

# Access to Communication and Technology Unit ACTU

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# Mission Statement

We believe everyone should be given the opportunity and the tools they need to express themselves and to fulfil their potential as independent as possible; and to achieve this we assess, support and advise, make recommendations for communication & assistive technology and implement interventions & training.



# What is ACTU?

- ACTU was set up in 2007 as part of The Education and Inclusive Network. The unit was aimed to expand and implement the use of AT/AAC across all schools so that it was not limited to one special school (Times of Malta, 2007)
- Today, the ACTU is a team which consists of Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists with a specific expertise in the area of Assistive Technology
- Therapists provide a service to children with complex communication needs (CNN) who require augmentative and alternative communication systems (AAC) to support their communication
- The Team also provides an assistive technology (AT) service to support access to education, independent living, leisure and community participation



# ACTU clients

ACTU currently provides a service to:

- Children who are in full time education both in the mainstream and special school settings
- Children with a diagnosis of physical and learning disabilities as well as communication disorders and autism spectrum condition (ASC)



# How do we work?

## Transdisciplinary Team



- The complex needs of clients referred to ACTU usually requires the expertise and knowledge of different professionals.

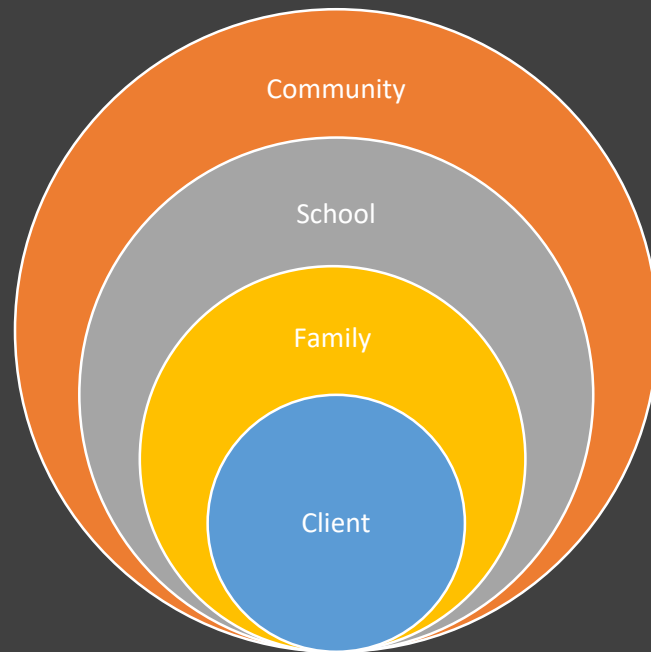
- A trans-disciplinary approach is utilised

- This requires team members to share roles and systematically cross discipline boundaries. The primary purpose of this approach is to pool and integrate the expertise of team members so that more efficient and comprehensive assessment and intervention services are provided.



