

THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF PR.E.S.T.O.: PROMOTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY TRANSNATIONAL MOBILITY

by *Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET*

The PR.E.S.T.O. – “Promoting pEople with disability Transnational mObility” kick-off meeting took place on 15 December 2020 and brought together 7 partners among VET Colleges and Mobility Institutions in addition to EfVET, as follows:

- Consorzio Ro.Ma (Italy)
- Associazione Italiana Persone Down (Italy)
- International Consulting & Mobility Agency (Spain)
- Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Rozwoju Społeczności Wiejskiej Gminy Przygodzice (Poland)
- Cap Ulysse (France)
- European Education & Learning Institute (Greece)
- EfVET (Belgium)

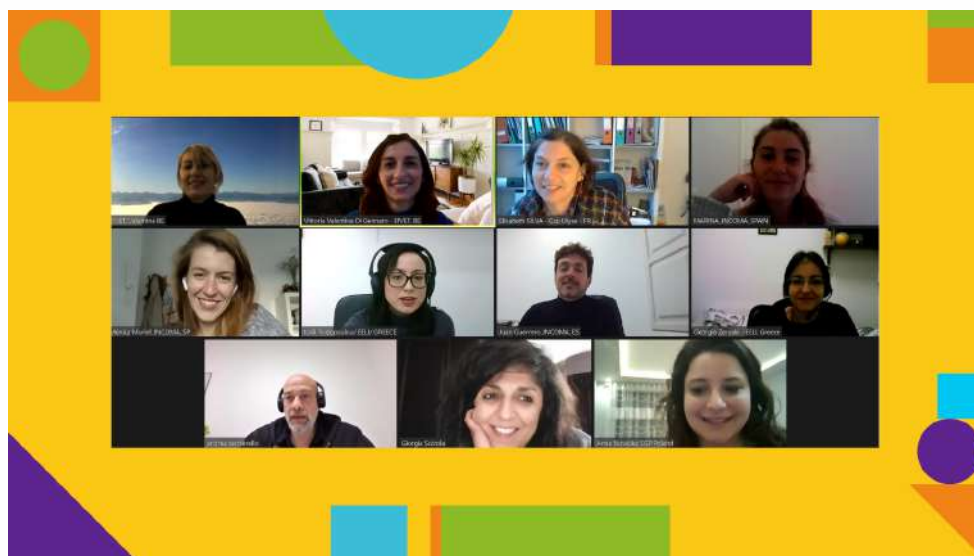
P.R.E.S.T.O.’s objectives is to promote the involvement of people with intellectual disabilities in work-based internships and international mobility paths.

Developing partnerships supporting the setting up and implementation of internationalisation strategies for VET providers. PR.E.S.T.O. puts in place a training and awareness raising strategy useful to promote quality mobility of VET learners with disabilities and to foster VET internationalisation.

The partnership will identify, test, and evaluate Guidelines and Training tools aimed at enabling VET providers (managers and project designers) to plan and manage quality mobility paths for disabled people and that will facilitate their engagement in international cooperation paths.

The kick-off meeting, due to COVID-19, was held online and it was introduced with a presentation of all the partners followed by the overall presentation of the project, its objectives, target groups, the intellectual outputs, and then the project management and all the implementation activities.

The project meeting was very fruitful and the partnership showed a very high sensibility to the important topic of the social inclusion underlying the level of engagement they expect from themselves and the others for the good outcomes of the project.



The KA2 PR.E.S.T.O. project is coordinated by Consorzio Ro.Ma. from Italy and, in line with the Horizontal Priority on Social Inclusion, aims at promoting work-based learning in all its forms.

The PR.E.S.T.O. partnership will deliver a Training Course as well as Guidelines aimed at providing tools, knowledge and guidance to VET providers on how to plan and manage quality work-based mobility paths specifically drawn for people with intellectual disabilities.

The work-based learning presents itself as a valuable opportunity to:

- For VET project designers as an opportunity: to test the model studied in the development of the project (design of transnational mobility projects involving people with intellectual disabilities).
- For people with cognitive disabilities as a valuable opportunity: to increase and improve personal, interpersonal and professional skills; development of the sense of initiative and the ability. One of

THE SECOND PROJECT MEETING OF PR.E.S.T.O.: DISCUSSING THE FIRST SURVEY TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

by *Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET*

PR.E.S.T.O. – “Promoting pEople with disability Transnational mObility” partners met in a second project meeting held online on 15 March 2021 with the presence of all the partners representatives.

The KA2 PR.E.S.T.O. project coordinator from Consorzio Ro.Ma. (Italy) introduced the main topic of the meeting, i.e. a survey conceived in the framework of the Intellectual Output 1. Project Manager presented the aim of the survey which is to identify reasons and/or obstacles conducting VET organisations to underrepresent

intellectual mild disable learners on mobility programmes. These can be represented by internal or external factors.

The direct beneficiaries of the survey will be VET centers committed to Mobility programs (but not with intellectual mild disable learners), and the target will be VET Directors, Mobility Mentors or Coordinators, and ERASMUS+ Project Designers.

