



ELPIDA Newsletter

IS001 / SPRING 2018

ELPIDA PROJECT LAUNCH

Developing an e-learning platform for parents for intellectual disability awareness

ELPIDA is a two-year project aiming to improve the quality of life of persons with intellectual disability (PWID) by empowering family members and especially parents of PWID and providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills on how better to support the needs of children and young adults with intellectual disability.

Six organizations from five European countries have come together in this project that started at the end of 2017 to produce an e-learning platform for parents with children with intellectual disability. The e-platform will contain 6 interactive educational modules aiming at providing training, awareness raising and/or attitude change and they will be covering areas such as

- early intervention,
- improving communication,
- abuse awareness,
- stress management,
- transition to adulthood,
- sexuality and
- ageing.

The consortium works for a fuller implementation of rights of people with disabilities by supporting the people primarily responsible for protecting these rights, the parents and guardians by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge in order for them to be competent and confident to provide the right support and empowerment to their children. This will have a direct positive impact on people with intellectual disability and will lead to better transition to adulthood, social inclusion, and better quality of life in general.

The partners have chosen to take advantage of what the digital world can offer by providing the information material via an e-platform to make it free and accessible to all, at any time and any place. Parents from several European countries will be invited to complete the module(s) of their interest while being offered user support in group meetings as well as online.

First project outcomes: results of the needs analysis report

During the ELPIDA project, a pilot study was designed and carried out in order to determine the needs for developing learning material for distance learning for parents of people with intellectual disability (PWID). The study aimed to assess the need and interest of parents on issues concerning people with intellectual disability. More specifically, the study focused on issues around communication, stress management, transition to adulthood, Human Rights, sexuality/personal relationships and ageing. The study had two parts: (a) a literature review looking at the national context of the partner countries as well as the European context and (b) the completion of over 150 questionnaires by parents of PWID across Europe. The findings show that parents of PWID are interested in participating in e-learning and that there is a clear need for this kind of opportunity. Moreover, parents would like to gain more information/training on these issues and receive more in-depth information and practical advice on these topics. The results of this study will be taken into consideration and will inform the content of the e-learning modules. A more detailed report of this study and its findings will soon be available on the project's website <http://elpida-project.eu/index.php/en/>.

ELPIDA Consortium

- **FORTH**

The Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), established in 1983, is one of the largest research centers in Greece with well organized facilities, highly qualified personnel and a reputation as a top-level research foundation worldwide. The research and technological directions of FORTH focus on areas of major scientific, social, and economic interest. The Foundation, with headquarters in Heraklion, includes seven Research Institutes in different parts of the country. The Educational Research and Evaluation (ERE) Group operates within the Institute of Applied and Computational Mathematics (IACM), which is one of the founding institutes of FORTH. The Group's research concerns are in areas of educational and social innovation with particular focus on the aspects of gender, S&T, ICT, adult education and organizational change. <http://www.iacm.forth.gr>

- **EPA**

The European Parents' Association gathers the parents associations in Europe and works in partnership both to represent and give to parents a powerful voice in the development of education policies and decisions at European level. In the field of education, EPA aims to promote the active participation of parents and the recognition of their central place as the primary responsible of the education of their children. euparents.eu

- **KOINΣEΠ PUZZLE**

Puzzle is a social enterprise aiming through its activities to empower vulnerable social groups and improve their quality of life, founded by six experienced professionals from the fields of education, mental health, disability and social integration. Members of Puzzle hold key positions in relevant services in Greece and also have good working relationships with Greek higher education institutions. They do not focus only at interventions directed at service user level but also at service providers themselves, aiming at changing attitudes, improving services and increasing co-production (e.g. through staff and parent education and management consultation). www.puzzle-se.eu

- **CSB**

The Center for Specialpædagogiske Børnetilbud (CSB) is a part of the Municipality of Aarhus in Denmark. It is a center in the Department of Social Services and Employment. CSB is a center for children and adolescents with special needs, and their families. They focus on children and adolescents acquiring life skills in the form of personal development, health, and well-being, leading to an adult life which is as independent as possible. They also focus on the family situation and offer support in the understanding and handling of the specific needs of the child/adolescent. CSB is a knowledge and resource facility actively involved in collecting, developing and disseminating practical and theoretical knowledge on working with children and adolescents with special needs, and their families. www.csb-aarhus.dk

- **IB Südwest**

The Internationaler Bund (IB) is a non-profit organization, one of the largest service providers in the fields of youth and social work, education and labour market services in Germany. More than 14,000 people work for IB in 700 facilities and branches in 300 locations, helping 350.000 children, young people, adults and senior citizens every year with their career and personal planning offering a wide range of services. IB has been helping people to develop in freedom, to shape their own lives, to integrate into society, to take on personal responsibility, to actively help shaping the development of society, to encourage the willingness for social support to the individual and the society, to promote international understanding and cooperation are fixed components since its foundation in 1949. These principles have remained valid to the association. IB Südwest gGmbH provides services in Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz and Saarland. www.ib-suedwest.de

- **OsloMet**

The Department of Behavioural Sciences at Oslo Metropolitan University has approximately 750 students and 60 employees. The department offers study programmes on bachelor, master and PhD levels, as well as further education. They offer bachelor studies for staff working with people with intellectual disabilities and people with physical, psychical or social disability. They have several research groups related to the situation for people with disability and their families, as well as master and PhD programmes. <https://www.hioa.no/tilsatt/bewest>



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ELPIDA: "E-learning platform for intellectual disability awareness"
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