

## **Description of an example of successful national/local VET programmes for learners with SEN in Malta**

### **1) Short abstract**

In view of Malta's size and the developments/reforms taking place, we propose that the whole national VET structure for learners with SEN should be analyzed. This includes three levels:

- Individualized support services to students following mainstream VET programmes run by MCAST which is the national VET institution.
- Pathway Programme that provides students with mild to moderate intellectual disability with an opportunity to develop skills to become more independent, find employment or to continue their studies at foundation level within MCAST. This programme includes community based learning activities and work exposure sessions.
- A new programme being launched next scholastic year as part of the Special Schools Reform. It will be run at a Resource Centre for Young Adult Education and its aim is to prepare students with intellectual disabilities and who do not qualify for admission in the above programmes, for an independent and integrated adult life.

### **2) Highlights / Uniqueness**

Efforts are being made to establish direct links between these programmes and the opportunities available for further VET studies and/or Employment Training & Support Services. This will facilitate inclusion of students with SEN in the labour market. In our opinion this essential link is the 'highlight' of this VET example. Student support service and educational/ vocational programmes form an integral part of our vision to provide students with SEN with various routes that could lead them to employment opportunities.

Locally, , the development/reforms taking place in this sector, the initiatives to strengthen Employment Training and Support Schemes together with job creating ventures have become a priority. This follows the successful efforts made over the last years to implement an Inclusive Education Policy through which the great majority of students with SEN attend mainstream schools in the compulsory education phase.

### **3) Availability of evaluation data**

AT present some evaluation data is available but it is quite limited. Nevertheless this will be accumulated and updated by late 2011.