



# COGNITION & INCLUSION

## NEWSLETTER 4

### PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES: THE RIGHT TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY.

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ENJOY THE READ!

# 1. INTRODUCTION, COVID-19 AND THE C&I PROJECT

## *Europe's moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation*



With Covid-19, Europe and the world are confronted by a public health and social challenge that is quickly becoming a drastic economic crisis. Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups and therefore hit in a great and very specific way.

Within our project, for example, our last international meeting was due to be hosted by the Universidade de Évora - Portugal with the support and study visits to Local partners: Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre, Universidade da Madeira, APPACDM (Associação Portuguesa de Pais e Amigos do Cidadão Deficiente Mental) - Casa João Cidade - Montemor-o-Novo.

Furthermore, the final meeting of the project was going to be held in Belgium with study visits at the University of Applied Sciences in Ghent. A joint meeting with the ENSA network was planned. Even an emotional ceremony at Ypres was scheduled as a tribute for those who died in 1914/18.

Now everything is rescheduled and we are trying to manage issues online, but nothing can replace the human factor and physical presence. The virus left and is leaving very strong marks on our relationships. Covid-19 is above all a human tragedy. Beyond the efforts to tackle the health dimension, the social dimension is to be prioritized by the EU notably by implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights. This is why, from the very start, in the Cognition & Inclusion project, we choose to believe in its implementation and in the development of opportunities and the learning potentials for the inclusion in society of person with disabilities.

## 2. EDITORIAL, THE COGNITION AND INCLUSION PROJECT RESULTS AND FUTURE FOLLOW UP, BY PROJECT COORDINATOR, JOHAN WARNEZ GROEP UBUNTU X 8K. BELGIUM



by project Coordinator,  
Johan Warnez  
groep Ubuntu x8K

The Erasmus+ Cognition & Inclusion project is in its final stage: 4 intellectual outputs are ready for publication, several multiplier events and dissemination actions are ongoing to 'spread the word', the enthusiastic partnership is ready to prepare the final report. The partnership is convinced that the outcomes will contribute to a most important inclusive goal: *to increase opportunities and conditions for successful employment of adults with an intellectual disability.*

Therefore C&I focused on

- 1) key skills for successful employment on the level of the adults with an intellectual disability and on and
- 2) conditions on the level of the serviceprovider.

1. With the support of the University of Evora (Portugal) the partnership Defined **5 key transversal skills**, that are necessary conditions for successful employment and in more general terms, for active and successful participation to society as a full citizen.

**The first Intellectual output report provides a definition of these transversal, mainly cognitive and metacognitive skills.** The report, edited by the **Finnish partner TAMK** University of Applied Sciences from Tampere, explores and analyses 5 very different approaches that intend to train these cognitive, transversal skills and defines critical factors for successful acquisition and implementation of the skills. These approaches may inspire professionals to find the right methodology to support their clients.

The partnership developed a tool to assess parts of these transversal skills and the 'mind set' of the adults from the targetgroup. This tool is very innovative: the International Association of Cognitive Education published a call to find examples of this kind of assessment tool. The C&I partnership successfully developed **a tool to assess the mindset of adults with an intellectual disability.** The development and try out of this creative tool was coordinated by the **Bulgarian Partner** and realized with a significant contribution of the Flemish partner (Vzw Ubuntu Achtkanter) and try outs carried out in Belgium, Bulgaria, Portugal (University of Evora) and Spain (As.Vale, Durcal) .

2. The conditions on the level of the professional, who is expected to support the adult towards (successful) employment, have been considered from *two perspectives*.

*On the one side*, the beliefs of the professional regarding the learning potential of persons with an intellectual disability in general, and regarding the potential to learn transversal, cognitive skills - too often not presumed - were explored. This exploration (coordinated by **IVASS, Valencia** and **Vzw Ubuntu Achtkanter, Belgium**) was the starting point for a **tool to assess the belief system of professionals**, to find out if their beliefs are promoting the learning potential and cognitive competence of the adults they support. Try outs have been done in Italy (Irecoop, Padova), Spain, Belgium, Portugal and Bulgaria. This tool can be used in a quantitative and a qualitative way, and is useful as a Human Resource Management- and VET-tool. Also this tool is innovative - similar tools have been found for preschool teachers, but not in educational contexts of adults with an intellectual disability and employment.

