



IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW SYSTEM FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF DISABILITY AND FUNCTIONING



**MINISTRY OF LABOUR, WELFARE
AND SOCIAL INSURANCE**



**DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**



EUROPEAN UNION



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS



The project is co financed by the European Social Fund of the European Union
and the Republic of Cyprus



THE PROJECT

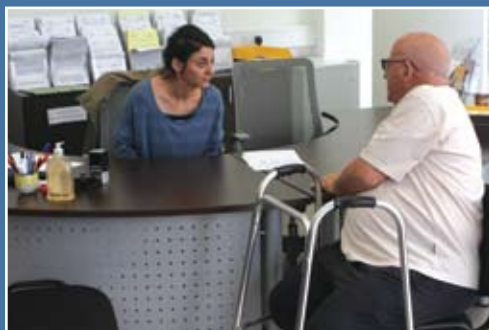
The Project for the Implementation in Cyprus of a New System for Assessing Disability and Functioning, is incorporated in the Operational Programme “Employment, Human Capital and Social Cohesion” 2007-2013, with a total budget for the entire period of implementation until June 2015 amounting to € 3,2 million. The project is co - funded by the European Social Fund and national funds in a ratio of 70% and 30% respectively. The project is implemented by the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The aim of the project is to identify and assess, based on a systematic and scientifically justified methodology, the disability of an individual and, optionally, his or her functioning. Also, it aims to document suggestions for appropriate interventions that will support and enhance the person’s social inclusion.

By applying the scientific basis of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health issued by the World Health Organization, and by using specially designed assessment protocols, the certification of disability is based on a more scientific, reliable and objective basis, treating people with disabilities with respect and dignity, serving the public services with professionalism and upgrading the knowledge for all types of disability: motor, sensory, intellectual and mental.

According to Article 26 of the Convention of the United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, programs and services for the integration and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, must be based on a multidisciplinary assessment of their needs and strengths.



DISABILITY ASSESSMENT CENTER

The Disability Assessment Center is a new point of reference for disability in Cyprus. It is the infrastructure where assessments take place and it is accommodated in the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Latsia, Nicosia.

The Center's operation began in December 2013 offering modern and accessible facilities and equipment, a reputable scientific background with the assessment protocols and the implementation guidebooks for the assessment mechanism and with a network of Doctors and Rehabilitation Professionals trained specifically on the use of the ICF as Assessors and cooperating with the Department on a purchase of services basis.

Persons with disabilities are referred to the Assessment Centre from the different services of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, where they submit applications for social benefits and services. The persons have the opportunity to choose whether they wish to be assessed only on their disability or whether to be assessed on their disability and functioning.

ASSESSMENT OF DISABILITY

It is carried out by a team of two or three doctors with specialties directly related with the disability the person may be facing. Its aim is to identify, describe and certify the existence, the type and the degree of disability and to advise whether the person meet the criteria and conditions of the laws and schemes for social benefits and services offered by the state, according to their disability status.



ASSESSMENT OF FUNCTIONING

If the person chooses for functioning to be assessed also, then the second phase of assessment is carried out immediately after the disability assessment by a group of two or three rehabilitation professionals (physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, psychologist), depending on the type of disability of the individual. The objective of the assessment of functioning is to identify, describe and certify the constraints the individuals may be facing in everyday life and the necessary interventions needed to reduce these constraints. These interventions do not match necessarily in economic benefits, but in different types of treatment or services needed by the individual or the use of specialized techniques means / wheelchairs / aids. The interventions may also relate to education, training and employment, so that the individual have increased quality of life and a more active participation in social inclusion.

COMPLETE ASSESSMENT REPORT OF DISABILITY

The Complete Assessment Report of Disability and the Disability Card that the persons receive after the assessment, lead them to the social benefits and services they are entitled to, offered in the public sector.



“The New System for the Assessment of Disability and Functioning: supports the citizen with disability and enhances social inclusion”





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