



**June 30, 2025**

***Press Release***

**Malta reaffirms its commitment to accessibility as the European Accessibility Act enters into force**

Together with other EU Member States, Malta is celebrating an important milestone, as the **European Accessibility Act** officially enters into force across the Union.

This Directive is an essential component of both the EU Disability Strategy 2021 – 2030, and Malta's National Disability Strategy for 2021–2030. Both Strategies are aligned to ensure that essential products and services such as in banking and IT, telecommunications, e-commerce and transport are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Malta remains fully committed to achieving the objectives of the Directive. The Directorate for Disability Issues, as the Disability Policy Directorate within the Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector (MIV), led the national negotiations at EU level on the Act, and was responsible for implementing the necessary legal reforms, including the drafting of User Guidelines, to enable the Directive to enter into force in Malta.

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) will act as the Market Surveillance Authority under the Directive. CRPD has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with entities such as the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA), and the Malta Communications Authority (MCA), which will support the Commission in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities under the Directive.

Rather than adopting a primarily punitive approach, the Commission's main role will be to guide and support the business community, and all relevant stakeholders, in the effective and bona fide implementation of the Directive. Stakeholders are encouraged to engage constructively with the CRPD to ensure compliance and foster a more inclusive market.



Prior to the entry into force of the Directive, the Ministry held consultation meetings with key stakeholders through platforms such as the Malta Business Disability Forum, the Malta Bankers Association, Transport Malta and the gaming industry through the Malta Gaming Authority.

The Maltese banking sector, among others, has already started to integrate accessibility standards into its operations. This includes improving ATMs to make them more accessible to people with disabilities, and improving customer service to ensure equal access for all residents in Malta and Gozo.

The Minister for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, Hon. Julia Farrugia, reiterated that *"on this occasion, we want to convey the message that Malta firmly believes that **accessibility is not only a requirement, but it is a right for persons with disabilities, and for everyone.** We gave priority to this Directive when we held the EU Presidency, and now, in implementation, we will continue to lead by example. We are proud to be contributing to a society that leaves no one in Malta or Gozo behind, and to building a more inclusive European Union."*

For more information on the European Accessibility Act and Malta's implementation efforts please contact:

The Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) at the Ministry for Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector, on [ddi@gov.mt](mailto:ddi@gov.mt)

Or

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), at [helpdesk@crpd.org.mt](mailto:helpdesk@crpd.org.mt), 2226 7600 or 7978 8555 (Deaf and hard of hearing persons).