

**IFFD AWARD 2017 TO THE MINISTRY FOR THE FAMILY
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA**

Malta not only has a consolidated social benefits system that supports those with low incomes; in addition, health care and education for everyone is available free of charge and many good practices are provided through the Foundation for Social Welfare Services. It includes:

- *the National Agency for children, families and the community - it safeguards and promotes the well-being of these persons through the development and provision of psycho-social welfare services.*
- *the National Agency for disabilities is committed to enhance the quality of life of persons with disability through innovative personalised support, expertise, and advocacy.*
- *another agency, SEDQA, plans and recommends developments and updates to the National Policy in the field of drug and alcohol abuse and compulsive gambling, and to provide service in health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.*

Through Home Based Therapeutic Services, the action to eradicate poverty and social exclusion is organized by providing specialised and intensive therapeutic services to multi-stressed families in the community.

And through Building Regional Networks families are helped to empower social cohesion and the setting up of Social Development Centres and Family Resource Centres - To put in place local based mechanism that stimulate the wide participation of the local stakeholders in the analysis and solutions towards problems deriving from poverty and social exclusion – i.e to establish local partnerships and create better policy implementation structures.

The International Board of the International Federation for Family Development has decided that the Ministry for the Family and Social Development of Malta should be granted one of the 2017 IFFD Awards, “for the positive parenting policy proposal they have developed, aimed at helping parents better communicate with their children, further reach out to them, find a balance between their work and their role as parents and give children, especially those in problem situations, a better life, avoiding the risk of poverty and falling into the benefit trap. We are aware that a number of incentives have been introduced in the last budget relating to this.

United Nations Headquarters – New York, 8 February 2017.