The partners also discussed the format and the deadline of the preparation of the survey and questionnaire proposal counting that at least 50 replies will have to be received each 1500 questionnaires sent. Cap Ulysse will design the survey, collect the data, analyse the results, while AIPD will have the role to control the relevance of the questions and answers.



Each partner, including EfVET will spread it among its network. The project meeting was very engaging, and the partnership showed a strong readiness to work on the development of such a survey.

Another important part of the meeting was dedicated to the Dissemination and Communication where partners could be informed on the updates in the work done and to be done related to the website and other dissemination materials.

PR.E.S.T.O. FIRST STEPS

by Marina Camacho, INCOMA



PR.E.S.T.O. partners have already started to work on the first Intellectual Output named "PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course for VET Providers". The main objectives of this first step of the project are:

- to define a set of standards and tools for the design of transnational mobility projects accessible by people with ID;
- to update the competences of VET project designers as for what regards the design of transnational mobility experiences for people with ID;
- to test VET Project Designers' new competences and skills, as well as to assess the validity of the PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course.

The initial point has been the design of a survey, led by the French partner, in order to identify reasons/obstacles conducting VET organisations to underrepresented intellectual mild disable learners on mobility programmes. These findings will help in the development of the guidelines to support VET providers in Europe in the design and implementation of transnational mobility experiences for people with ID. All partners will contribute and work hard with the purpose of obtaining useful data for the implementation of the future activities.

HANDI'CAP SUR L'EUROPE – WE STILL BELIEVE!

by Elisabeth Silva, CAP ULYSSE

Initially planned for 2020 during the lockdown, the Erasmus+ transnational mobilities of all "Handi'cap pour l'Europe" consortium were postponed to 2021. However, as the COVID is still with us, a large number of members have decided to cancel these mobilities

in 2021.

This is not the case for the ESAT Saint Jean, a workshop for disable workers located close to Bordeaux. They will leave for an Erasmus+ mobility

planned for Tarrega in Catalonia next May, “if sanitary conditions allow it”. Seven disabled workers and two social workers will develop their skills during a work experience in the various workshops offered by **Alba**, an association with a strong local presence and numerous production workshops.

We remain optimistic, in Catalonia the restrictions and the rate of incidence is “under control”, therefore it is a real challenge and sometimes a real headache that these 3 partners are trying to take up at a time when many educational and vocational training establishments have cancelled their mobility until further notice. According “ to the coordinator of the Cap Ulysse consortium: “here, the greatest risk could be to postpone again: aren’t we taking more risks if we put all our projects on hold by continually postponing?”. That is the question many of us are asking ourselves.



EXPERIENCES OF MOBILITIES ABROAD OF YOUNGSTERS WITH ID

by *Giorgia Scivola, AIPD*

The Valueable Network is the European network of socially responsible companies of the hospitality sector coordinated by AIPD which promotes tools for offering equal opportunities. Melià Milano and Axis Hotel are two of its members.

Melià Milano, a hospitality business, hosted two Hungarian trainees, Agnes and Alexandra, for a three-week work experience in July 2018. As a Cook Assistant and a Waitress, they are very committed and passionate about their job. Staff and Management were really proud of them!



Lorenzo and Valerio, both from Italy, worked at Axis Porto for 3 weeks in February 2018: the first week as Housekeepers; the second week as Cook Assistants

and the third one taking care of some others hotel's needs.

The experience was tiring but also very rewarding for the two trainees (and their tutor), but also for the hotel. Axis Porto was already employing people with intellectual disabilities at work, but they never tried with people from abroad. The result is incredible!

 @EUprojectPRESTO



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PR.E.S.T.O

Promoting pEople with disability Transnational mObility



THE DISABILITY RIGHTS STRATEGY

PROJECT WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN SPAIN

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SUCCESS STORIES OF PEOPLE WITH ID

A UNION OF EQUALITY: THE DISABILITY RIGHTS STRATEGY

by Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET

Ensuring that people with disabilities can exercise their rights, enjoy equal opportunities, participate in society and the economy on an equal basis, decide where and with whom to live, move freely, regardless of their support needs and without being discriminated against.

It is on the basis of these objectives and the resulting challenges that the European Commission has built the **new Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030** published on 3 March 2021, through which it will coordinate the efforts of Member States in implementing the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** with the aim of improving its effectiveness.

Despite all the efforts already undertaken through the **previous 2010-2020 strategy** and related initiatives, persons with disabilities continue to face obstacles in accessing health care, education, employment and recreation, as well as in participating in political life. All other things being equal, they are also at greater risk of poverty, social exclusion and discrimination.

The pandemic, and its consequences in economic and employment terms, has further accentuated these problems of inequality, making it more urgent to address them.

