

Jobs4all – A Project targeting Digitalization in Vocational Education and Training for Disabled Persons

JOBS4ALL project is an Erasmus + KA2 funded project running from May 2022 to November 2024 that aims to tackle the obstacles faced by young people with disabilities when it comes to accessing the labour market. Despite various incentives provided by the EU, there are still barriers in the workplace culture that prevent young people with disabilities from reaching their full professional potential. Therefore, the project focuses on the digital transformation and modernisation of the youth sector, with a specific focus on enhancing the resilience and capacity of institutions to manage an effective shift towards digital training.

The project utilises emerging technologies such as serious games with virtual reality equipment based on real-job scenarios, which will facilitate the introduction of young people with disabilities into the labour market. To this end, it aims to empower digital confidence among young people with disabilities and professionals, thereby increasing their effectiveness and efficiency in their respective roles.

The JOBS4ALL project has already made significant progress. The mapping tool with businesses and organisations that offer employability guidance and information to people with disabilities has been developed, and the identified mapping points will be updated on a regular base on the project's homepage. Moreover, the project's online kick-off meeting was held in October 2022, where partners had the opportunity to get to know each other and the project's deliverables were presented in detail. Adding on a more practical approach, the project's focus group questions targeting professionals working with young people with disabilities sought to identify the main gaps and challenges in the integration of digital-oriented programs for the professional training of young people with disabilities (YPwDs). Recently, the project's consortium had a fruitful second transnational project meeting in Athens, Greece, where partners exchanged good practices and proceeded with peer review for further transnational cooperation.

The project's ultimate goal is to improve the skills and competencies of youth workers, trainers, and educators working with young people with disabilities and offer them the appropriate techniques that will improve the current, available training programs for this population. The JOBS4ALL project is a timely and important initiative that will help young people with disabilities to overcome the challenges they face in accessing the labour market, thus enhancing equal access and participation.

The JOBS4ALL project is funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ program and is implemented by a consortium of partners from five European countries, comprised of universities, non-profit organizations, and research centres that have extensive experience in the field of youth work, namely: NCSR Demokritos (Greece), Emphasys Centre (Cyprus), Appda Coimbra (Portugal), LCYouth (Cyprus), MetropolisNet (Germany), 2ο Επαλ Αγίας Παρασκευής (Greece) and Zespół Szkół Specjalnych im. Janiny Porazińskiej w Ignacowie (Poland).

CONSORTIUM:

Coordinator: National Center for Scientific Research “Demokritos” (GR)

Partners: Portuguese Association for Developmental Disorders and Autism of Coimbra (APPDA) (PT), Learning Center for Youth (CY), European Metropolis Employment Network EWIV (DE), Emphasys Centre (CY), 2nd VET School Agia Paraskevi (GR) and Janina Porazinska Special Education School Complex in Ignaców (PL)