means that there will be meetings and work done, so that Public Activities (activities which a lot of people go to) are made Accessible for Everyone.



Action 5.3: Incentives (Work to encourage people) to promote Accessibility of Culture

This means that there will be work and meetings done, so that more cultural places will be accessible for everyone.



Action 5.4: Seeing Disabled Persons in the Media

This means that there will be work and meetings done, so that disabled persons will be seen more in the Media (for example, on television), and in a good way.



Action 5.5: Sign Language, Subtitles and Spoken Commentary in Programmes and Commercials on Television

This means that there will be work and meetings done, so that television programmes and commercials (adverts) will also include:

- sign language
- words at the bottom of the screen showing what a person is saying (subtitles)
- the voice of somebody explaining what is happening on the television screen.



Action 5.6: Making Traditional Local Activities and Sports Inclusive and Accessible

This means that there will be work and meetings done, so that there will be more traditional local activities (for example, village festas) and sports that are accessible for everyone.



Objective 6: Relationships, Family, Sexuality, and Being a Parent

Action 6.1: Detailed Sex and Sexuality Education

This means that there will be work and meetings done, so that there can be more teaching about sex and sexuality at schools.



Action 6.2: Policy and Strategy (Documents) about Sexual Health, that are Inclusive

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that documents will be created to explain what should happen about the sexual health of disabled persons.



Action 6.3: Creating a Family Unit in Aġenzija Support

This means that there will be specific persons working with Aġenzija Support, who will provide support and training (lessons) to families of disabled persons.



Action 6.4: Inclusive Courses (Lessons) to Prepare for Marriage

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that courses (lessons) that prepare people to be able to get married, are made accessible for everyone.



Action 6.5: Guidelines (document) about the Right to be a Parent, and the Right to Support for Parents

This means that meetings and work will be done, to create a document that will explain what needs to be done, to respect everyone's right to be a parent, and what supports are needed for this to happen.



Action 6.6: Media Campaign and Activities for Professionals

This means that meetings and work will be done, to make video clips about disabled persons and sexuality, and to teach professionals (for example, doctors) so that they will know more about these things.



Objective 7: Education (Learning) At School and Outside of School

Action 7.1: Making sure all disabled students get their IEPs (Individualised Education Plans)

This means that meetings and work will be done, to make sure that every student in Malta will have a document called an IEP (Individualised Education Plan).

An IEP is a specific document made for every student, which explains the things that a student needs to be given by the school, so that the student can have the best possible education (learning).



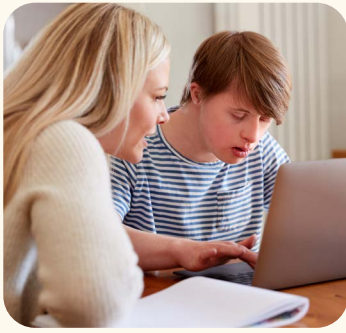
Action 7.2: Support for Transition (changing) between different schools

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that disabled students will be able to change between schools, for example between primary and secondary school, in a much easier way.



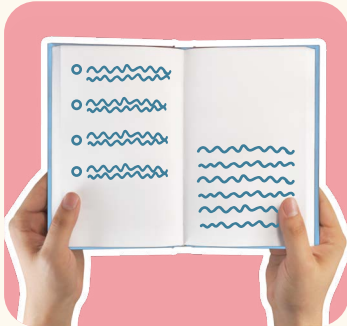
Action 7.3: Checking Educational Institutions (Schools) and Writing Reports

This means that work will be done so that places like schools are checked often, to make sure that these are accessible.



Action 7.4: Support for Training (teaching) Disabled Persons about How to Use Digital Technology

This means that meetings and work will be done, to give disabled persons more support, so that they could start following lessons about how to use digital technology devices (things such as computers or tablets).



Action 7.5: Working with MFHEA to create materials (documents) about Social Inclusion (including everyone) in Education (learning)

This means that meetings and work will be done with MFHEA (Malta Further and Higher Education Authority), to look at how education (learning) can be made more accessible for disabled students, after disabled persons finish secondary school.

MFHEA is a Government body (group) that works on making education (learning) more accessible, for those people who want to continue learning after secondary school.



Action 7.6: Making sure LSEs are qualified (have studied well) and have enough experience (Knowing how to do work)

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that disabled students will have Learning Support Educators (LSEs) who have studied well and who know how to do their work.

LSEs are persons who support disabled students at school, inside and outside of the classroom.



Action 7.7: Specific Things

This means that meetings and work will be done, together with the Youth.Inc programme organised by Agenzija Żgħażaġħ, so that there will be more activities for disabled young people in Malta.

Agenzija Żgħażaġħ (which in English means Youth Agency) is a Government body (group) that works on activities for all young persons in Malta.

Meetings will also be organised in mainstream schools, which are schools which most students attend, to make sure that these schools make available more things needed by disabled students.



Action 7.8: Creating a Group to Work on Including Everyone in Education

This means that there will be a group of persons who will meet and work to make sure that education includes and is accessible for disabled students.

Objective 8: Healthcare



Action 8.1: Changing the Rules for Medical Professionals (people such as doctors)

This means that meetings and work will be done, to talk about what needs to be changed in the document that explains how people who work in the health sector (such as doctors) should behave at work.



Action 8.2: Special Training (lessons) to Medical Professionals (people such as doctors) and Staff (people such as receptionists) who work in Health

This means that training (lessons) about people with different disabilities, and about how to say things to disabled persons and their families about health, will be given to those persons who work in the healthcare sector.



Action 8.3: Giving more Information about Disability to Medical Boards (Groups that decide about health matters)

This means that there will be work done to give more information about disabled persons and their needs, to Medical Boards in Malta. In these Boards, there are groups of persons who talk about and decide on things that have to do with health.



