

Freedom to Live

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



Easy Read version

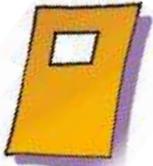


This booklet will help you to understand, in an easier and shorter way, the things written in the document called ***Freedom to Live – Malta’s 2021-2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons.***



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

This booklet was prepared by Lorraine Pleven and Isabel Bonello from the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). 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.



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.

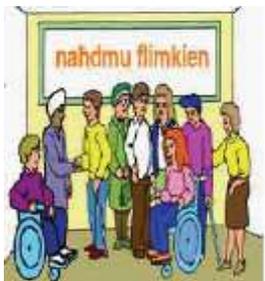
This means that nothing can be decided or done about disabled persons, if disabled persons are not involved in the things that are being decided upon or done.

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.

These people include academics (teachers), organisations that work to make sure that everyone is treated in the same way, and other persons who work with disabled persons.

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
If the colour of the title is Yellow	The thing must be done within the next 5 (five) years
If the colour of the title is Green	The thing must be done within the next 9 (nine) years



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: 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.

Action 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.



Action 3: Changing the way we make decisions about support needed by Disabled Persons

This means that meetings will 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.



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

Action 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: Work between the Ministry responsible for Disability and the University of Malta



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 3: Making Research Available to Everyone



This means that meetings will be organised, and work will 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 4: 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 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 1: 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 2: 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: 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 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 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.



Action 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.



Action 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, in general.

Action 5: Better Access to Books and Other Materials in Accessible Formats, in Educational Institutions (Schools)

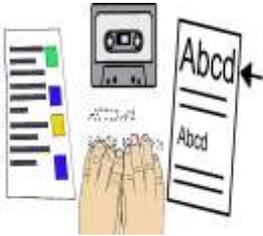
This means that work will be done to make sure that more accessible books and other accessible materials are available for disabled persons, in places like libraries.





Action 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 an accessible way.



Action 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.



Action 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 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 10: Access to Justice

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.

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

Action 1: Making Places used for Cultural and Entertainment (Fun) Events, and these Events, Accessible for Everyone

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

Action 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 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 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).



Action 5: Sign Language and Subtitles in all 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, and words at the bottom of the screen showing what a person is saying (subtitles).



Action 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 1: Detailed Sex Education

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





Action 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 3: Creating a Family Unit in Aġenzija Support

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



Action 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 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: 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 1: Making sure all 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 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 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 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 5: Working with FHEA to create materials (documents) about Social Inclusion (including everyone) in Education (learning)

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

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

Action 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: Specific Things



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

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

Objective 8: Healthcare



Action 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 2: Special Training (lessons) to Medical Professionals (people such as doctors) on “Breaking the News”

This means that training (lessons) 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 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 4: 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 2: More work on Personal Assistants

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 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 Support, that will give training (teaching) to those persons who work with disabled persons.



Action 4: 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 more accessible way.



Action 5: 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 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 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 3: Making Parliament more Accessible

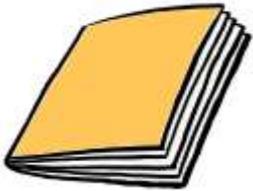
This means that meetings and work will be done, so that Parliament will be made more accessible.

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



Action 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 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.

Objective 13: Work on Disability done Outside of Malta

Action 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 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.