

## Adaptive Driving Clinic

<b><u>Organisation(s):</u></b>	Agenzija Sapport	
<b><u>Country:</u></b>	Malta	
<b><u>Contact:</u></b>	<a href="mailto:policy@esn-eu.org">policy@esn-eu.org</a> (we will function as an intermediary between you and interested organisations who want to learn more about the practice)	
<b><u>Theme:</u></b> <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 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 Services' 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:
<b><u>Principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights:</u></b> <i>Which principles does your practice cover? Check the 20 principles <a href="#">here</a>.</i>	<input checked="" 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 homeless <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Access to essential services
<b><u>Current status of the practice:</u></b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Established and ongoing practice <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Up and Transformation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):
<p><b><u>Summary:</u></b>          Please summarise the practice in maximum 3 sentences. This will be the disclaimer of your project on our website. Example <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Agenzija Sapport's Adaptive Driving Clinic offers a specialised service designed to support people with disabilities who wish to achieve safe, independent driving. The clinic provides holistic, person-centred assessments and training to help service users overcome challenges and pursue their driving aspirations. The Adaptive Driving Motoring School complements the Adaptive Driving Clinic, providing seamless support from assessment to practical driving instruction; and it is the only motoring school in Malta equipped with two vehicles that feature modifications specifically for people with disabilities.</p>
<p><b><u>Context/ Social issues addressed</u></b>          Please explain the problem you attempt to solve with your practice.</p>	<p>The Adaptive Driving Clinic of Agenzija Sapport addresses several key social issues related to disability, mobility, and social inclusion in Malta.</p> <p><b>Context and Social Issues Addressed:</b></p> <p>Barriers to Mobility and Independence: People with disabilities in Malta often face considerable challenges in achieving independent, safe mobility. Public transport and conventional driving instruction are frequently inaccessible or unsuitable for their specific needs. This restricts their autonomy and reduces opportunities for social participation, employment, and community involvement.</p> <p>Social Exclusion and Inequality: Limited access to adaptive driving solutions can contribute to the social exclusion of people with disabilities, reinforcing disparities in daily living, employment, and quality of life.</p> <p>Lack of Specialised Support: There is a scarcity of holistic, person-centred driving assessment and instruction services tailored specifically for people with physical or sensory disabilities. Traditional driving schools and infrastructure do not typically meet these unique requirements.</p>
<p><b><u>Objectives:</u></b>          Please provide a maximum of three objectives in bullet points.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offering tailored, multidisciplinary assessments by Occupational Therapists.</li> <li>2. Seeks to remove barriers by providing comprehensive, specialist assessment and training for individuals with disabilities who aspire to drive, and empowers them to achieve greater independence, mobility, and participation in community life.</li> <li>3. Providing access to modified vehicles and adaptive driving equipment, delivering practical training and ongoing support in collaboration with experienced instructors.</li> </ol>

**Activities:**

*Please describe the activities put in place to achieve the objectives (maximum 400 words).*

The Adaptive Driving Clinic of Agenzija Support implements a range of specialised activities to ensure that people with disabilities can achieve safe, independent driving and enhanced social participation.

- **Individualised Assessments:**  
Each service user begins with a comprehensive assessment conducted by specialised Occupational Therapists. These assessments evaluate physical, cognitive, sensory, and functional abilities relevant to driving, and identify any barriers to safe vehicle operation.
- **Tailored Driving Plans:**  
Based on assessment outcomes, personalised adaptive driving plans are developed. These plans outline recommended vehicle adaptations, training needs, and strategies to address individual challenges.
- **Instruction and Training in Adapted Vehicles:**  
The Motoring School offers practical driving instruction in vehicles specially modified with hand controls, steering aids, and other adaptive devices.
- **Qualified instructors who are experienced in working with individuals with diverse needs deliver lessons that focus on building confidence, competence, and safety.**
- **Hands-On Practice of Adaptations:**  
Clients are given opportunities to familiarise themselves with adaptations under real-world conditions (public roads) and in controlled environments, ensuring that they are comfortable and proficient in using special equipment.
- **Education and Guidance:**  
Clients receive education on safe driving practices, regulations, and adaptive equipment. Guidance is also provided regarding the process for obtaining a driver's license, including support with documentation and communications with licensing authorities.
- **Community and Family Involvement:**  
The clinic encourages family or carer participation, recognising the role of social support in building confidence and reinforcing learning outside of formal sessions.
- **Professional Development for Staff:**  
Team members engage in ongoing professional development to stay abreast of best practices in accessible driving training, adaptive technology, and inclusive service delivery.

Through these coordinated activities, the Adaptive Driving Clinic delivers a holistic, person-centred programme. It removes practical and systemic barriers faced by people with disabilities, enabling them to become independent drivers and participate fully in Maltese community life.

<p><b>Outcomes:</b> <i>Please explain what the results were/are so far and how you evaluated this (i.e. statistics, a study, or feedback)</i></p>	<p>Agenzija Sapport has been offering this service since November 2019, taking over from the Commission for the Rights of People with Disability and has since developed the service and invested in more updated equipment and resources. In the year 2024, the Adaptive Driving Clinic offered a total of 127 client appointments with its clinical team of Occupational Therapists. During the year 2024, a total of 431 driving lessons were facilitated by the Adaptive Driving Motoring School.</p>
<p><b>Funding Source</b></p>	<p>EU Funds: ESF+ <input type="checkbox"/> INTERREG <input type="checkbox"/> ERDF <input type="checkbox"/> ERASMUS <input type="checkbox"/> RRF <input type="checkbox"/> other <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Government Funds  <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Government Funds  <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Funds  <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sponsorship / Public-Private Partnership  <input type="checkbox"/> Financial contribution of People using Services  <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please define:</p>
<p><b>Links to supporting documents:</b> <i>e.g. project website or report of the practice, articles</i></p>	<p><a href="https://sapport.gov.mt/services/sonia-tanti-independent-living-centre-stilc/">https://sapport.gov.mt/services/sonia-tanti-independent-living-centre-stilc/</a></p>
<p><b>Comments and tips i.e. for people willing to implement your Practice in their service</b></p>	<p>The Adaptive Driving Team is always willing to collaborate with other organisations and professionals to share knowledge and best practices together.</p> <p>We believe that successful implementation of our practice relies on a multi-professional approach, where expertise from different disciplines, such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and social work, come together to provide holistic support. Notwithstanding the driving assessments are ultimately carried out by the specialised Occupational Therapists, having such a network of professionals ensures that the clients can be fully supported beyond the assessment.</p> <p>Equally important is maintaining an individualised, person-centred approach. Every individual has unique abilities, needs, and goals, and these should guide all interventions and adaptations. Tailoring support to each person ensures that the outcomes are meaningful and sustainable.</p> <p>For those looking to adopt similar practices, we recommend building a strong network of professionals from various fields, investing in ongoing training, and maintaining open communication with service users. Continued Professional development of the team, along with sustained communication with all stakeholders is paramount in ensuring that the service remains at the forefront of such service</p>

	provision. Collaboration and flexibility are key to creating solutions that truly empower individuals and enhance their autonomy.
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