

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 2

TETRAS

Enhancing transfer of transversal skills for social inclusion

MAY 2023



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TOWARDS REAL SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

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1. EDITORIAL

by Petya Grudeva NARHU National Association of Professionals working with people with Disability, Bulgaria

Welcome to the second edition of TETRA-S Project Newsletter!

Tetra-S aims to facilitate transfer of transversal skills and support adult educators in optimising their training provided to people with cognitive needs.

In this edition we focus on the progress of the project as well as on the Second Transnational Meeting held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria on 11-12.01.2023. We also present a good practice in the use of digital tools to help people with disabilities find their desired employment. The manager of job seeking portal launched in Bulgaria, shares about the activities and the mission of the e-platform.

We are happy to share that the first set of Project Results - **focusing on beliefs of educators about the learning potential of people with cognitive needs and use of digital technologies** - is ready to be tested by professionals working with people with intellectual disabilities and cognitive impairments. Indeed, the project gained significant traction after the second transnational meeting in Plovdiv, where project partners shared their insights and experiences and identified the best means to achieve the project's goals.

The TETRA-S Project is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of individuals with cognitive needs, and the progress made so far is a step in the right direction.



Second Transnational Meeting Plovdiv, 11-12/01/2023 - Team Group proudly shows certificate of attendance

2. TETRA-S SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING 11-12 JANUARY 2023

by Petya Grudeva NAHRU National Association of Professionals working with people with Disability, Bulgaria

The second Transnational Partner Meeting was hosted by the **Bulgarian Partner NARHU**, who welcomed the participants within the premises of their research department.

The project team discussed four of the Project Results in the first day of the meeting.

PR1 is a **theoretical handbook on beliefs**, while PR4 is a **practical handbook**. Both will be integrated into the Massive Open Online Course MOOC, with the goal of creating a **complete set of documents for educators**.

PR2 is an **app for self-assessment** on digital beliefs and learning potential, which will be linked to PR1.

PR3 consists of **webinars** that partners will translate and subtitle into their national languages.

Groep Ubuntu presented PR4's content proposal and steps for finalizing the results.

An overview was presented about the second unit of PR's (5 to 15), **including everything an adult educator needs to know and to master to organize efficient and effective-if relevant blended-training and transfer of the cognitive competences that are important for social inclusion**.

The **University of Evora** presented the structure of PR5, with each chapter allocated to a specific partner. The first draft will be peer-reviewed. For PR6, NARHU will provide an overview of transfer-related tools in a MOOC webinar, including all topics from PR1 and PR5.

The first day of work was concluded with mutual consensus that all PRs should be designed in a coherent way based on quality criteria set in the project application. The friendly atmosphere continued during the common partners dinner where participants kept on exchanging ideas for the optimization of their work within the project.

The second day included an overview of **transversal skills training and how to create powerful learning environments**, with the support of webinars and apps (PRs 7 to 15). The partners also discussed the development of results for these outputs.

NARHU presented a quality management and strategy plan, and partners agreed to finalize it by the next meeting.

Questionnaires were also discussed for post-meeting evaluation and mid-term evaluation. Communication and dissemination plans were highlighted by ENSA, who attended the meeting remotely via Zoom, with partners agreeing to create individual plans to reach the maximum number of stakeholders. Project newsletters and brochures will be disseminated by the next partners meeting thanks to ENSA's leading role in dissemination.

The host team of NARHU handed certificates of attendance to all participants and thus the formal part of the meeting concluded.

Furthermore, as announced in the agenda, the partners were invited to a study visit to **Early child development centre "Patechka"**, launched by the founder of NARHU - Mrs. Maria Goranova. The centre offers innovative therapies and services aiming at enhancement of harmonious child development. The team applies child-centered approach that is why the interventions are based on holistic multidisciplinary assessment followed by individualized intervention plans.

The team of the centre consists of child psychologists, psychomotor therapists, Montessori educators, speech pathologists, ergotherapists, social workers and pre-natal specialists. The support of children is offered in the form of individual therapy sessions or in group activities. The portfolio of services include: Psychomotricity, Art therapy, Biodynamic craniosacral therapy, Montessori group activities, Speech Therapy, Child psychotherapy and others.

