



Newsletter

IS004

Summer 2017



THE PUZZLE PROJECT – DISSEMINATION at the PUZZLE SYMPOSIUM in Crete

The PUZZLE project is coming to an end. The Project was concluded with a final event that was an international Symposium on innovative practice in Easy to Read, aiming to facilitate greater access to information and promotion of human rights for persons with ID.

A key strength of The Puzzle project is the way it has explored future perspectives on making information more inclusive by combining existing know-how on Easy to Read with the possibilities offered by the use of the new technologies, which are now readily available for use by all. The PUZZLE Project has introduced ways in which use of new technologies can make it easier for persons with intellectual disabilities to become both self-advocates and realise their rights - as well as 'co-producers' of educational and supportive materials that are 'Easy to Understand' to help other disabled people achieve the same goals. This was the central theme of the Symposium that was organised by the Puzzle consortium and took place on June 8th 2017, with half-day workshops on the 9th. This event demonstrated how people with intellectual disabilities can be actively involved in filling the gaps in accessible information in Easy to Read & Understand formats, particularly on the subject of people's rights and entitlements as adults wanting to live independently in their communities to the best of their abilities.

The event featured presentations by people with ID from Poland, Lithuania, Greece and the UK, alongside talks from educators, policy makers and specialists in media and Easy to Read. Presenters shared video and multimedia content that demonstrated various ways in which people with ID can help their peers to understand about their rights and learn the skills required to achieve their aspirations as adults. The message was clear: ***when people with intellectual disabilities understand more about their rights they are better equipped to pursue independence and so improve the quality of their own lives.***

The PUZZLE Symposium was hosted by the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH) in its premises in Heraklion, Greece. The main outcomes negotiated at the Symposium included:

- A manifesto of a new method developed during the project named "Easy to Understand" which combines the already existing 'Easy to Read' method with the use of multimedia
- New Educational resources in 'Easy to Understand'
- New research evidence on accessible information and the human rights of persons with ID that highlighted the shortage of accessible materials and found examples of best practice.
- Good practice examples and case studies from across Europe

The Symposium multiplied the impact of the project at a local, regional, national and European level with special invitees from Inclusion Europe and the European Platform of Self Advocates. People with ID from across Europe who are actively involved as Easy to Read & Understand information producers as both employees and volunteers, attended the event and shared their pioneering work in the field. Special Education leaders from Greece also made presentations and delegates came from across the Greece as well as other European countries to learn from the day and a half of presentations and workshops.

Feedback from the delegates at the Symposium affirmed their positive and inspiring experience of the Event. This proved to be an excellent way to end the PUZZLE Project and help ensure that it has a positive legacy for people with ID and those who support and educate them across Europe!

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>



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

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

