





**Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabilità**  
national commission persons with disability

**KNPD**


# Equal Opportunities for All



**Empowered by the**  
**Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act**



*President of Malta*



477 No. 14/3 2008

ATTI Pubblici

Il PRESIDENTE, in virtù e l'incarico ad esso conferito, ha emanato il presente Decreto in esecuzione dell'articolo 1 della Legge n. 14/2008.

Il presente Decreto ha lo scopo di:

1. Stabilire le modalità di attuazione della Legge n. 14/2008.
2. Stabilire le modalità di attuazione della Legge n. 14/2008.

Il presente Decreto entrerà in vigore il giorno successivo alla data della sua pubblicazione in Gazzetta Ufficiale.



# Mission Statement

The Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabilita' (KNPD) commits itself to achieve

- an inclusive society
- equal opportunities in all aspects of life
- a quality of life of high standard
- the elimination of all forms of discrimination (direct, or indirect)
- to provide help and support according to need.





# KNPD Roles and Functions <sup>1</sup>

- Monitor the implementation of the Equal Opportunities Act
- Protect, promote and monitor the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Investigate cases of discrimination
- Coordinate work in the disability sector
- Raise awareness about disability issues



## KNPD Roles and Functions <sup>2</sup>

- Work in collaboration with disabled people and their representative organisations.
- Conduct investigations and research
- Monitor services provided for disabled persons
- Propose policies in the disability sector
- Ensure mainstreaming of disability issues



## KNPD - Composition

KNPD is made up of a Board of no less than 14 persons.


- 7 members are appointed from among those people who best represent the ministries responsible for the social, employment, health, education and economic sectors.
- 7 members are appointed from the voluntary sector, being people who best represent the interests of disabled people and their families, after consultation with disability organisations.
- 50% of KNPD members must be disabled persons or parents of disabled persons who cannot represent themselves.
- KNPD members are appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the minister responsible for the social sector.



# KNPD Secretariat

KNPD has a Secretariat responsible for implementing KNPD decisions

- The Secretariat consists of:
  - a Chairman and Executive Director who are employed full-time and appointed by the Prime Minister
  - 24 full-, or part-time employees
- The majority of Secretariat employees are persons with disability
- The Secretariat offers equal opportunity employment at all levels in an environment where everyone can work efficiently and productively




# The Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act

The Equal Opportunities Compliance Unit investigates cases of discrimination according to the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act

- KNPD is empowered to:
  - investigate alleged acts of discrimination on the basis of disability, against governmental, parastatal and private entities, including the church and unions
  - carry out discussions with all parties concerned
  - attempt to reach an amicable and reasonable conclusion, or to
  - as a last resort to take the case before a Tribunal, or Court.

[www.knpd.org/legislation/EOA.html](http://www.knpd.org/legislation/EOA.html)



## The Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act

### The Reasonableness Board

- ✦ The Board has been constituted according to the Equal Opportunities Act
- ✦ The Board functions as an appeal board for Access for All Audits
- ✦ All the Board's decisions are based on the principal of Reasonableness
- ✦ When a KNPD decision is contested, it is taken before the Reasonableness Board
- ✦ It includes a strong representation of disabled people and parents of disabled people unable to represent themselves.




## The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

KNPD is empowered to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRPD

- Raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities
- Investigating cases of discrimination on the grounds of disability
- Monitoring the government's work in implementing the CRPD.
- Setting up of Disabled Persons' Advisory Committee
- Report on *Working Towards the Implementation of the CRPD in Malta*

[www.knpd.org/legislation/un.html](http://www.knpd.org/legislation/un.html)




## KNPD Committees

The **KNPD Consultative Committee of Persons with Intellectual Disability (KCC)** comprises 40 persons with intellectual disability. They elect from among them the 7-member Core Group who are aided by two support members.

The KCC functions on the lines of a self-advocacy group

KNPD is in the process of setting up a **Disabled Persons' Advisory Committee (DPAC)** in line with the requirements of Article 33.3 of the CRPD and according to international guidelines.


The DPAC will be consulted by KNPD in its work especially that related to its function as the Independent Mechanism of the CRPD.



## EOA Statistics (I)

From October 2011 to September 2012, KNPD dealt with 274 cases of discrimination: 152 were pending and 122 were new.


- 24 about employment
- 53 about education
- 128 about physical accessibility
- 56 about goods, services and facilities
- 10 about housing
- 3 about insurance



## EOA Statistics (II)

In 2011, KNPD carried out the following work in relation to Access for All audits of MEPA development plans:

- 952 development plans audit
- 324 recommended with conditions
- 595 not recommended
- 33 more information required
- Site visits for compliance certificates:
  - 87 site visits
  - 63 recommended with conditions
  - 24 not recommended



## KNPD Services <sup>1</sup>

In 2012, KNPD delivered the following services through the Sonia Tanti Independent Living Centre:

- provided a helpline service for 3239 disabled persons
- provided initial assessments for 643 disabled persons
- provided in-depth assessments at the STILC for 256 disabled persons

Set up the Adaptive Driving Motoring School in addition to


- the Helpline Service
- the Wheelchair and Seating Clinic
- the Adaptive Driving Unit
- the Equipment Demonstration Centre



## KNPD Services <sup>2</sup>

In 2012, KNPD also delivered the following services:

- issued 1363 new Special ID Cards
- provided subsidies for the purchase of assistive equipment for 285 disabled persons
- recommended 710 permanent and 172 temporary Blue Badges
- recommended 442 exemptions from the Annual Circulation Licence
- recommended 268 exemptions from the Vehicle Registration Tax



## Policy and Research

KNPD has proposed policies, carried out research and drawn up relevant reports and documents in the following areas:


- Independent Supported Living
- Inclusive Education
- Employment
- Day Services
- Self-Advocacy for Persons with Intellectual Disability

It also collaborates with other entities on issues such as

- Health services
- Tourism (with the Malta Tourism Authority)
- Disability Studies (with the University of Malta)

It has also published a comprehensive report on *Working Towards the Implementation of the UNCRPD in Malta*






# Awareness Raising


Work related to awareness raising includes among others:

- Disability Equality Training (2812 participants in 2012)
- Wenzu Dalli Resources Centre (1527 members)
- Disabled Persons' Week (3 to 10 December)
- Publications in accessible formats
- Development of website, Facebook page and Twitter account
- Participation in television and radio programmes and publication of newspaper articles and interviews
- Organisation of seminars and conferences and other events
- Participation in activities held by other entities



# The European Union

- KNPD is represented on the European Commission's Disability High Level Group and attends its meetings in Brussels
- It also takes part in the annual UNCRPD Work Forum and Disabled Persons' Parliament organised by the European Commission in Brussels
- KNPD is also an observer member of the European Disability Forum



## EU Funded Projects

- KNPD has secured over EUR3 million since 2001 for the implementation of EU-funded projects from the ERDF, ESF, Progress, Leonardo Da Vinci, Grundtvig and Youth programmes.
- It has also participated and continues to participate as a partner in EU-funded projects coordinated by other entities (based in Malta or other European countries).
- It is currently implementing the EUR440,000 ESF project on providing training for staff working with disabled persons with challenging behaviour



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# THANK YOU ...