Website: <https://www.patechka-plovdiv.bg/?lang=en>

3. INTERVIEW WITH PLAMEN PRODANOV, MANAGER OF RABOTOSPOSOBNI.BULGARIA

by Petya Grudeva NAHRU National Association of Professionals working with people with Disability, Bulgaria

In this edition of the newsletter, we present the **reflections of Plamen Prodanov, manager of rabotosposobni.bg** – the first online platform in Bulgaria, which provides **labour mediation services to people with disabilities**. In a period of rapid digital transformation, the employment services for people with disabilities rely on technology and online interaction ever so often. Therefore, we hope that this innovative service for Bulgaria might inspire you to explore the new opportunities offered by digital platforms.

-Can you tell us a little bit about "rabotosposobni.bg" and how it came about?

PP: The platform is a social enterprise that aims to connect people with disabilities and adults with potential employers. We started in 2019 with a small team and a big vision to make a difference in the lives of these marginalized groups by providing them with access to job opportunities and resources. Our concept is not only to offer opportunities to start a career, but also to offer career development for people with various types of disabilities. That is, to reach the people who actually work, to understand through us that there are employers who offer better working conditions, better pay and employment opportunities.

-What sets your platform apart from other job search websites?

PP: Our platform is specifically designed to cater to the needs of people with disabilities. We have made sure that our website is accessible and user-friendly for everyone, regardless of their technical skills or abilities. Additionally, we have a team of dedicated professionals who provide guidance and support to job seekers and employers throughout the hiring process.

- Can you tell us about the impact Rabotosposobni has had on the Bulgarian economy and society as a whole?

PP: Well, by connecting people with disabilities with employers, we are helping to reduce unemployment rates and increase the diversity of the workforce. Additionally, we are creating a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to contribute and be valued for their skills and abilities.

-What are your plans for the future of rabotosposobni.bg?

PP: Our plans are to continue expanding the scope of our platform to include other marginalized communities in Bulgaria, such as refugees and single parents. We also plan to partner with more employers and organizations to provide even more job opportunities and resources to our users. Ultimately, we want to create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

-Can you tell us a little bit about what makes this platform unique for the job market in Bulgaria?

PP: Rabotosposobni is a one-of-a-kind social career platform that provides real opportunities for businesses to attract significant social groups to real and effective employment in the labour market. Primarily, we focus on the community of people with disabilities of working age. A social project does not require employers to pay for publishing job advertisements. By posting their job ads on the platform, employers from all economic sectors have the opportunity to reach suitable candidates for their positions. Thus, employers who post their job openings on our platform have the completely free opportunity to periodically "scan" the labour potential of the community of employable people with disabilities. This means that they can receive differentiated feedback about potential candidates based on specific criteria.

-Are there any costs associated with using Rabotosposobni for job seekers or employers?

PP: All services related to the development of the labour market that Работоспособни.бг provides are completely free of charge for both employers and job seekers.



Employers and job seekers working hand in hand

4. MEETING THE NEEDS OF ADULT EDUCATORS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH COGNITIVE NEEDS

by Groep Ubuntu, Johan Warnez

The TETRA-S project is back on track and shifts to a higher gear!

A late, but appreciated approval of the project required rescheduling and adapting agendas of all partners involved. At the same time, the first stage of a project – as is often the case – is a phase of exploration, defining or making the objectives more concrete, clarifying responsibilities and developing management tools.

Many online meetings were scheduled after the **Kick Off meeting in Italy** to start the engines. Now, with the many decisions taken during the **second project meeting in Bulgaria**, the engines run at full speed. With some delay, the first set of project results will be finalised soon. This is important : they not only help us gain deeper insight in the content of the project, but they are also the basis for the following project results. While working on this first set of outcomes, we also learned about the best efficient process for the work to be done from now on.

The focus will – in particular – be on **ways to meet the needs of the adult educators** that we want to empower in their efforts to support people with cognitive needs towards active and successful social participation. It has been clearly defined that whatever we develop, has to be tailored to the expectations and the needs of the professionals. A minimal of theoretical project results, but a maximum of inviting, accessible practical tools that support a motivated implementation.

The already realised project results addresses the professional belief system in order to implement conditions for a successful support of people with cognitive needs, such as persons with an **intellectual disability** or an **acquired brain injury**.

Two topics, closely related to the problem definition of the project, address beliefs and attitudes regarding the implementation of digital tools to **train critical competences** for successful social inclusion on the one hand, and **beliefs on learning potential** and **brain plasticity** of people with cognitive needs on the other hand.

A general framework on these beliefs gave direction to the development of **two self-assessment apps and a set of webinars**. They invite the adult educator to reflect upon their – often implicit – philosophies and attitudes, and to discover and share inspiring examples of good practices.

