

## 1. My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board:

*(please explain why you would like to sit on the Equinet Executive Board)*

Having attended the last two Equinet meetings I would like the opportunity to continue to provide the voice of disabled people in relation to equality issues, as well as representing the experiences of small states in Europe

I am a disabled activist employed as the Executive Director of the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability in Malta. I have also worked in the Maltese Ministry responsible for disabled people's rights researching and writing the first Maltese State Report for the UNCRPD.

My interest in sitting as a member on the Equinet Executive Board come from my commitment to ensure that the voice of disabled people is heard directly, at an International level as well as at a National level. I am a firm believer in accepting diversity in all its forms and ensuring that whatever abilities and characteristics a person has, they should be given equal opportunity to achieve their highest potential. I am especially interested in the crossover and intersectionality that exists where disability meets, other minority issues such as age, gender, race and sexuality.

I currently represent the Commission on the following Boards:

- Malta College of Arts Science and Technology – Governor
- University of Malta Access Disability Support Committee – member
- National Commission for Further and Higher Education Sector Skills Unit – Chair
- Foundation for Social Welfare Services – member
- Personal Assistance Fund – Chair
- Equinet Executive Board – member

I view Malta's inclusion in the Equinet as being very important, since it enables us to share our own experiences of promoting equality for disabled people and also to learn how other countries deal with the issues we face.

## 2. Additional note or other relevant information relating to your application (if any):

*(any information about yourself and your achievement that you think is important for people who will have to consider the quality of your candidacy)*

As a southern European country Malta has the opportunity to work with migrants and refugees who have disabilities, and we have a commitment to this group of doubly disadvantaged people, to ensure that they receive all the services and assistance that Malta can offer.

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability is the regulator for the Disability Sector in Malta and acts as the Independent Mechanism for the implementation of the UNCRPD.

In my role with the Commission I am involved in the preparation of legislation and policy formation as well as representing Malta in conferences both in Malta and internationally. Recently I have spoken about disability rights and equality issues in conferences in Nepal, Brussels and Istanbul, and also attended the United Nations General Assembly for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability where I gave presentations related to Autism and Motherhood and Malta's experience of implementing the EU Disability Card.

*Feel free to expand text boxes as you see fit.*