



SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Building Social Connectedness for Individuals Living with Profound/Multiple Disabilities and their Families

EASY-TO-READ VERSION



Pictured: Bowling event @ Day Camp Massawippi Olympics

Photo Credit: [Miles Astray](#)

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NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

This easy-to-read version would not have been possible without the support and guidance of Meghan Hussey, Senior Manager of Global Youth Engagement at Special Olympics.

All images found in this report can be found at:

<https://thenounproject.com/about/>

See the regular report [here](#).

Thank you,

Quinn Tai Barrie-Watts

WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?



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Special Olympics is working to improve its Motor Activity Training Program called MATP for short. MATP is sports training for those who can't do mainstream sports and need adapted activities.



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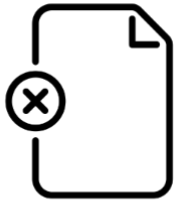
Special Olympics faces many challenges on its journey to improving MATP.



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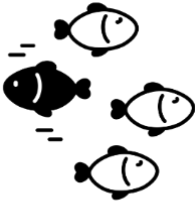
This report is looking at what those challenges are, and figuring out how we can overcome them to make sure people feel like they belong.

HOW ARE MATP CANDIDATES EXCLUDED?



Created by Iliham Fitrotul Hayat
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For the most part, there are no national policies for people with intellectual disabilities.



Created by Victoruler
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If there are policies for people with disabilities, no distinction is made between people with physical disabilities and people with intellectual disabilities.



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There is also not a lot of research on the eligible MATP population.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES IN LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA?



In these regions, there are three main barriers.



Created by Pham Thanh Lóc from Noun Project

The first one is poverty. Governments and people are unable to pay for MATP equipment and training.



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The second one is healthcare. People need to have access to a doctor before they can think about doing sports.



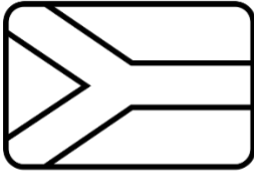
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The third one is lack of rights. MATP candidates' rights are not always recognized in these three regions.



Created by Francielly Costantin Senra
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Brazil has many domestic policies for people with disabilities, but no distinction is made between MATP candidates and people with other forms of disability.



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South Africa has very little services for MATP candidates.



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Saudi Arabia has no domestic laws in place, but studies have shown that inclusive schools produce positive attitudes among students.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES IN EAST ASIA AND THE ASIA PACIFIC?



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In East Asia and the Asia Pacific, there are also three main barriers.



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The first one is that there is no human rights court so MATP candidates' rights cannot be defended.



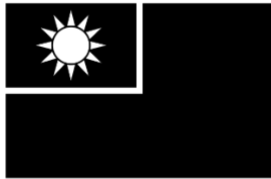
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The second one is that parents and caregivers are not consulted during discussions on the care of MATP candidates.



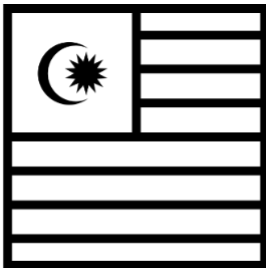
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The third one is that there is a lack of accessible services.



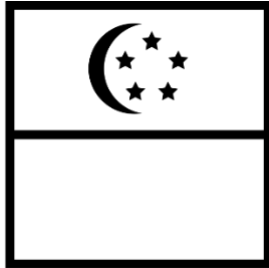
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In Taiwan, research has focused on caregivers' quality of lives without looking at MATP candidates' needs.



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In Malaysia, there needs to be an improvement in the training of professionals.



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Singapore needs to improve its disability-related services overall.



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There is little government support for people with disabilities in India. People with physical disabilities have more rights than MATP candidates however.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE/EURASIA?



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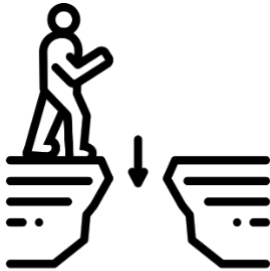
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In Europe and North America, there are five significant challenges.



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People lack adequate training to work with MATP candidates.



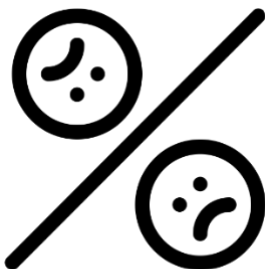
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There is a large gap in support and guidance when MATP candidates are moving from childcare services to adult care services.



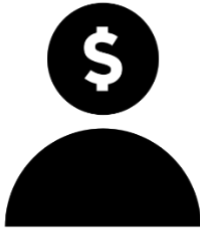
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Governments and other people do not understand the lives of MATP candidates and their families/caregivers.



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MATP candidates continue to attend different schools than other children.



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Class, immigration, and race affect access to services for MATP candidates.



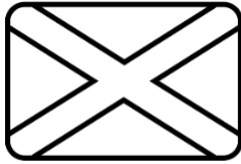
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Canada is a leader in disability policy along with the United States, but does not run MATP.



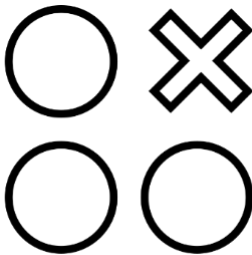
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The gaps between disability services is very noticeable in the United Kingdom, as seen in the government's new policy called the NICE guidelines.



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Scotland has specific disability-related programs known as Getting it Right for Every Child and Principles of Good Transitions, but many day centres are closing.



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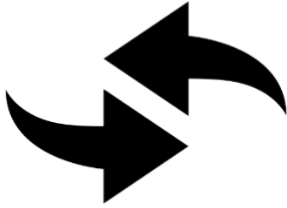
Around the world, people are uncaring or express negative attitudes towards MATP candidates.



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We want to make the world a more welcoming place where MATP candidates and their families/caregivers feel like they belong.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



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Change the name of MATP to something that is more inviting and easy to understand.



Created by David
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Special Olympics should come up with a Unified Champion Schools model for MATP candidates.



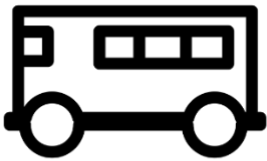
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Special Olympics should consider designing sports that make use of the athletes' assistive devices, like their switches.



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Special Olympics has also begun expanding MATP to aging Special Olympics Athletes. Special Olympics should consider putting together a special manual for them.



Created by chabib ali machbubi
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Transport is hard to get for some MATP athletes. Special Olympics should consider bringing MATP to special schools and existing residential institutions to help eliminate additional transport costs for MATP training sessions.



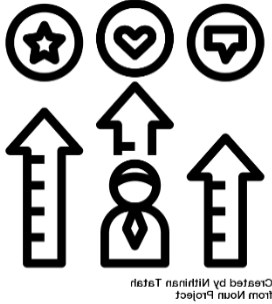
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More research needs to be done by teaming up with professors who research people with ID.



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More awareness needs to be raised on MATP candidates.

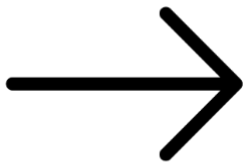


MATP needs to be advertised as a program that is necessary to develop certain skills. It is also important for physical health and helps people feel included.



There also needs to be a more community-based approach to inclusion where we increase interactions between MATP candidates and others.

IMPACT



The findings and recommendations of this report will be helpful for Special Olympics as they move forward to improve MATP.

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This report may also be useful for non-governmental organizations so that they can include MATP candidates in their advocacy.

IN THE FUTURE...



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MATP-eligible candidates need to be consulted in order to better understand their needs.



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MATP parents and caregivers should be consulted as well to learn about the specific needs of their family member.