In order to enable people with disabilities to participate fully in society on an equal footing, this new strategy sets out a number of

Union of Equality Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

#EUDisabilityRights
#UnionOfEquality



initiatives to be taken, which are structured around three themes:

- **EU rights**, concerning in particular the free movement of people with disabilities within the EU territory as well as their participation in political life. Among the main initiatives identified is the creation of a **European disability card valid in all EU countries**, which will facilitate the mutual recognition of disability status and related rights between Member States, facilitating the effective exercise of the right to free movement.
- **Independent living and autonomy**, i.e. the right of everyone, including people with disabilities, to live independently and to choose where and with whom they live. Among the initiatives designed to make this right a reality, the Commission intends to develop **guidelines to improve social services for people with disabilities**.
- **Non-discrimination and equal opportunities**, covering the protection of people with disabilities from all forms of discrimination and violence with measures to ensure access to justice, education, culture, sport and tourism, and equal opportunities in all these areas as well as in employment and all health services.

A central theme for the strategy is **accessibility**. Accessibility to physical and virtual environments, technologies, goods and services, and in particular transport. Accessibility is often an enabling factor for the effective exercise of rights and a prerequisite for concrete equality.

Thanks to several pieces of legislation such as the European Accessibility Act, the Web Accessibility Directive and the Passenger Rights Act, accessibility for people with disabilities has certainly improved, but many aspects remain to be regulated in order to remove remaining barriers, in particular in the accessibility of buildings, public spaces and some modes of transport. To address these, and to disseminate best practices from around Europe, the Commission in 2022, in the framework of the disability platform, plans to create **AccessibleEU**, a European resource centre to create a knowledge base of good practices on accessibility.

Among the various initiatives envisaged to help people with disabilities to exercise their rights, to be more autonomous, not to be discriminated against and to participate actively and on an equal footing in active life, the Commission has planned to produce several **guides**, including one on the participation of people with disabilities in the **electoral process** (in 2023) and another for Member States on **independent living and community inclusion** (in 2023). It will also support inclusive democratic participation, including for people with disabilities, through the new Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values programme and introduce a European quality **framework for excellent social services for people with disabilities** (in 2024).

The implementation of the Strategy will see the strong involvement of all Member States as key players in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. By bringing together national authorities responsible for the implementation of the

Convention and organisations of people with disabilities, the Commission will also establish the **Disability Platform** that will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy and to strengthen cooperation and exchanges on the implementation of the Convention.

The Commission will also mainstream disability issues in all major EU policies and initiatives and, in order to support partner countries in their efforts to implement the UN Convention and provide guidance for a disability-inclusive implementation of the MDGs, will promote the rights of people with disabilities globally, on the one hand by using instruments such as technical assistance and financial programmes, and on the other by providing support through EU Delegations, policy dialogue and work in multilateral fora.

The Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030 contributes to building an **Equality Union** together with the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025, the EU Action Plan against Racism 2020-2025, the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the EU Roma Strategic Framework.



Union of Equality Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030





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TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN SPAIN, NOVEMBER 2021

by *Giulia Dakli, Consorzio Ro.Ma.*

The PR.E.S.T.O. partners met in Seville, Spain on November 18th-19th 2021 for their first face to face transnational project meeting. This was an important occasion to strengthen mutual trust and establish closer connections.

The PR.E.S.T.O. partners decided to ask for a 6-month extension to the project. Face to face activities are going in fits and starts due to the succession of Covid-19 waves, so 6 additional months will enable the partners to successfully deliver the mobilities foreseen by the project. The project's new end date is April 14th, 2023.



Partners then had in-depth discussions and brainstorming sessions on the project's ongoing and forthcoming activities, with a particular focus on Activity O1-A1 – PR.E.S.T.O. Guidelines and Tools for VET Managers.

Partners will next meet face to face once again in Seville at the end of March 2022, on the occasion of the 3-day Joint Staff Training Event when the PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course for VET Providers will be delivered.

THE PROJECT WEBSITE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!

by *Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET*

The PR.E.S.T.O. project website is now online! Launched since early October 2021, the website collects the details and the progress of the project, as well as a space dedicated to news and events related to the topic of the need of increasing the awareness on social inclusion of people with ID and their social and personal development. Moreover, it will be possible to read and download the outputs of the project when ready which are the IO1 - PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course for VET Providers and the IO2 - PR.E.S.T.O. Video

STATE OF PLAY OF THE PR.E.S.T.O. PROJECT

by *Giulia Dakli, Consorzio Ro.Ma.*

Activity O1-A1 “Guidelines and Tools” is coming towards the finish line. Partners have worked on the contents of the PR.E.S.T.O. Guidelines, a short briefing document targeting Vocational Education and Training (VET) center managers aimed at encouraging and enabling them to involve learners with intellectual disabilities in their mobility projects.

The partners will seek the feedback of VET managers during a round of focus groups that will take place in January-February 2022 and the final Guidelines will be published in Spring 2022.

Activity O1-A2 “Training Course for VET Providers” is currently ongoing, in its planning phase. Partners have agreed on an index of a training course targeting all those professionals in charge of planning, organising and managing VET mobility projects (e.g., mobility project designers and operators). Partners have gathered information on the target’s training needs using an online assessment test. The course will be delivered face to face at the end of March 2022 and it will help the trainees develop competences and skills useful to design a mobility project involving learners with Intellectual Disabilities (ID).