*On the other side*, the beliefs of the service provider, as can be seen in policy documents, mission statements, etc... are addressed in the fourth Intellectual output, coordinated by **Irecoop, Padova (Italy)**. The partnership developed a **self evaluation tool to assess the values, policies of an organisation** being compatible or not with an inclusive support of adults with an intellectual disability. Try out of this tool has been done in Italy, Belgium, Bulgaria and Portugal.

Nowadays, *the project outcomes* are presented; during the project lifetime, the European Network of Social Authorities **ENSA (Veneto, Italy)** coordinated the **communication and dissemination strategy**. On the Website of ENSA the different reports and tools in different languages are available for free.

**As a proud coordinator, I can only hope that these innovative and original tools are widely downloaded and used actively to contribute to a qualitative support of adults with an intellectual disability, for them to be able to fully execute their rights, especially the right to work and contribute to society.**

For who might need support in this, we are available! Also, I'm proud coordinator because I had the unique opportunity to work with a very competent and complementary partnership. I hope we will stay in touch and find a way to continue the collaboration to work on the realization of more conditions that foster Quality of Life of persons with a disability.

If you are interested on ***Why professional are doing the things they are doing***, or if you want to learn ***why professionals don't do what they should and can do to support the learning potential of people with an intellectual disability***, download the documents and tools on: <http://www.ensa-network.eu/cognitionandinclusion/index-c-i.html>



### 3. THE COGNITION AND INCLUSION FURTHER JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD: TESTIMONIES FROM FINLAND, SPAIN, ITALY, BULGARIA, SWEDEN, PORTUGAL.

**Let's approach FINLAND, with the contributions of the *Tampere University of Applied Sciences TAMK***

Teemu Jokinen, Tampere  
University of Applied Sciences  
TAMK



Minna Seppälä, Tampere  
University of Applied Sciences  
TAMK

***You coordinated the development of a tool to provide and overview of cognitive approaches and methodologies to improve transversal competences of adults with learning disabilities? What was the partnership aiming at?***

The main focus was to provide input and starting point for the development of the three mindset tools. Overview presents and analyses methodologies used by many of the European partners and in different settings, but always intending to promote quality of life by focusing on transversal, especially cognitive skills to support successful adaptation, social participation and employment of adults with a learning disability. Critical success factors on three levels, the professional, the organization and the client were formulated and recommendations for the tools were given. So the impact and importance of this first intellectual output of the project derives mainly from the use of other intellectual outputs and the background work it gives to them.

***What tools have been used?***

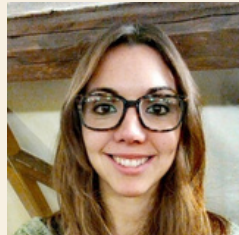
In this intellectual output a self-analysis tool, that was used by the partners when self-evaluating the approaches, was developed.

Along with the developed mindset tools, this self-analysis tool can help professionals in the field to choose the best possible methods to develop clients skills. It makes it easier to prioritize and to structure the applications of different methods and to reduce the risks of the practical work. To analyse the methods and to choose the suitable methods furthers the continuous improvement in the organizations. In the best scenario, the personality and individuality can be strengthened through the use of the tool. Also the client's satisfaction, experience of success, agency and self-efficacy can be strengthened.

## **And now let's go to SPAIN and hear from them....**

In this project the *Instituto Valenciano de Atención Social-Sanitaria IVASS*, and *VALE, Durcal* an association supporting persons with intellectual disabilities, collaborated at local and national level.

IVASS coordinated with Vzw Ubuntu Achkanter Belgium the second intellectual output to assess the belief system of professionals.