Action 8.4: Giving more Information about Health to Disabled Persons

This means that work will be done, so that information about health that is given to people, will also be accessible for disabled persons.



Action 8.5: Checking and Writing about access to healthcare for disabled persons

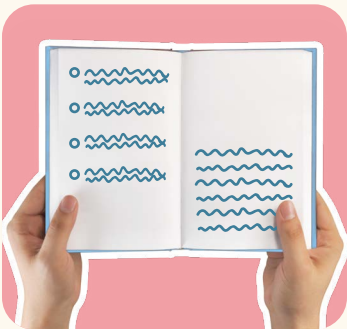
This means that CRPD will work to make documents which list the problems that are faced by disabled persons who make use of healthcare services.



Objective 9: Work and Employment

Action 9.1: Special training (lessons) and information for All Employers

This means that there will be training (lessons) about disability, and important information about disability, given to all employers.



Action 9.2: Strategy (document) about Pre-Employment (Before Employment), Employment and Keeping Employment

This means that work will be done to create a document which says which things need to be done about disabled persons and employment.



Action 9.3: Support and Changes to make things better for Disabled People at Work

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that changes can be made to make things better for disabled people at work, and so that more support can be given to disabled people at work.



Action 9.4: Encouraging Social Enterprises (businesses for the good of society) for disabled persons

This means that meetings and work will be done so that more disabled persons will be able to start businesses called 'Social Enterprises'. These businesses do things for the good of society.



Action 9.5: Better Services for Choosing a Career (the Kind of work that you want to do)

This means that meetings and work will be done, to have services that can support disabled persons in a better way, to be able to choose the work that they want to do in future.



Action 9.6: Working more closely with Young People

This means that meetings and work will be done so that there will be training (lessons) for young people, about minority groups (groups of people in society who are different from most other people in society) such as disabled persons.



Action 9.7: Media Campaign and Awards (Certificates) for Employers

This means that meetings and work will be done, to use the media (for example, television), so that people will know more about disabled people who are employed, and about services for disabled people who want to work.

There will also be Certificates given to good Employers of disabled persons.



Objective 10: Living Independently and in the Community, and Not in Institutions

Action 10.1: Fixing Problems with Services given within the Community

This means that meetings and work will be done, to see what problems there are with services being given in the community, and to see how these services can be given in a better way.



Action 10.2: More work on Personal Assistants and Programmes to make it Easier to Live in the Community

This means that meetings and work will be done, to give more support to disabled persons who need a Personal Assistant (a person who supports a disabled person in their everyday life).



Action 10.3: Creation of a Unit to Train (teach) people how to train (teach) other people about Disability

This means that meetings and work will be done, to create a Unit within Agenzija Sapport, that will give training (teaching) to those persons who work with disabled persons.



Action 10.4: Services to Provide Support and Reduce Abuse

This means that work will be done so that disabled persons and their families will be able to call and receive support from the Helpline run by Agenzija Sapport.

Work will also be done to complete a law that will protect adults in vulnerable situations, and those who would need more help.



Action 10.5: Better work between Organisations Providing Services to Disabled Persons

This means that meetings and work will be done, together with those organisations who provide services to disabled persons, so that services start to be given in a better and more accessible way.



Action 10.6: Working to Close down Institutions

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that disabled persons will no longer keep on living in large institutions for disabled persons.



Objective 11: Participation in Political and Public Life

Action 11.1: Talking with different People to Make methods used for Voting in Elections more Inclusive

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that disabled persons will be able to vote in a way that is accessible for them.



Action 11.2: Supporting Disabled Persons who want to be Candidates in local, national and European Parliament Elections

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that support can be given to disabled persons who want to be candidates in different elections held in Malta.



Action 11.3: Increasing the Knowledge of Political Parties about Disability

This means that training (lessons) about disability will be given to political parties, and to their candidates running in all different elections, to make sure that they have more knowledge about the needs of disabled persons.



Action 11.4: Making Parliament more Accessible

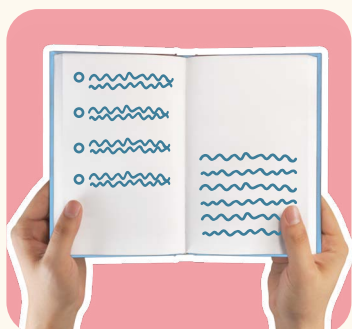
This means that meetings and work will be done, so that Parliament will be made more accessible.

Objective 12: Controlling Disasters and Reducing the Risk of Disasters Happening



Action 12.1: Changing the Task Force (Group) on Disability and COVID-19 into a Permanent Committee (Group)

This means that the Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) will be responsible for the work of the Task Force, which is a group of persons who work on problems that disabled people have because of the COVID-19 situation.



Action 12.2: General Emergency Plan

This means that meetings and work will be done, to create a document which will say what should be done in case an emergency (for example, an earthquake) happens in Malta.



Action 12.3: Emergency Services

This means that meetings will be held, and work will be done, to make sure that emergency services are accessible for everyone.

Emergency Services are those services provided by Police, Ambulances and Fire Engines when a person calls or sends an SMS to the 112 number to say that an emergency has happened.



Objective 13: Work on Disability done Outside of Malta

Action 13.1: Valletta Forum (Group) on Cooperation (working together) between European Union Countries and Arab Countries on the Rights of Disabled Persons

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that the Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) in Malta will start to work more closely with other Offices in countries in the European Union, and Arab countries.

The European Union is a group of countries in Europe which works together to do things that make people's lives better, in the present and in the future.



Action 13.2: Cooperation (working together) and Talking about the Best Way to Work on Disability, with Groups Outside Malta

This means that meetings and work will be done, so that the Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) will do more work with organisations outside of Malta.

