



Newsletter

IS001

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THE PUZZLE PROJECT LAUNCH

PUZZLE is a two year project that aims to facilitate the access to information, education and training of young people and adults with intellectual disabilities in three European countries: Lithuania, Poland and Greece.

Why:

Despite the progress made there is still a significant gap in the opportunities that young adults and adults with intellectual disabilities in European countries such as Greece, Poland, and Lithuania have for education and training or for participation in the social and economic spheres of life. Among the contributing factors are: a) the lack of trained educators or other staff working with people with intellectual disabilities on text transformation processes in forms that are adapted to the needs and language skills of such persons, and b) the low utilisation of ICT for learning purposes with the use of adapted materials, because educators lack both awareness about suitable digital tools and their availability, and the appropriate knowledge and skills to use them.

How:

The main objective of the PUZZLE project is to improve the lives of people with ID, equipping them with the accessible means to live as independently as possible and facilitating their right to be informed



and interact with the world. In order to achieve this objective, the project established the following goals:

- Train professionals working in the field of intellectual disability in how to produce Easy to Read information. Easy to read refers to the presentation of a text in an accessible, easy to understand format (taking into account content language, pictures and presentation).
- Train professionals how to apply Easy to Read concepts using multimedia and the Web.
- Improve the quality and accessibility of information provided for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Raise knowledge and understanding among Educators and Support staff about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.
- Raise knowledge and understanding among people with intellectual disabilities about their Rights.
- Produce high quality Easy to Read and web-based information on the Rights of People with intellectual disability.
- Learn how to actively involve people with intellectual disabilities in creating Easy to Read and web information so that they can communicate about themselves and their rights.

The Puzzle project is a co-operation between:

Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Greece

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. <http://www.iacm.forth.gr>



Association For People With Learning Disabilities “Śmiałek”, Poznan, Poland

An organisation for people with moderate and severe disabilities, Down’s Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy with the main task of supporting people with learning disabilities to work and be socially included. <http://www.smialek.org>



Jaunuoliu dienos centras (JDC), Lithuania

A social service institution that was established in 1996 by Panevezys Town Council in Lithuania, providing day activities for young adults with severe and moderate physical and intellectual impairment. <http://www.pjdc.pl>



RIX Research & Media, University of East London, England

RIX is a research and development centre based at the University of East London (UEL) that is dedicated to developing innovative applications of new media for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities. <http://www.uel.ac.uk>



Swedish Agency for Accessible Media – MTM, Sweden

It is an agency under the administration of the Ministry of Culture with the main goal of ensuring that all persons with reading impairments can access literature, information and daily newspapers through media and formats appropriate to them. <http://www.mtm.se>



More information is available at:
<http://www.puzzle-project.eu/>