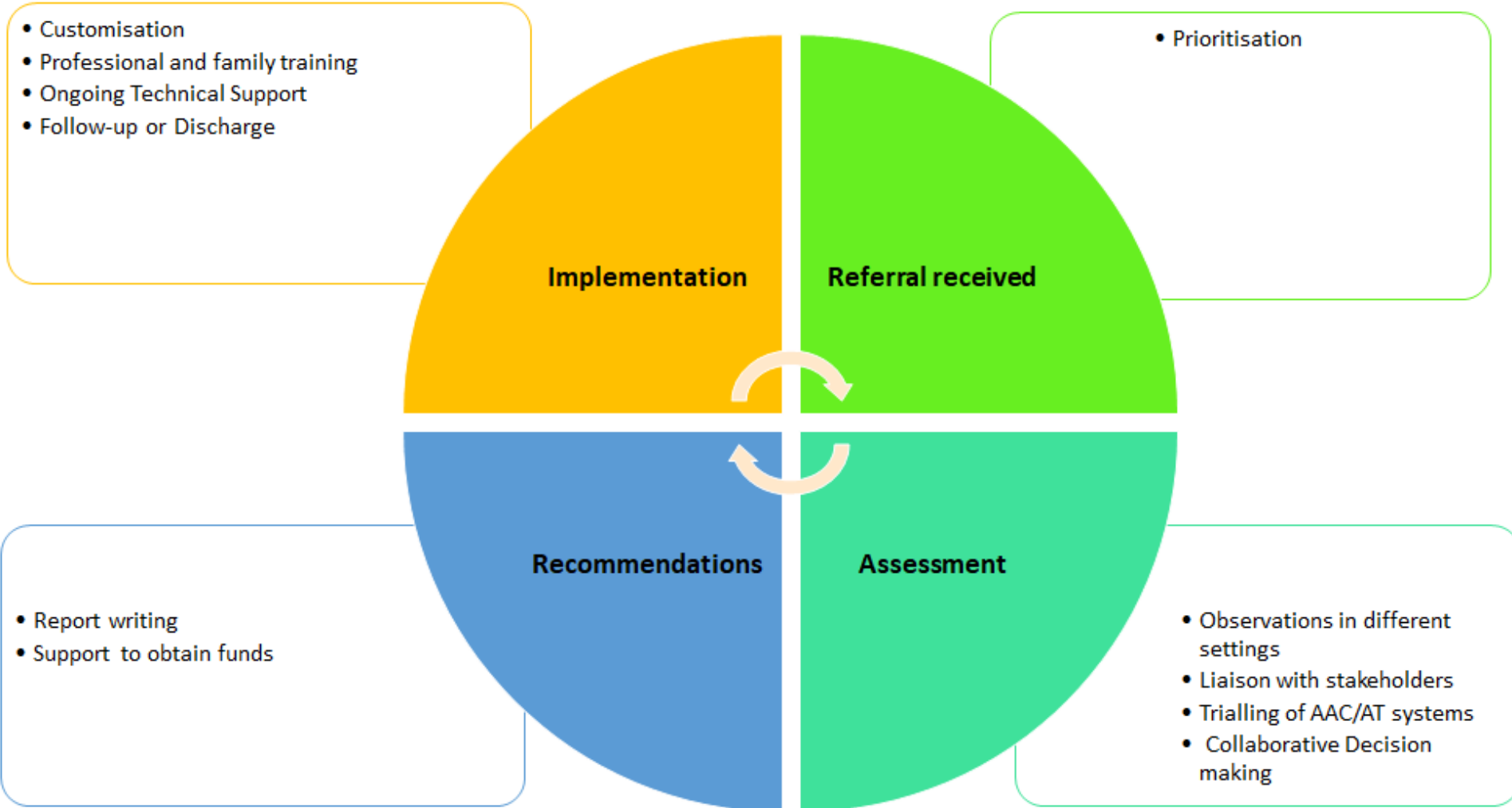
# How do we work?

## Client Centred




- Initial assessment takes place at the ACTU clinic with client and family
- Further sessions may take place in the home, educational setting or community to ensure that the proposed solution/s will be effective in all settings
- Assessment involves matching clients' needs to existing technology and/or strategies.
- Sometimes customised solutions are necessary
- Follow-on support to implement the AAC/AT solution is provided
- Technical support and training is provided if needed e.g. customisation of AAC devices, educational software is organised
- Training is provided to other professionals including educational staff and other therapists

