



Newsletter

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THE PUZZLE PROJECT TRAINING & RESEARCH

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. The project is now in the implementation phase with the first training session and the research already completed.

The first training took place in London in February 2016 and it was organized by the UK and Swedish partners. Four people from each participating country (Greece, Lithuania, & Poland) attended a five-day training and were given the knowhow on how to produce an easy to read text and how to present it via multimedia.

Ulla Bohman from MTM (Sweden) analyzed the four pillars of an easy to read text: Content, Language, Layout/Form, Pictures/Illustrations. Based on those four pillars combined with examples, the groups started getting into the Easy-to-read philosophy and making their first attempts in producing texts. **Andy Minnion from the RIX Center** and his team presented to the groups ways and means through which Multimedia can be used to help individuals to capture and organize their thoughts, recall information and to assist with communication.



The research examined whether people with intellectual disabilities (PWID) are aware of their human rights, the meaning of the term Human Rights and where they can find information about it. Initially, a literature review was conducted to find out if there is information on Human Rights available in an easy to understand format. Then the empirical study was completed which involved 220 PWID from Greece, Lithuania and Poland who volunteered to fill in some questionnaires in easy to read format and take part in focused workshops to discuss about Human Rights.

Key findings: Underlined by the research was the lack of accessible and understandable information for PWID. The research also highlighted that the use of multimedia and easy to read texts leads to a better understanding and awareness of Human Rights for PWID (this was identified both by the research participants and the staff members undertaking the research). In addition, through the workshops conducted as part of the empirical study, the majority of the participants were able to improve their understanding of their rights.

The lack of information in an easy to read format is an obstacle for PWID to live an independent life, express their thoughts and be a part of society. As a response to this limitation, the Puzzle project is in the process of developing **learning resources for PWID** combining the easy to read method with multimedia applications.

Learning material on how to implement the easy to read method to write texts that people with IDs as well as **Training guides** on how to use ICT and multimedia technologies to engage PWID in new and accessible ways have also been developed as resources for professionals. All developed material can be found on the project's website.



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

Learning Materials and Training Guides
can be freely downloaded from our site

The Puzzle Partnership

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

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

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

<http://www.smialek.org>

Jaunuoliu dienos centras (JDC), Lithuania

<http://www.pjdc.pl>

RIX Research & Media, University of East London, England

<http://www.uel.ac.uk>

Swedish Agency for Accessible Media – MTM, Sweden

<http://www.mtm.se>