These tools will be supplemented with other tools that focus on other conditions. **The complete set of tools will provide ‘everything’ an adult educator needs to support the development and transfer of competences that are critical for successful social inclusion.** The complete set of tools will be embedded in a **MOOC**, a massive open online course – to be ready by mid 2025. We’ll keep you posted by this newsletter.



5. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROJECTS



SELF-IN

It is an Erasmus + project on Adult Education. Self-management learning programs (SLP) are spaces where people with intellectual disabilities (PWID) gather, discuss and learn how to participate in our society, improving their self-determination and independence. The SELF-IN project combines SLP and metacognition methodologies as an innovative approach to improve the Quality of Life of PWID.

Within this framework, the SELF-IN project is nowadays working in the production of the two first tangible educational resources of the project, which will be ready before summer:

- PR1) handbook of self-determination and metacognition processes for educators.
- PR2) Self-in course for PWID to improve the competences needed to take part in Self-management programs.

After finishing these two products, 15 educators from Italy, Spain and Belgium will travel to Padua to take part in a 15-hour training course about the contents included in these 2 products.

In addition, the SELF-IN website (https://www.ivass.gva.es/Erasmus_SELF-IN/SELF-IN_project.html) was launched some months ago.

Those people interested in getting further information of the project can submit a questionnaire and they will be added to the project database which is formed nowadays for more than 120 stakeholders

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXYTyKk0OBHpFex-VhAr9LMd0IDluq5lH4JY8B6xTDkgZBTA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Lead: Generalitat Valenciana, Sistema Public Valencia de Serveis Socials, Institut Valencia de Serveis Socials.



ENSA network working group invitations: Youth, Minors, Family, Older Adults and Disability working groups, Youth Care Platform. 27th, 28th and 29th of June 2023, Brussels

27th of June ENSA Older Adults and Disability working group

28th of June: Closing Event of the Panda Project, on participation of young children in child welfare and child protection. Registration link for the 28th of June: [LINK](#)

29th of June: ENSA Working Groups Youth, Child and Family and Youth Care Platform on collaboration between services and civil society aiming at integrated care and support as important pillars for growth and development. Registration link for the 29th of June: [LINK](#)

Interested stakeholders are welcome to attend

6. PARTNERS NEWS: THIRD TRANSNATIONAL PARTNER MEETING, EVORA MAY 23, 24 2023

This meeting will be hosted by the **University of Évora** – Departamento de Ciências Médicas e da Saúde, from the **23 to the 24 th of May 2023**. During the meeting European partners will have the opportunity to visit APPACDM OF ÉVORA. A Portuguese Association of Parents and Friends of the persons with cognitive needs . "The best time we spend in life is the one we invest in people.

Based on the potential to change of individuals, the agenda will focus on the finalisation of 5 TETRA'S projects results. The topic will address the conceptual and educational framework on beliefs of adult educators regarding the digital learning potential of persons with cognitive needs. The core challenges will be to respond to the needs of the target group and to develop Transversal skills.

More specifically the 5 items tackled will produce the following results:

1)**conceptual frameworks on beliefs of adult educators** on digital transformation and learning potential of adults with cognitive needs. Learning potential and brain plasticity is too often not expected in the target group of people with intellectual disabilities or brain injury. Therefore this project result will provide the general context of a transversal skills training related to social inclusion and the role the adult educator can have. It will refer to conditions for teaching on whatever content. It will not be related only to adult educators, but to everyone who is working with the target group. The conceptual and educational 'beliefs' framework will result in a text file, followed by a set of factual references, available in English and in national languages.

2)**Two apps** one about learning potential and one about digital beliefs of adult educators on learning potential of adults with cognitive needs.

3)**Four webinars:** two on digital beliefs focusing on the readiness of the educator/teacher to be open to digital transformation, and two on learning potential.

4)**A handbook for adult educators**

5)**A Training of Educators** for transfer of transversal skills -improving competences for real social inclusion of people with cognitive disabilities

Moreover at the Evora meeting all future project results (6 to 15) concerning tools for improving skills for adult educators, to realise transfer and successful social inclusion, to see their evolution and what is missing will be discussed.



7. EU NEWS:

Commission calls for massive investment in digital education and skills 18.04.23

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10556>

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

We encourage everyone to get involved and sign up to our [mailing](#) list to receive the latest campaign updates, and materials that you can adapt for your use.

Every voice matters, every click counts. Join our community, become a supporter

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8376&furtherPubs=yes>

INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Visit our website at <https://tetras.ensa-network.eu/>

PLOVDIV GREETINGS FROM THE TETRA-S PARTNERSHIP



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