# Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability



The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the accessibility of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs); European Commission actions and regional challenges; Implementation and Facilitation.

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Malta signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol in March 2007, which were ratified in October 2012 and came into effect on the 9th November 2012.



### UNCRPD - Article 9 and Article 21











For most people technology makes things easier but for people with disabilities, technology makes

things possible.

BUT...

Is it mainstream?
Is it affordable?
Is it available?







# Tackle the Digital Divide

- for those with visual impairments
- for the hearing impaired or Deaf
- participate in, and harness the full benefits of the internet
- including remotely participating in a range of activities such as tertiary, professional, lifelong education, employment, economic, government services and consumer activities.



## Local Challenges

- Country lacks resources due to its size and demographics
- Assistive devices are costly
- Existing financial schemes do not make up for the cost
- Although training is provided, we lack the Human Resource to meet the demand
- Very few Tech people are knowledgeable about ICT Accessibility in Malta
- Products availability are very limited

### Facilitation

- Website and Mobile App Directive Transposition
- EU Accessibility Act
- European Disability Strategy
- National Policy for the Rights of Persons with Disability
- National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disability





European Accessibility Act

National Policy on The Rights of Persons with Disabilty



## Implementation

- Strada Stretta (Local Soap Opera) Subtitled
- News Bulletin on National TV Station Sign Language
- Valletta 2018 Information Devices
- Leading Bank ATMs Accessible through Screen reader
- SPOT Discover Accessible Venues
- Maltese e-passport will convert text into speech for the visually impaired
- Smart Parking System
- Interpretation Centres
- 112 Mobile Application



#### **HSBC** introduces Talking ATMs for the visually impaired



All The Things You Can Do With The Interactive Screens Taking Over The Streets Of Valletta













### Schemes

- Workplace Accessibility Tax Deduction Scheme
- Empowerment Scheme



### Educational

- Access to Communication and Technology Unit ACTU
- Sonia Tanti Independent Living Centre STILC
- Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility FITA
- Assistive Devices for Visually Impaired Centre ADVICE



# Way forward in the Local Scenario

 CRPD Malta is currently promoting the idea of providing a subsidy to Deaf people when purchasing 3G

 CRPD Malta will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Malta Communications Authority to facilitate the implementation of the EU Web and Mobile App Directive

 CRPD is currently leading a working group to facilitate the creation of the 112 Mobile Application

# Thank you for your Attention

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