Maria Sorzano - Project  
Manager IVASS



Jose Gil - Project  
Technician IVASS

### ***How did you organize the collaboration to reach the inclusive objectives of the Cognition and Inclusion project?***

In IVASS, we have been collaborating with VALE to develop, use and translate into Spanish the Cognition and Inclusion tools. Three local expert groups (Elche, Alicante y Valencia) were created by IVASS to give advice and help to disseminate the project in press and local TV, but overall, they have been essential in the production and testing of the tools produced within the output led by IVASS: IO2 -Belief system tools for professionals-. Although the participation of all partners in the local expert group has been remarkable, the close cooperation with two of them CEEME-Fermax and La Costera-Canal (ASPROMIVISE), should be highlighted. CEEME-Fermax collaborated and made full use of the all the intellectual outputs with their professionals, the organisations and the persons with disabilities and La Costera-Canal recording videos for the IO1- Overview of cognitive approaches and methodologies to improve transversal competences of adults with learning disabilities- and taking part as lecturer in the Multiplier event developed in Spain by Vale.

### ***At local level, let's have the view of Vale, how did you plan the use of the Cognition and Inclusion tools?***

Within our organisation, the staff has been informed and trained. In the Annual Employee Meeting, ensuring all workers to be updated on the progress of the project and encouraging feedback and participation. The users, have been actively involved in project activities like the preparation of the promotional video, participation in the tool tryouts, training in transversal skills. Families and members of the association have been also informed. The promotional video was one of the strongpoints of the dissemination campaign because it allowed users, families and partners to easily get to know about the project goals. It is posted on the association's Youtube channel.

### ***What was the purpose of the Local expert group?***

In each partner country of C&I The **role played by the expert group** was crucial to participate in the decision making process such as the case in IVASS and Vale to generate dissemination networks between organizations involved in the field of intellectual disability, academic organizations such as the University of Granada, employment advisors, managers and trainers. All of them showed their interest in using the tools developed by the consortium.

### ***How was interest shown at National level about the Cognition and Inclusion project?***

With the collaboration of IVASS we organized a multiplier event with a virtual format on November 12 2020 where a large number of professionals, students, volunteers and policy makers showed interest with more than a 100 registrations from people all over Spain.

### ***Can you describe a bit this event as source of inspiration?***

The event was opened with an official welcome by the president of the VALE association in which she pointed out the relevance that the C&I project has had both in the VALE association and in other local organisations. Both the work on beliefs and the sharing of good practices with organisations from such diverse countries has enriched the practice of the organisation and its network of influence. After the official welcome, Sofía Reyes, a professional from the Spanish organisation Plena Inclusion, discussed the importance of beliefs in our professional activity. After this first framework, the project manager of ASVALE, Alicia Sánchez Adam, and of IVASS, José Gil, presented the work developed during the three years of the C&I project. The definition of transversal skills and their impact on the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities was shared. Afterwards, the tools for evaluating the beliefs of people with disabilities, professionals and organizations were presented. Finally, a round table was held with the participation of two experts from the Granada and Valencia expert groups, Maria Victoria Enriquez and Rosa Hernández. The participants asked questions through the chat that were answered at the end of the event. Participants were asked to participate in the assessment questionnaire. This assessment shows that the tools were considered very interesting and the probability of using them was very high.



Fonte immagine: <https://it.linkedin.com/company/asvale>

## let's see what happens in ITALY....

It is the *Istituto Regionale per l'educazione e Studi Cooperativi Irecoop Veneto, Padova* who brought its expertise to work on a tool to evaluate the mindset of the organizations that's to say their ability to create an environment and organizational methods that support the professionals in the developing of transversal skills for the service users.

Daniela Moro,  
Irecoop Padova



Stefania Porchia,  
Ca' Foscari University



### ***How did you conclude this project and planned the exploitation of the C&I results?***

We chose to organize a conclusive online webinar for Italian Organizations entitled **people with disabilities, families and organizations: quality of life and social inclusion in time of covid-19.**

This event has been organised on November 26, 2020 together with our Italian partners of the Erasmus+ project "Cognition & Inclusion" and the ENSA, European Network of Social Authorities (coordinated by the Veneto Region). The objective has been to present the project results, main outcomes and their application.