The **index of the PR.E.S.T.O. Training Course** is the following:

- Introduction to PRESTO project
- Planning the mobility with learners with ID
- What to keep in mind when preparing the mobility with ID learners
- What to do during and after the mobility
- Best practices
- Monitoring and evaluation of the mobility
- Communication and financial arrangements.

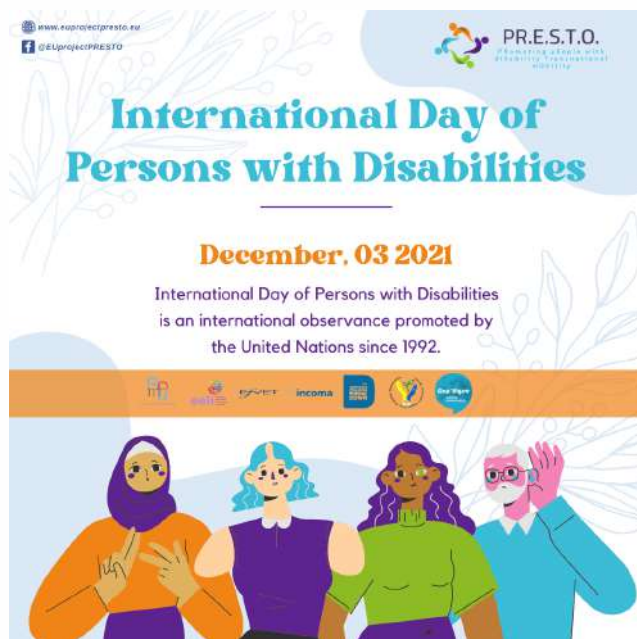
Activity O1-A3 “Pilot”. The **PR.E.S.T.O. Pilot** will see the trainees of the Training Course for VET Providers testing their new competences and putting them in practice. A number of mobilities involving learners with ID will be organised and planned for Summer-Autumn 2022.

Output 2 – PR.E.S.T.O. Video

The main objective of this video is to promote the mobility of people with ID in Europe by raising awareness of VET managers and host SMEs on the importance of involving people with ID in mobility paths. The Video will be realised during the Training Course in March 2022 and during the mobilities foreseen by the Pilot.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

by *Marina Camacho, INCOMA*



The 3rd of December is the day for people with disabilities and it is celebrated all around the world. This is the perfect opportunity to make everyone more aware of the rights of people with disabilities.

We must bear in mind that, nowadays still across Europe, people with disabilities face important barriers in their daily life:

- 4 times more persons with disabilities report unmet healthcare needs than those without disabilities
- Only 64% of persons with disabilities have an internet connection at home, compared to 88% of persons without disabilities
- Over 1 in 5 young people with disabilities leave school early, compared to 1 in 10 of those without disabilities

At the European level, every year on the very first days of December, a conference is organised by the European Commission and the European Disability Forum, named European Day of Persons with Disabilities. The shorter name for this conference is EDPD. In 2021 this conference took

place online. The topics tackled this year were healthcare, digital services, and education.

If you are curious and want to go deeper into this conference, in the following link you can check the speeches given by the keynote speakers during this year event: [🔗](#)

THE MAKE IT HAPPEN AND PR.E.S.T.O. PROJECTS, BOTH AIMED AT PROMOTING MORE INCLUSIVE MOBILITY, ARE CONTINUING!

by Elisabeth Silva, CAP ULYSSE

On November 4 and 5, CAP ULYSSE and the partners of the MAKE IT HAPPEN project finally met in Chemnitz where Solaris (Förderzentrum für Jugend und Umwelt) presented a State of the art on disability in Germany: Opportunities for vocational training and Access to the world of work for learners with disabilities.

It was also an opportunity to visit a local company spotted as a best practice for the inclusion of disabled workers. The comparison and the reflections with the project partners led to new ideas... which should see the light of day in a few months!

On November 18 and 19, 2021, all the partners of the PR.E.S.T.O. project met in



Seville to make progress on the production of a brochure intended to raise awareness among decision-makers in vocational training of the opportunities that the ERASMUS program represents for learners with learning disabilities.

You will understand that the mobility of learners with disabilities remains deeply rooted in our vision of mobility and the good news is that we are not the only ones. We welcome the initiative of the National Agency ERASMUS which has just published a practical guide to the support measures proposed to promote "Inclusion in the Erasmus program". To be continued...

EUROPEAN WEEK FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE

by Elisabeth Silva, CAP ULYSSE

On Tuesday November 16, as part of the SEEPH (EUROPEAN WEEK FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE), ESAT Saint Jean, member of the Handicap on Europe consortium led by Cap Ulysse, organised a Ceremony in which participated Erasmus Agency and Associacio Alba Tarrega a major player in supporting people with disabilities in Catalonia. STRONG, our Italian partner, was also able to join us on video to greet the workers who in 2018 had gone to Vicenza for a 2-week internship in the food industry and agriculture.

The discussions made it possible to highlight, without too much surprise, the importance of preparation for departure but above all, the importance of the participation of beneficiaries in the organisation of the stay. An essential prerequisite that allows beneficiaries to be in a proactive posture throughout their internship.

