

## JOINT DECLARATION

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY FOR THE FAMILY, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SOCIAL  
SOLIDARITY

OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA

AND

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

OF ROMANIA

The Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity of the Republic of Malta and the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania, hereinafter referred to as "the Ministries",

Aiming to establish and develop active relations in the area of family and social policies,

Confirming their determination to join efforts towards developing a beneficial bilateral cooperation through exchange and sharing of the best national experiences, as well as to benefit from peer learning processes and exchange best practices,

Have reached the following understanding:

### Paragraph 1

Exchange good practices, information and — where possible — implement joint initiative projects in the following main areas:

- a. National strategies and policies on combating poverty and social exclusion;
- b. Social network development processes as a factor of fighting poverty and promoting social inclusion at regional, local and community level;
- c. Promoting the cooperation between government administration and non-governmental organizations, the role of NGOs as social service providers for the state and for the communities (social public partnerships);
- d. Promoting the cooperation between administration and the social actors in the framework of informing about the social rights, and the role of the social actors as providers of social

- services and assistance in support of the state and of the community (public-private partnership in developing social services);
- e. Demographic challenges and their influence on the pension systems and reforms of the pension systems;
  - f. Promoting active ageing at national and local level, including inter-generational cooperation, promoting voluntary work and social services;
  - g. Quality of life strategy for people with disabilities;
  - h. Promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and promoting respect for their inherent dignity, which is, in fact, the purpose of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
  - i. Other areas, subject to mutual consent.

### **Paragraph 2**

Cooperation may take the following forms:

- a. Exchange of legislative documents, regulations and other documents as well as information and good practices referring to various aspects of social security;
- b. Exchange visits and/or internships at political and expert level in social policy;
- c. Cooperation on programmes, projects and research related to social policy;
- d. Other forms of cooperation, subject to mutual consent.

### **Paragraph 3**

The costs related to the exchange visits at official or expert level carried out within the framework of this Joint Declaration will be covered by the sending authority in accordance with the applicable national laws and regulations.

### **Paragraph 4**

1. The competent authorities for the implementation of this Joint Declaration will be:
  - a. The Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania – General Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations;

- b. The Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity of the Republic of Malta – Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate.
2. For the purpose of the practical implementation of this Joint Declaration, these authorities may adopt a 2 year Operational Cooperation Programme, monitored by a 'Monitoring Group' composed of representatives of the above mentioned authorities and possibly of other members, nominated by each Ministry that will elaborate a synthesis annual report and provide support to the annual revision of the Programme.

### Paragraph 5

1. This Joint Declaration will be applicable from the date of its signature.
2. The declaration is not legally binding under international law.
3. This Joint Declaration will be applicable without any limitation on its duration. It may be terminated at any time by either Side within a 90 days written notice.

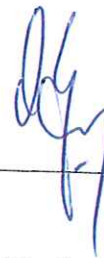
Signed today, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, in Bucharest, in the English language, in two originals.

For the  
Ministry for the Family,  
Children's Rights and Social  
Solidarity of the Republic of  
Malta



Dr Michael Falzon  
Minister for the Family,  
Children's Rights and Social  
Solidarity

For the  
Ministry of Labour  
and Social Justice of Romania



Lia-Olguța Vasilescu  
Minister of Labour and Social  
Justice