# Assistive Technology Evaluation



ACTU

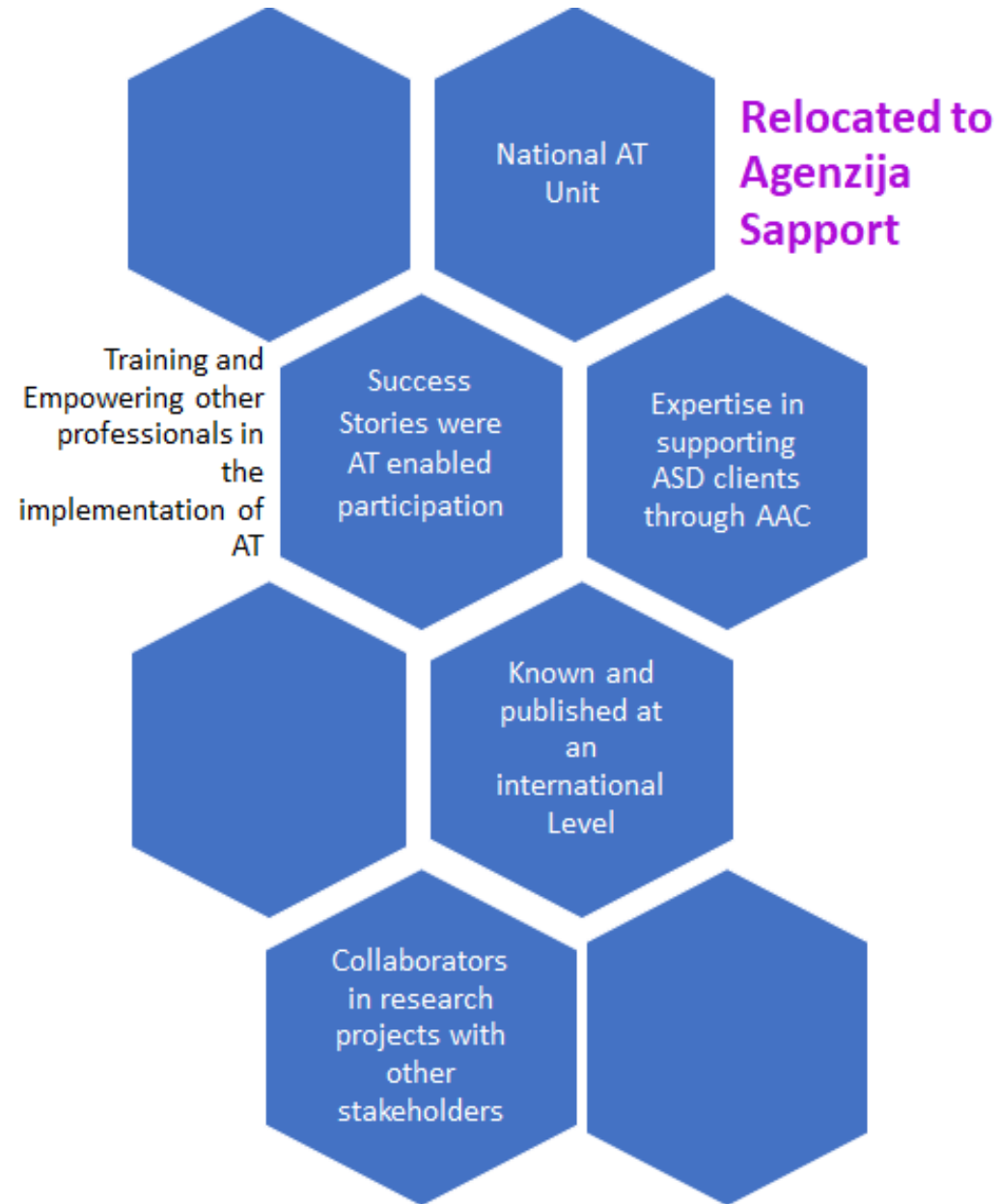
Where we are now!

