1

Annex II

Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(Please respect the specified amount of lines when completing this form)

Family name and first name: Debattista Michael

Date and place of birth: 4 June, 1976 at Mtarfa l/o Rabat, Malta Place of residence: Naxxar, Malta

Nationality: Maltese

Email address: michael.debattista@go.net.mt

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

(Five lines maximum)

I am the current president of Breaking Limits (Malta), a cross-disability DPO. I am Assistant Manager (Projects and Research) at the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). I am also a member of the Boards of Directors of the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE), focusing also on inclusive education matters, and of the Lino Spiteri Foundation, a public-social partnership in the field of inclusive employment.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

(Ten lines maximum)

I have been involved with Breaking Limits, a cross-disability DPO, since 2012, becoming its President in 2016. I was also a lead author, and sub-committee chair within the framework of the Just Society Action Council, in drawing up Malta’s first National Policy on the Rights of Persons with Disability in 2014. I have worked on Malta’s accession to the EU Disability Card scheme at CRPD, and I have represented the latter at the EU Commission’s Disability High-Level Group (DHLG). I lecture at the University of Malta, on Including Students with Visual Impairment, at the Department for Inclusion and Access to Learning, and on Independent Living, Dependence to Autonomy, and Empowerment in Everyday Life, at the Department for Disability Studies. I also tutor students on assignments and dissertations. I further lecture on CRPD-run modules on Inclusion and Accessibility at the Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS).

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

(Five lines maximum)

BA (Hons) in Youth and Community Studies (University of Malta), with a dissertation on ‘Risk-taking Behaviour: A Motivational Perspective’ – awarded in First Class;

2

MA (Disability Studies) (University of Malta), with a dissertation on ‘Persons with Disability and Intimate Relationships: Realities in the Maltese Context’ – awarded with Distinction;

Evaluating different options in order to read for a Doctoral degree in the Disability Rights field

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

(Three lines maximum)

I am a person with disability, having been affected by a progressive visual impairment since the year 2000.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.

(Five lines maximum)

As activist and then President of Malta’s largest cross-disability DPO, I work towards achieving the ‘Nothing About Us, Without Us’ mantra. I also worked on launching EVVIVA, a national umbrella strictly for DPOs. In my daily work and in the academic field, I cover topics such as employment, sexuality and appropriate media depictions of persons with disability, as well as awareness-raising, and access to assistive technologies, and to cultural and sporting pursuits.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

(Five lines maximum)

'Persons with Disability and their Lived Experiences of Intimate Relationships in the Maltese Context', presented at Disability Studies Post-Graduate Symposium, University of Malta, 17.09.15; 'Intimate Relationships of Persons with Disability in the Maltese Context', presented at ‘Breaking the Silence: Sexuality, Intimate Relationships and Disability’, CRPD, 30.10.17; 'Disability: Overcoming Boundaries', presented at ‘Strength in Inclusion’, MMSA, 15.11.17

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