The event brought together nearly 100 people. Thanks again to ADGESSA for this great initiative.



AIPD PRESENTS THE ALBUM FOR WORKERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

by Giorgia Scivola, AIPD

In 1992, the Italian Association of people with Down Syndrome (AIPD) placed the first person with Down syndrome in a workplace. Today there are 175 employees with a permanent contract in the AIPD network.

Some of them are portrayed in the figurines of the "champions" album: to complete it, AIPD turns to individuals and companies. For the story to be continued...

Many workers with Down syndrome have a job thanks to AIPD, which, both locally, through its 55 branches, and nationally, through the observatory on the world of work, offers vocational training to would-be workers with Down syndrome. Such training includes both meetings and onsite training, such as local internships (hopefully aimed at recruitment) and mobilities abroad.

However, many would-be workers still lack a job: the Album of Workers 1992-2020, which AIPD had launched on the occasion of May Day, is dedicated especially to them.



It was 1992, in fact, when the association placed the first person with Down syndrome in a workplace in the open labour market. Today there are 175 workers with permanent contracts in the AIPD network (many others have fixed-term contracts or are having apprenticeships): nine of these "champions" are portrayed in the album's figurines, but many spaces are still empty. This is why AIPD called on individuals and companies: "Would you like to help us to fill them in?"

The game was simple, just like an exchange of stickers between children: by clicking on the empty space, you selected "company" or "private person": in the first case, "fill in the form and we will help you to find the right person, train them and place them in their future workplace".



Who are the nine 'champions'...

The cards already included in the album are proof that working is beautiful and possible for people with Down syndrome: on the back of each picture was not only the name, AIPD's branch and the company of reference, but also a brief testimony of the worker portrayed. "I get on very well with all my colleagues, the director and the managers. I do my job well, it's very important for me. I like going there a lot," says Italo Maddalena, a dining room attendant at Mc Donald's in Rome. Andrea Oggiano, canteen attendant at DSU University of Pisa, rejoices: "I have realised my dream: I'm working!". "I really like working in a parapharmacy because it allows me to see many people and make myself known. I say this

is my kingdom!", assures Alessandra Cappello, shop assistant at Parafarmacia Partigiani in Puglia.

... and 175 permanent AIPD workers.

One year after its thirtieth anniversary, AIPD has set itself the objective of "completing" the album, enriching on the one hand the team of workers with Down syndrome, and on the other hand the companies that would like to benefit from their contribution. And to prove that the enterprise is beautiful and possible, it publishes the list of permanent employees in the AIPD network, together with an indication of the main companies with which AIPD has collaborated.

SUCCESS STORIES/EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE WITH ID: ACTIONS THAT FOSTER THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS OF RETHYMNON ASSOCIATION FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE

by Kalli Rodopoulou, EELI

This article offers an overview of the main changes that have occurred in Greek Employment policy for disabled people and presents the actions that the "Association of Parents, Guardians and Friends of people with Autism in Rethymno" is implementing for the employment promotion of people with disabilities in the labour market.



After systematic work, a National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was drafted, an initiative which is implemented for the first time in Greece (after the period 1974-1990) in accordance with United Nations guidelines, under the responsibility of the Minister of State as the Coordinating Mechanism under Article 69 of Law 4488/2017. Among other actions and strategies instituted by the National Action Plan, there is a clear reference to strategies aimed at the integration of people with disabilities in the labour market, vocational education and training.

Despite the new measures and strategies, recent research on the field shows that 14% of the Greek population (20-64 years old) are today people with disabilities, however we rarely meet them at work, in education and in social life. Even more worrying is the fact that the 60% of young people with disabilities in Greece, aged 25-29, are unemployed, recording one of the highest negative rates in Europe for the integration of people with disabilities in employment.

It seems that integration of disabled people in social life and employment still lies on the responsibility of associations, families and NGOs. A good practice example in our region for the promotion of disabled people in the labour market are the activities and projects that the "Association of Parents, Guardians and Friends of people with Autism in Rethymno" is running. Recently the Association implemented a project entitled "WORK FOR ALL"; this project lasted for 14 months and was aiming to contribute substantially to the social inclusion of people with disabilities by facilitating their access to work through the following actions:



- Transfer of good practices for work integration from the OSLO MET Partner, University in Norway through material provision and training seminars implementation,
- Development of guidelines for the training and empowering of educators and students,
- Training and certification of disabled people in the provision of hotel services by the certified training provider "IIEK GRANT" in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of professionals.
- Internship for disabled people in hotels - restaurants.
- Creation and operation of a Social Cooperative Enterprise - implementation of the supportive working model.
- Dissemination and awareness raising activities to the general public through open events and through MEDIA.

At the present stage, the Association prepares actions and programs that concern:

- Employer's support and training programmes;
- Employment centre for disabled persons;
- Networking through good practice exchange with other countries;
- Employment programmes (public, subsidized, European, etc.)

For more info please visit [🔗](#)

PR.E.S.T.O.