- Established as the National Assistive Technology Service which has just been relocated Agenzija Support
  - Success stories of persons with disabilities who were able to access education and participate together with their peers using their AAC device and who are now also attending post-secondary education
  - Expertise in supporting and implementation of AAC and AT to facilitate communication and literacy with ASD clients
  - Training and empowering other professionals to take an active part in the implementation of Assistive Technology
  - Involved in research projects as partners with the University of Malta and other organizations
  - ACTU known on the international platform and published research papers
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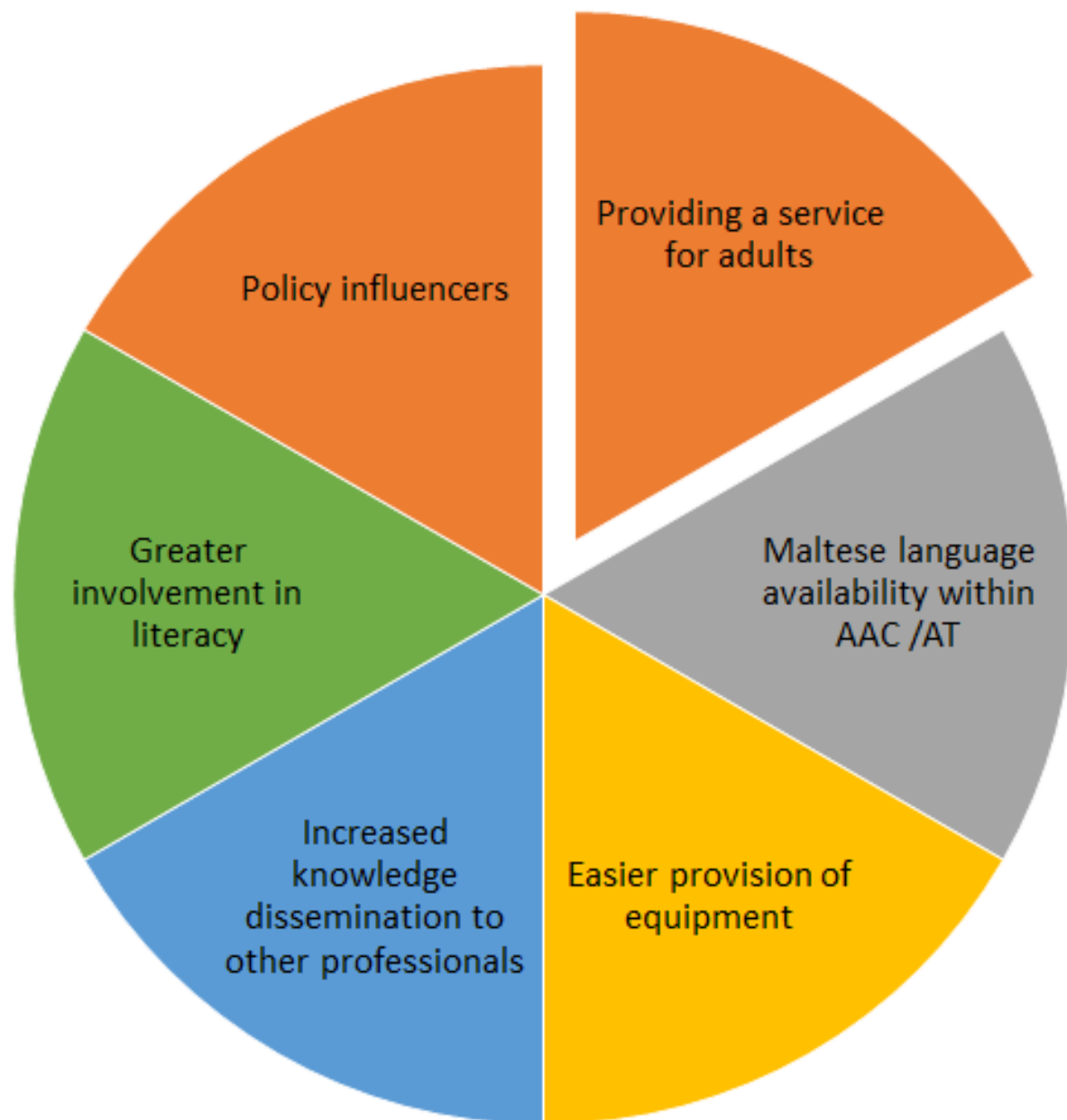


ACTU

Where are we now!



Future Vision:  
Supporting improved  
outcomes for people  
with disabilities







Offices

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