The Directorate for Policies for Persons with Disabilities is an executive department of the Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs whose mandate is the support of the rights of Persons with Disabilities and the improvement of the quality of life for them and their families.

To that end, it has designed and oversees the implementation by the Organization of Welfare Benefits and Social Solidarity (O.P.E.K.A.) of nine non-means tested financial aid schemes for Persons with Disabilities. The objective of these programmes is the provision of assistance to Persons with Disabilities, in order for them to meet the additional needs arising from their disability.

Assistance is also provided through other services, such as Supported Living Homes, the Camping Programme which takes place each summer in three different time periods, the programme for the award of free-of-charge or reduced fare tickets for the use of public transports, the Daycare Centers, the Centers for Creative Occupation for Children or adults with Disabilities etc.

Furthermore, a National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is being prepared with the participation of delegates representing all competent Ministries, under the supervision of the Minister of State who according to the provisions of article 69 of law 4488/2017 is the Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The Action Plan, which is being drafted after mapping the current state of play regarding the implementation of the CRPD and gathering the relevant legislation from all the Ministries, as well as all relevant available statistics, contains a variety of policies, horizontal and vertical, with a clear timetable, milestones and indicators, aims to enhance, promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities according to the provisions of the CRPD. It composes the specific actions of the Ministries in a single unified strategic planning of a dynamic nature, which will be updated, refined, specialized and enriched in line with the results of regular and continuous consultation.

One of the most important schemes implemented by our Directorate is the Deinstitutionalization Scheme. According to the provisions of JMD no 60135/1579/2017 (Gov. Gaz. No 4590, B), persons with disabilities hosted in the Lechaina institution and the institutions supervised by the Social Welfare center of the Region of Attica will be relocated in a safe and supportive facility or in a family-type facility or they will return to their homes with parallel support of the de-institutionalization programme. The implementing bodies of the programme will be the social welfare centers of the regions of Attica and W. Greece. Cooperation with the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) is in progress for the drafting of the National Strategy for Deinstitutionalization and the action plan for its implementation.

Finally, in the forthcoming period the service of Personal Assistant for Persons with Disability will be established. This action aims to promote the independent living of Persons with Disabilities as well as to help prevent and avoid institutionalization. Within the first quarter of 2021, the implementation of a pilot program will commence in selected areas of the country.