PRomoting pEople with diSability Transnational mObility



THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PR.E.S.T.O. PROJECT CONTINUE

PR.E.S.T.O. INCLUSIVE MOBILITY FOR LEARNERS WITH ID

THE PR.E.S.T.O. EXPERIMENTATION PHASE IS ABOUT TO START IN CRETE

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH ID

HOSPITABLE BUSINESSES

HOW CAN THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF DISABLE PEOPLE BE INCREASED?

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PR.E.S.T.O. PROJECT CONTINUE

by Giulia Dakli, Consorzio Ro.Ma.

The staff met in Seville, at Incoma's headquarters. The Joint Staff Training Event was held face to face between 29th, 30th, 31st of March and was introduced with an online meeting on 18th of March, which all partners participated in. This preliminary online meeting gave everyone the possibility to know each other, share training course modules, content, methodologies, and the agenda of each session. When in Seville, participants (3 trainers and 9 VET mobility project designers) had the possibility to work together face to face.

During the meeting AIPD (expert partner in ID learner mobility) exposed to the group what VET operators must keep in mind when designing and preparing the mobility with Id Learners. During the other work session, AIPD, INCOMA and Cap Ulysse explained to the group what operators should do along and after the mobility, as well as the financial arrangements when involving ID learners during mobility. Last day dealt with the monitoring and evaluation of mobility experience, Cap Ulysse shared with the group tools and methodologies for granting the mobility experiences a high-quality level and outcome.

The meeting days were very fruitful, the whole group actively participated in the proposed activities and a very good synergy was created.

At the end of the meeting, all the participants went to lunch together at the "Campeones" restaurant, run by young people



with Down's Syndrome, an excellent example of the application of what had been learnt during the meeting and, above all, the realisation of how applicable the PR.E.S.T.O. project is.

The partners are currently working to launch the experimental phase of the project. Mobilities are about to start, which will take place from July to December 2022.



Everyone's work continues, and the next meeting is scheduled for 21 and 22 September in Rome, Italy.



PR.E.S.T.O. INCLUSIVE MOBILITY FOR LEARNERS WITH ID

by Marina Camacho, INCOMA



From May 3rd to 5th 2022 EfVET organised a new Thematic Teams Seminar. On this occasion, Saskia Dies, Project Manager and Trainer from INCOMA, made a presentation about the PR.E.S.T.O. – "PRomoting pEople with disability Transnational mObility" project.

To start the workshop, Saskia gave some examples of common characteristics that students with ID have, such as difficulty in understanding new information, with communication and social skills, slow cognitive processing time, or even difficulties understanding abstract concepts. In addition, she shared some inclusive teaching strategies that can support students to better learn such as: providing reading lists beforehand, using clear, concise, and straightforward language, presenting the information in various formats, repeating the information, etc.

After this, the workshop focused on two of the main phases of a mobility project for a student with ID: 1) preparation of the mobility and 2) during the mobility.

For the second phase, during the mobility, and with the aim of giving an overview of it, a group dynamic was carried out. All participants were divided into three groups and had 20 minutes to work together and bring to some conclusions.

[READ MORE](#)



THE PR.E.S.T.O. EXPERIMENTATION PHASE IS ABOUT TO START IN CRETE

by Elisabeth Silva, Cap Ulysse



The first PR.E.S.T.O. experimentation is going to start in July 2022, with 8 French ID learners of DITEP Saint Denis.

At first Cap Ulysse and DITEP Saint Denis staff (ARI association close to Bordeaux), went to visit EELI in Crete in order to prepare the mobility of their ID learners and accompanying staff in Crete, next July.

«Those preparatory visits are a great opportunity for a sending ID learners organisations» like ARI to:

- Become familiar with the organisation and logistics of learner mobility
- Getting to know the hosting partner in charge of looking for the appropriate hosting companies, accommodation and catering solution
- Setting out common monitoring and evaluation procedures

By now ARI has followed up the 7 steps proposed by Carlotta from AIPD (Associazione Italiana Persone Down – AIPD) during the Seville staff training course.

[READ MORE](#)



SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH ID

by Maria Xepapadaki, EELI



to face social prejudices and stereotypes, which deprive them of every opportunity to prove their potential. Society, in many cases, has failed to predict their needs. For instance, it is quite common that even if employers want to hire a person with a disability, they are not able to do so, as the infrastructure cannot accommodate it.

Various organisations and associations make their main concern giving free access to work. Education, training and work are key pillars to the smooth and unrestricted integration of individuals into society. Apart from it being a right of all people, work is a means of empowerment and visibility for people with disabilities.

Access to the labour market is a difficult path for people with intellectual disabilities. The research findings show huge inequalities and discrimination, with people with any form of disability finding themselves much higher in the unemployment rates, compared to the general population. While there is a legislative framework aimed at tackling discrimination, barriers in the workplace have to do with socio-cultural factors, financial reasons and educating the public.

