



Something about this 3 December set it apart from other days – this Wednesday doubled as the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities. And not just on paper. A host of activities marking the occasion were organised by the office of social welfare. Starting in the morning, an informational table was pitched at la plaça de la Constitució in Sant Francesc and manned by the associations on Formentera that work in support of the disabled.

Three associations – the Pau Mayans Association for the Integration of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (APMIPTEA), Eivissa-Formentera Association of Persons with Special Needs and the Association of Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue (APNEEF) – had representatives staffing the table at different points in the morning

Similarly inspired programming for the day included a sensorial circuit. Marta Uriarte, the Council's technical advisor on disability issues, described it as “an awareness-raising activity” intended to address the difficulties – normally overlooked by non-disabled individuals – encountered by people who are wheelchair-bound. In another exercise, obstacles were strewn across the ground and participants were asked to complete the course with their eyes banded.

Dolores Fernández Tamargo, councillor of social welfare, was on hand to outline the different services offered by the Council to persons with disabilities. The Formentera Day Centre is a facility created to provide care options not just for the island's disabled population, but also Formentera's elderly and those suffering mental illness. Currently, six Formentera residents with disabilities receive individualised treatment to promote their personal autonomy. The Day Centre also has two programmes open to minors and their families.

One of these is overseen jointly with APMIPTEA and focuses on therapeutic treatments. The second – another joint project, this time with APNEEF – works with patients and family members and concentrates on the psychological and physical aspects of disability. The two programmes serve a total of 25 families.

Councillor Tamargo described the next activity, organised that afternoon: a workshop, led by

local artist Sol Courrèges, “so that kids – girls or boys; disabled or not – could come together and play”. Finally, the local youth centre put on an evening projection of a documentary, capping off a full day of commemorative programming for the international event.