

Laying the foundations for a personal budgets system

Organisation(s):	Agenzija Support	
Country:	Malta	
Contact:	policy@esn-eu.org	
Theme: <i>Choose at least one option</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ageing & Care <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum & Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Young People <input type="checkbox"/> Support for Children & Families <input type="checkbox"/> Community Care <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Care & Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Co-Production <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> Digitalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour Market Inclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce and Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Social Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> EU Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Social Service's Resilience <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Person-Centred Care <input type="checkbox"/> Research & Use of Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Management & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
Principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights: <i>Check the 20 principles here.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Education, training, life-long learning <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Gender equality <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Equal opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Active support to employment <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Secure and adaptable employment <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fair Wages <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Transparent employment conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Social dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Work-life balance <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Healthy, safe work environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Childcare and child support <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Social protection <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Unemployment benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Minimum income <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Old age income and pensions <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Health care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Long-term care <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Housing and assistance to the homeless <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Access to essential services
Current status of the practice:	<input type="checkbox"/> Concept and Design Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Testing or pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary practice that has terminated <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary practice that is ongoing and has a termination date <input type="checkbox"/> Established and ongoing practice <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Up and Transformation Phase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) The personal assistance reform is being rolled out in stages, having finalised a series of consultative meetings, including the planning of the reform and drafting of pertinent policies, launching and concluding a public consultation, meeting stakeholders for the design and dissemination of a personal assistance user's charter and job description, serving as a guide for users, personal assistants and supporting networks. Other stages are being	

	<p>designed and developed with the intention that Malta will gradually introduce personal budgets in 2030. In the meantime, subsidies for purchasing personal assistance services will continue to be allocated, which is now in line with the reformed scheme.</p>
<p>Summary: Please summarise the practice in maximum 3 sentences. This will be the disclaimer of your project on our website.</p>	<p>As part of its 2021-2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons, Malta developed a Personal Assistance Reform that will establish the groundwork for personal budgets and align services for persons with disabilities with the principles of independent living. This reform, which includes the introduction of individual budgets, aims to enhance and align the offer of services for persons with disability with the principles of self-directed support.</p>
<p>Context/ Social issues addressed Please explain the problem you attempt to solve with your practice.</p>	<p>This reform is part of Malta's 2021-2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The project enhances independent living and community inclusion for over 400 people by promoting self-directed support. The reform also prepares the groundwork for a full personal budget system by 2030, giving beneficiaries greater control over their care while aligning Malta's services with international standards on disability rights.</p> <p>The Personal Assistance Reform represents a significant step towards empowering persons with disabilities. It allows them to use their allocated subsidies for personalised assistance services that best suit their needs. Their choices will be guided by their Individualised Support Plan, which considers their unique lifestyle, preferences, and requirements.</p>
<p>Objectives: Please provide a maximum of three objectives in bullet points.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To pave the way forward for the alignment of local disability-related services towards operating in an individualised, community-based manner, including through developing such a service that supports the deinstitutionalisation process and encourages an inclusive society through the transformation of disability-related services and their processes, which will ultimately lead to a Personal Budgets system. 2. To enable and empower persons with disabilities to exercise their rights to independent living in the community, with the rightful and respectful choice, control, and flexibility surrounding how they use and manage, the support of personal assistance, and access to other services, tools, and equipment that contribute to their independent living throughout their lives.
<p>Activities: Please describe the activities put in place to achieve the objectives (maximum 300 words).</p>	<p>Persons with disabilities using the scheme and purchasing their personal assistance services can independently access all aspects of life, from tertiary education to employment, family life, and leisure, using the required support. Accordingly, this reform encourages further the organisation of services around the individual, ensuring that persons with disabilities can use support, as required and in the manner preferred, to access community life. The endeavour to implement a Personal Budgets Assistance Scheme in line with reformed principles, with personal autonomy and independent community living at its foundations, entails a progressive approach that integrates the introduction of legislation, strengthened scheme operations, and stakeholder engagement. Amongst the various related activities that have taken place to date are: (i) the drafting of an act that will eventually see personal assistance becoming a right for persons with disabilities in Malta, (ii) the production of guiding documents for stakeholders – including a charter of rights and responsibilities for personal assistance users and a generic personal assistants' job description, (iii) changes to the processes of relevant bodies, including updated board processes, (iv) the drafting of a reformed manual of procedures and relevant documents, etc.</p>

<p>Outcomes: <i>Please explain what the results were/are so far and how you evaluated this.</i></p>	<p>A public consultation process was implemented during October 2023 to gather the views of persons with disabilities and relevant stakeholders, upon which plans for the reform were based. Since the reform is in its early stages, no data is as yet available to measure the impact of the project.</p>
<p>Links to supporting documents: <i>e.g. website or report of the practice</i></p>	<p>https://sapport.gov.mt/</p> <p>https://sapport.gov.mt/personal-assistance-reform/</p> <p>https://sapport.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Reform_Strategy_FINAL-single-pages.pdf</p> <p>https://sapport.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Personal-Assistance.pdf</p>
<p>Comments and tips <i>i.e. for people willing to use your Practice</i></p>	<p>Taking on such a years-long project, the consideration of all aspects of the macro-environment within which the reform is happening is key to its implementation; legislation, service operations, and meaningful stakeholder engagement are interrelated and interdependent. A progressive approach to implementing such a significant project is also necessary; build strong foundations all across the necessary aspects for a sustainable change!</p>