People with disabilities have been in the margin of exclusion of all educational levels for years and they have not been given the same rights and opportunities as the general population. As a result, they have been marginalised and haven't been a part of the productive workforce. In addition, they have

The aim of the Erasmus KA2+ PR.E.S.T.O. "PRomoting pEople with diSability Transnational mObility", which is co-funded by the European Union, is to promote the social inclusion and to facilitate the transition to the labour market of people with intellectual disabilities, thanks to their involvement in transnational mobilities. In this project, people with intellectual disabilities from Greece, Italy, Spain, France, and Poland, will have the opportunity to travel abroad, work in local businesses and experience different cultures. A project like that can have a huge impact on direct participants, businesses and society in general. Participants and their own families will come out of a cycle of exclusion and demotivation, thanks to a highly engaging, on-the-job learning experience.

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HOSPITABLE BUSINESSES

by *Giorgia Scivola, AIDP*



As you may (perhaps) know, traineeships abroad are one of the most unique features offered by the Valueable Network. These experiences are not only a great opportunity for persons with disabilities to acquire indispensable transferable skills for future employment, but also provide real benefits for hospitality sector businesses. Namely, they get to enhance their corporate social responsibility and to

face the problem of staff shortage due to the high turnover rate typical of the industry. An issue that has enormously grown with the Pandemic situation.

Creating an open job market and inclusive work spaces is essential to fight enduring stigma and preconceptions still held by many employers. We have collected testimonies from our members who have participated in these cross-European exchanges to show you how and why this initiative works in practice!

Claudio Canaletto, the Restaurant Manager at NH Hotel Roma Palazzo Cinquecento, has given us his feedback on the 3 week-long internship experience in March 2022 with two Hungarian trainees – Judit Fazekas and Péter Perjési, from the association Down Alapítvány.

Claudio confessed that this was his first time working with persons with disabilities, after which he believes Valueable is “undoubtedly a fantastic project”.

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HOW CAN THE EMPLOYMENT RATE OF DISABLED PEOPLE BE INCREASED? TWO GOOD PRACTICES IN SPAIN AND POLAND

by *Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET*

According to the European Disability Forum only 50.8 percent of the persons with disabilities are employed, compared to 75 percent of persons without disabilities. Therefore, a change is needed in order to bring all these people into the labour market. In order to tackle this issue the **European Commission** has elaborated a strategy for the *Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030*. Indeed, this strategy goes hand in hand with the *Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union* and the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*. It is true that this strategy seems ambitious but there are some good practices which can give light and hope to this issue.

In Spain, for example, the number of people with disabilities entering the job market has risen by more than 20% in the last six years, in part because of public funding and programmes. In Poland, however,

Monika Jankowska-Rangelov who is an expert in diversity and the integration of people with disabilities in the workplace, has lived with her disabilities all her life. In fact, both examples are key facts on disabilities in the European Union where around 87 million people have some form of disability.

- 64.3% of people with disabilities have an **internet connection** at home, compared to 87.9% of people without a disability.
- 29.4% of people with disabilities **obtain a degree** compared to 43.8% of those who don't have a disability.
- 28.4% of people with a disability are at risk of **poverty or social exclusion** compared to 18.4% who don't have one.

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THE PR.E.S.T.O. MULTIPLIER EVENT IN BORDEAUX

PR.E.S.T.O. INCLUSIVE MOBILITY FOR LEARNERS WITH ID IN BORDEAUX

THE PR.E.S.T.O. MULTIPLIER EVENT IN SEVILLE

THE PR.E.S.T.O. TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN BORDEAUX

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TRANSNATIONAL MEETING FOR THE PR.E.S.T.O IN FRASCATI

THE PR.E.S.T.O. MULTIPLIER EVENT IN BORDEAUX

by Elisabeth Silva, Cap Ulysse

Cap Ulysse held two Multiplier Events to promote the results of the PR.E.S.T.O. project. The first event was on November 17th, 2022 in the headquarters of Cap Ulysse in Bordeaux and 13 people attended, namely organizations dealing with learners with disability following vocational training, learners with disabilities and staff supporting VET learners with disabilities. The DITEP Saint Denis, which is a Therapeutic, Educational and Pedagogical Institute that supports children, adolescents or young adults with psychological difficulties, hosted the second Multiplier Event. A buffet was provided by Le Jardin de pêcheur, which is a company that hires staff with special needs for catering.

Thanks to these two events, Cap Ulysse presented the training course and shared good practices, more specifically the inclusive mobilities conducted during the experimental phase of the PR.E.S.T.O project. Therefore, Cap Ulysse was able to introduce the various Italian and French learners' experiences respectively in Bordeaux and in Rethymno (Greece) in order to convince VET centers to be inclusive when considering mobilities



PR.E.S.T.O. INCLUSIVE MOBILITY FOR LEARNERS WITH ID IN BORDEAUX

by Elisabeth Silva, Cap Ulysse

Consorzio Ro.Ma. send an Italian learner to Cap Ulysse in Bordeaux in the framework of the PR.E.S.T.O project experimentation for inclusive mobilities. Antonio trained in hospitality and has undertaken several previous internships. In November, he completed his 3-week internship at SIGDU, an Interinstitutional service for the management of the university campus of Bordeaux. He was trained by Damien Petit and Stéphane Gourmelen in green spaces and street maintenance.



