



POLICIES ON INCLUSION AND DISABILITY

Video : Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Cyprus

Theme
Disability

Module
To discover

Territory
Cyprus

Subject
Public policy

Text transcription of the video

Welcome to this video where we will explore the theme of inclusion for people with disabilities in Cyprus. We will take a closer look at what inclusion truly means for people with disabilities, the challenges we face in achieving full integration, and the measures needed to overcome them.

In this video, we are joined by a representative of a government institution who will share valuable insights on the current state of disability inclusion in Cyprus, the challenges encountered, and the ongoing efforts to foster a more accessible and inclusive society.

By the end of this video, you will have a clearer understanding of the current situation of disability inclusion in Cyprus and of the role each of us can play in promoting a more inclusive environment for people with disabilities.

How do you define inclusion in terms of disability ?

In Cyprus, inclusion means ensuring that people with disabilities can fully participate in society and enjoy the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

This includes access to education, employment, healthcare, and social activities without discrimination.

The goal is to remove barriers—whether physical, social, or behavioral—so that people with disabilities can thrive in their communities, contribute to the development of society, and benefit from it in return.



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What are the main challenges you have observed or encountered in trying to promote or achieve inclusion ?

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In Cyprus, one of the main challenges lies in the lack of physical accessibility in many public and private spaces. Despite some improvements, certain buildings, roads, and transport systems are still not fully accessible to people with reduced mobility.

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There are also gaps in the implementation of inclusive education practices, and many children with disabilities either do not attend school or are not fully integrated into mainstream educational settings.

In addition, there is limited awareness and understanding of the rights of people with disabilities, which can lead to discrimination in employment and other areas.

Cultural stigma surrounding disability still persists in parts of society, often reinforcing negative attitudes and exclusion.

How do you think these challenges can be addressed or overcome ?

To overcome these challenges, a combination of policy enforcement and public awareness is required.

Cyprus has made progress in aligning with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but the next step is to ensure effective implementation of these policies.



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What advice would you give to professionals ?

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For professionals working in this field, I would recommend focusing on continuous learning about disability rights, universal design, and inclusive practices.

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It is important to collaborate with organizations such as the Cyprus Confederation of Organizations of the Disabled, the Cyprus Paraplegic Association, and other advocacy groups, to stay informed about the needs of people with disabilities.

Professionals should also actively ensure that workplace practices are inclusive, providing reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities.

For individuals who have experienced discrimination, I encourage them to seek support from local disability organizations that can provide legal advice and advocacy services.

Cyprus' law on disability-based discrimination offers individuals ways to challenge unfair treatment, and support networks exist to guide them through these processes.

It is important to remember that no one should face discrimination in silence—there are mechanisms in place to support those experiencing inequality.