Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

PEKTUR

Programm ta' Edukazzjoni Kontinwa, Tahrig u Ricerka
(Continuing Education, Training & Research Programme)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), recognises the pressing need to have an adequate number of trained people working in the different fields related to disability, and to ensure that their work is supported by applied research. In order to cater for this need, in 1996, the then Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b’Dizabilita’ established a Continuous Education, Training and Research Programme (PEKTUR).

To this present day, the Programme aims at responding creatively and flexibly to current disability issues as they relate to Maltese society.

2. ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEARNING AND RESEARCH

The PEKTUR programme is open to disabled persons registered with CRPD who want to further their studies in lifelong education, which studies may be carried out on a full-time or part-time basis. The studies will be one of the tools which will lead to individual and personal growth and to the enhancement of one’s life opportunities.

Therefore, the PEKTUR programme provides an opportunity for disabled persons to seek channels of empowerment through further education. Applications from non-disabled people can be taken into consideration so long that they specifically undertake research in the area of disability studies. The policy of the PEKTUR Board shall always give priority to applications received from disabled people.

3. PROVIDING CREATIVE, FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMES

In line with the principles of lifelong education, the objective of this programme is to empower and provide financial assistance to individuals who are furthering their studies. Preference is given to those individuals who will be furthering their research in the priority areas that are proposed by CRPD. The studies could be professional development seminars, mini-courses and special training projects in partnership with other organisations. Other similar options are considered. These grants are given subject to availability of funds and beneficiaries are expected to contribute to PEKTUR and the disability sector in Malta according to the grant awarded.
4. ADAPTING TO CURRENT REALITIES

PEKTUR's needs are driven according to priority areas of development in the disability sector in Malta. Creative learning opportunities and applied research in new and specialised fields will be explored. Consultation and collaboration between persons with disability and their families, different professionals and different organisations is encouraged.

5. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Grant awards are decided by the PEKTUR Board which is made up of five (5) persons, including the Commissioner or Executive Director of CRPD. The members are chosen according to their individual merit, and the Committee includes at least two (2) persons who are themselves disabled persons, or close relatives of disabled children or persons with intellectual disability. The administration and management of the programme is carried out by a Programme Co-ordinator appointed by CRPD. CRPD makes an annual endowment to PEKTUR.

6. SELECTION

Applications are open to individuals who are registered with CRPD as disabled persons, as well as non-disabled persons who specifically undertake research in the area of disability studies. In order to select candidates who will benefit from financial assistance, the PEKTUR Board may, from time to time, issue public calls for applications. The number of calls issued in one year may vary depending on the funds available.

The Board allocates available funds to those who, in its opinion, most merit them in accordance with the parameters laid out in this statute. The PEKTUR Board reserves the right not to make an award if it feels that the proposals are not up to the required standard. Applicants who have NOT already received PEKTUR grants may be given preference over those applicants who have already received a grant. In addition, applications received from disabled people are given preference over applications received by non-disabled people. Applicants who are unsuccessful are informed in writing.

Prospective applicants need to apply to the grant by sending the PEKTUR application form. Additionally, the applicant is kindly requested to indicate and provide details if s/he is already benefitting from any other funds, scholarship or assistance from another entity in relation to the application submitted to PEKTUR.
In its deliberations, the Board may request expert advice from persons from outside its membership.

In exceptional cases, where the project / activity is considered as very important and where the timescale for application is very restricted, regardless of whether the project is submitted by a disabled, or a non-disabled, applicant, the Board may award financial assistance without going through the normal selection procedure. Such a decision would have to be approved by CRPD.

6.1 FOLLOWING THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

Successful applicants are notified of the grant awarded to them in writing by a letter of award, whereby they are informed of the amount which is to be awarded to them and the conditions of the grant.

In order for financial assistance to be approved, the beneficiary must submit in writing his/her agreement to the conditions mentioned in the letter of award sent by the board.

The beneficiary is to claim the grant awarded within six (6) months of an agreed date, and, where possible, the beneficiary is to claim the grant in one single request which covers the whole grant.

In order to receive any reimbursement, the beneficiary must first submit originals receipts for approval of the Chair of the PEKTUR Board.

The decision of the Board shall be final.

Appendix A gives a full list of the criteria used by the PEKTUR Board when giving points to each proposal.

7. PRIORITY AREAS

Priority areas are identified and decided by the PEKTUR Board on a yearly basis.

8. POTENTIAL USE OF FUNDS

The funds may be used to cover the following: Tuition fees, training costs, flights and accommodation (not related to attending conferences).

PEKTUR regrets that it is unable to finance expenses for attendance at conferences (overseas, or local).

However, in keeping with CRPD's policy of providing equal opportunities for disabled persons, if there are instances when disabled people are expected to attend conferences or travel abroad in relation to the research that they are carrying out, PEKTUR will still consider providing limited financial assistance to cover the extra costs of disability, such as: personal assistance, sign language interpretation, use of special transport, etc.
Appendix A

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each application is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Project PRIORITY rating.
2. OUTCOME priority rating.
3. BUDGET feasibility rating.
4. TIME-SCALE feasibility rating.
5. Overall project FEASIBILITY rating.
6. Rating of the immediate/medium/long-term BENEFITS of derived from the project.
7. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION of persons with disability &/or their families in the project.
8. The extent to which the proposer/s has/ have benefited from PEKTUR funding in the last two calendar years.
9. The extent to which the project makes use of other sources of funding. (Can funds be identified through other sources?)
10. The extent the grant will do social justice with vulnerable or at risk persons in society.
11. Other considerations, if necessary.