Antonio was accompanied by his Italian mentor, Roberto PISANO, who he is very familiar with and close with. The mobility and internship in Bordeaux went very well. The hosting company director claimed his satisfaction during an interview done at the end of the experience. According to Antonio's feedback, the opportunity was appreciated for the human connections it has allowed and for the working environment.



PR.E.S.T.O. MULTIPLIER EVENT IN SEVILLE

by Begoña Duque Arroyo INCOMA

On March 31st, in Seville, Spain, the Multiplier Event of the PRESTO Project was held. 43 people from 13 different institutions attended the event, and four associations of people with disabilities, 2 universities, and 3 vocational training centers participated as speakers.

It was a very enriching and emotional event. In that space, we shared with the attendees the success stories of the PRESTO mobilities through the testimonials and the videos, as well as the protocol guide for making inclusive mobilities from vocational training, which were present. The most fruitful aspect of the event was undoubtedly the ideas for future synergies, as several vocational training centers that attended wanted to participate in a future PRESTO II due to how inspiring the project has been.



THE PR.E.S.T.O. TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN BORDEAUX

by Marion Delebecque, Cap Ulysse

On the 15th of February, all the partners of the PR.E.S.T.O. project met for the last time to review ongoing activities and upcoming deadlines. The meeting was conducted on February 15th, 2023, at the headquarters of the French partner Cap Ulysse along with the rest of the consortium involved in the project which is part of the KA2 Strategic Partnerships co-financed by the European Erasmus+ Programme.

After Cap Ulysse welcomed all partners in their structure, they presented the agenda and purpose of the meeting.

Consorzio Ro.Ma. then took the floor to introduce the training toolkit, offer a state of the art on project activities and the tasks carried out so far.

All partners who were in charge of a mobility project and therefore had to organize an internship in their city or nearby (C2-C7 mobilities), presented their and the interns' experience. As part of the IO2, the consortium will select brief videos from their mobility projects and communicate them to SGP so that they can edit the final version of the PR.E.S.T.O. video.

Regarding dissemination, EfVET provided guidelines to follow and templates to use in terms of dissemination reports, contributions to the newsletter and multiplier events.

Finally, on February 16th, partners who were still in Bordeaux and required financial guidance from Cap Ulysse in respect to the final report, had the opportunity to arrange one-on-one meetings to ask questions.



THE PR.E.S.T.O MOBILITY IN RETHYMNO

by George Katsaragakis, EELI

Few months ago, for the purposes of the PR.E.S.T.O program , we had the pleasure to welcome in Rethymno (EELI) 8 students from Bordeaux, France (Cap Ulysse), who had the opportunity to work in various companies and in multiple roles.

PR.E.S.T.O is a research project that aims to promote the participation of learners with intellectual disabilities (ID) in training and mobility experiences abroad, aiming at their social integration, their future professional rehabilitation and therefore their full autonomy and independence.

The learners with ID, had the opportunity for two weeks, to work as farmer assistants in a very big Farm, cultivating the land, feeding the animals and producing local products. They also worked as car mechanics in a state-of-the-art garage, as well as in hospitality and tourism, in a 4 star Hotel, as cook assistants and waiters.

During their stay, various cultural and recreational excursions took place in different parts of the island in which, they had the opportunity to get to know the rich history , the cultural heritage, the tradition and the beauty of Crete.

We would very much like to thank for the support and understanding of all those, who participated in making this mobility a reality.



TRANSNATIONAL MEETING FOR THE PR.E.S.T.O PROJECT IN FRASCATI

by *Vittoria Valentina Di Gennaro, EfVET*

The partners of the PR.E.S.T.O. project dedicated to the labour mobility of people with disabilities met this September in Frascati, in the province of Rome.

The meeting was held from 21 to 22 September 2022 at the headquarters of the Italian coordinator Consorzio Ro.Ma. together with the other organisations participating in the project ” which is part of the KA2 Strategic Partnerships co-financed by the European Erasmus+ Programme.

After the welcome, Consorzio Ro.Ma. gave introduced the purpose of the meeting and illustrated the agenda. This followed by the elaboration on the state of the art on ongoing activities and summary of the main deadlines within the project management.



Cap Ulysse presented the final Guidelines which constitute the first IO1 (Development of Guidelines and Tools) and EfVET illustrated the instructions developed on how to disseminate both the Guidelines and Toolkit together with a more general update on communication and dissemination of the project. All partners were invited to update and complete the list of national or international stakeholders for this activity of dissemination that they already started at the very beginning of the project.

Regarding the PRESTO Pilot / C2-C7 Mobilities – AIDP presented the state of the art on the Pilots/Mobilities and on future tasks, including the evaluation. This was followed by the presentation by Cap Ulysse, EELI and SGP of the mobility that took place in summer 2022 and a roundtable of the planned mobilities for September-December 2022.

Finally, the work on IO2 – PR.E.S.T.O. Video was presented by SGP with next tasks and contributions from partners.

A more interactive session was held at the end of the meeting with the workshop guided by AIPD whose purpose was to work bilaterally on the C2-C7 mobilities where the hosting and sending partners could make practical arrangements for the organization of their mobilities and AIPD acted as helpdesk.



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