

Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

August 2016 – News updates in the Disability Sector

- 3rd August 2016

Presentation of the KNPD Annual Report (2015) and Equal Opportunities Act Annual Report (2015)

Mr. Oliver Scicluna presented the KNPD Annual Report of 2015 and the Equal Opportunities Act Annual Report 2015 to Hon. Justyne Caruana during her visit at the CRPD offices today.

Mr. Oliver Scicluna, the newly appointed Commissioner of the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, thanked Hon. Justyne Caruana and all the staff members at CRPD for their work in the disability sector.

<http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/68214/oliver-scicluna-to-head-revamped-commission-for-rights-of-persons-with-disability>



- 4th August 2016

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be carrying out accessibility audits in 170 pharmacies as from next year

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2016-08-04/local-news/KNPD-to-carry-out-accessibility-audit-in-170-pharmacies-next-year-6736161968>

- 5th August 2016

Promoting good practice: Village feast decorations at Hamrun

This photo shows how village feast decorations can be done with obstructing pavements.



- 6nd August 2016

George Vella, a very dedicated Maltese athlete, participated in the 3rd World Deaf Athletics Championship

http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/sports/othersports/68000/3rd_world_deaf_athletics_championships_stara_zagora_bulgaria

- 6nd August 2016

Accessibility Issues: Malta as European Capital of Culture in 2018

Mr. Oliver Scicluna remarked the following with regards to following article on accessibility issues in Valletta:


<http://www.timesofmalta.com/mobile/view/20160805/local/vallettas-infrastructure-urgently-needs-improving-valletta-2018-head.621126>

“I join Mr Jason Micallef in pleading for concrete action to be taken in making Valletta a better place. Persons with mobility impairments still face many issues in our capital city, due to the disastrous infrastructure, making it impossible to walk, or roam using a wheelchair often with rubbish obstructing pavements. I would add that most of the outlets are inaccessible, whilst the majority of them could be made accessible with just a little thought and minimal expense. Whilst we always keep in mind that there are some cases which offer challenges with regards to accessibility due to the old infrastructure or else Heritage buildings, I do believe that nothing is impossible!!!”

- 6th August 2016

Amphibious Chairs located in various localities

Amphibious Chairs are situated in various localities and are available free of charge. For more information, kindly contact MTA on 22915171.




AMPHIBIOUS CHAIRS

The Amphibious Chairs (sand-floating wheelchairs) are available **FREE OF CHARGE** at all beaches listed below.

- **Mellieha**
Ghadira, Armier Bay, Golden Bay
- **St. Julian's**
St. George's Bay
- **Birżebbuġa**
Pretty Bay
- **Gozo**
Ramla Bay
Hondoq Bay
Marsalforn Bay

Please keep in mind that these amphibious chairs are:

- Available from Monday to Sunday between 10.00 hrs and 17.00 hrs
- Floating chairs users must **BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANOTHER PERSON**
- If you need assistance or more information please ask the Beach Supervisors or contact the Malta Tourism Authority on **22915171**



- 6th August 2016

New Blue Badge Bill - harshest fines in Europe

With the introduction of the new Blue Badge law, enacted in July 2016, Malta will be one of the countries with the harshest fines in Europe for the misuse of blue badges.

<http://www.one.com.mt/news/se-jkollna-multi-fost-l-ehrex-fl-ewropa/>

- 9th August 2016

A+ Accessibility Scheme winners: Xewkija Local council and Dingli Local Council

A press conference for the A+ Accessibility Scheme winners presentation was held on the 9th August 2016. The Xewkija local council and the Dingli local council were the winners of the 2016 edition of the A+ Accessibility Scheme.

<http://www.tvn.com.mt/mt/news/had-dingli-u-x-xewkija-bl-ikbar-accessibilita/>



Photo: DOI - Jason Borg

- 14th August 2016

Donald Trump mocks a disabled journalist

<http://www.wcsh6.com/news/politics/national-politics/donald-trumps-worst-offense-mocking-disabled-reporter-poll-finds/294955268>

- 17th August 2016

Paralympics 2016 and the depiction of disability as superhuman: "institutional porn"

<http://m.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/rio-2016-paralympics-trailer-is-heartwrenching-writes-parul-ghosh/article8995350.ece>

- 19th August 2016

FITA Photography Exhibition at CRPD

Five artists exhibited their photographs at the Commission's reception area. An example that when society gives opportunities we get results in return.



- 21st August 2016

Promoting good practice: fully accessible public toilets at Dublin International Airport

<https://www.facebook.com/Inclusionire/posts/10154473311527140>

- 22nd August 2016

A very useful website for those visiting Malta – Accessible Holidays in Malta for Disabled People

<http://www.disabledholidays.com/search/europe-l27/malta-l401/>

- 24th August 2016

Lift at the Mediterranean Conference Centre

The Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disability has issued a Press Release on CRPD's involvement in the Mediterranean Conference Centre Project and the criticism on the lift which will be installed as part of this Project. The Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disability has been involved since the very beginning to ensure that this Project is accessible for all, whilst also taking into consideration the historical value of the premises.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160824/local/mcc-lift-criticism-is-not-based-on-facts-disability-commission-says.622955#.V72c8R2m2ag.facebook>

<http://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/news/progett-ta-e10-miljun-fdar-il-mediterran-biex-issir-attrazzjoni-turistika/>

- 25th August 2016

Promoting good practice: Mr. Noel Aquilina, a disabled person, will be the coach of the Siggiewi Learning Basketball School



- 26th August 2016

Ta Xbiex and Mdina Belvederes



Various meetings were held with the Ta Xbiex and Mdina Local Councils regarding accessibility issues in relation to two Belvederes.

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability has been working closely with the Mdina Local Council regarding the Mdina Belvedere since 2006. However, the necessary permits were not approved by MEPA in 2011. New plans are now being proposed and submitted to MEPA, so that the Mdina Belvedere will be accessible for all.

- 27th August 2016

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability is currently seeking new safe premises

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160827/local/knpd-seeks-safe-building-after-last-straw-fallen-slab.623179>



- 29th August 2016

Rio Paralympics: 7 till 18th September 2016

Ms. Vladslava Kravchenko will be representing Malta in the Rio Paralympics

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160830/sport/swimmer-prepares-to-represent-malta-at-rio-paralympics.623552>

- 29th August 2016

Accessible Valletta 2018 Activities

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability is working closely with the organisers of the *Valletta 2018* to ensure that the activities carried out are accessible for all. In addition, the registration for the September sessions of 'Darba Wahda', which forms part of the Valletta 2018 Projects, are now open. For further information, kindly find link below:

<http://valletta2018.org/news/darba-wahda-registration-for-september-sessions-now-open/>