As most of events in this period, instead of a conference in a great venue, it had to be an online event. So we decided to take it as an opportunity to reach actors active in the social inclusion field from distant parts of the Region who would probably not have been able to participate in a classical final conference.

A second important choice was related to this historical and extremely difficult moment we are facing together with social workers and their organizations. Indeed we could not escape from the COVID 19 scenary so we decided to use the opportunity of this meeting to exchange on how to apply, use the project approach, results and materials in the challenges that this pandemic has brought.

Therefore the program of the event foresaw the presentation of the project, its objectives and each of the main outcomes, but also gave a space to reflect on how to keep the inclusive mindset alive in the services in collaboration with families in order to support persons with disabilities.



The speakers were experts, who participated in the development of the project results, like **Stefania Porchia** (Ca Foscari University) and **Daniela Moro** from Irecoop Padova Veneto, **Petya Grudeva** from Bulgaria, and also two highly recognized experts on the social services for the persons with disabilities in Italy - **Maurizio Colleoni** (coordinator of the network Rete Immaginabili risorsa) e **Mauro Burlina**, psychologist and responsible for the public territorial disability services.

### ***How was the interest in Cognition and Inclusion shown and shared?***

150 participants from social cooperatives and public social and health services involved in the disability sector throughout the Veneto Region and beyond responded to the invitation. The great participation and positive feedbacks after the event made it crystal clear, the full social inclusion of persons with disabilities in spite of COVID 19 limitations is at the heart of social workers and their organizations. There is a strong need of creativity, humanity and effective team work in order not to get lost in between all challenges.

Inclusive mindset and beliefs in the continuous development of the transversal skills of persons with disabilities remain the engine to approach COVID procedures together with the clients. They represent another opportunity of learning, how to solve problems and how to take your own future into your hands.

After the meeting, all participants received a link to the project materials and the presentations of the speakers that will remain available on the website of Irecoop Veneto, page dedicated to the project "Cognition & Inclusion".

<https://www.irecoop.veneto.it/cognition-inclusion/evento/finale>



La Specola, Padova

We go on our journey in BULGARIA to meet the **National Association of Professionals Working with People with Disabilities, NARHU**, who were responsible of a tool to evaluate the learner's mindset and to what degree the cognitive methodologies results in a "growth" mindset.



Fonte immagine <https://www.narhu.org/>

***Can you tell us how you promoted the C&I project through the multiplier event you organized?***

We had the chance to run it at a moment, on the 12/09/2020 where the antiepidemic measures in Bulgaria were not tightened which allowed the event to be held physically in the format of a seminar.

42 attendees among which psychologists, social workers, and other clinical professionals working with people with ID took part in the event. Among other guests were university professors, trainers and managers of lifelong learning centers, heads of departments in daily care centers and centers for mental health for adults.

The program has included official opening by the distinctive representatives of the Bulgarian academic community - psychologists and psychiatrists working with people with intellectual disabilities. Then the agenda continued with overall presentation of C&I project and its achievements followed by detailed presentation of each intellectual output. There were also external guests speakers.

### ***What impact do you think the Cognition and Inclusion project will have?***

Based on the feedback provided by the participants in the Multiplier event it can be concluded that a vast majority of them intend to use the C&I materials & tools in their work. It is evident that the Bulgarian professionals as well as the managers of social and educational organisations have acknowledged the 3 mindset tools as innovative and with potential to be exploited so that the quality of services, inclusion and employment of people with ID to be improved in long term perspective.

Concerning the domains where the 3 mindset tools developed within the project can be applied, most of the participants indicated the following answers:

- for Mindset tool 1 “In the recruitment of new professionals working with people with ID” and “In the assessment of the beliefs system and mindset of current staff members working with people with ID”.
- for Mindset tool 2: “for enhancing the organizational strategies and policies on micro, mezzo and macro level”; “For improving the management of the organization and optimizing its functioning”;
- for Mindset tool 3: “for improving the clients support plans and interventions” and “for enhancing opportunities for employment and inclusion of people with ID.”



The Bulgarian Multiplier event

**Let's travel to SWEDEN and hear the testimony from the *Studieförbundet vuxenskolan väst (kulturcentrum väst)***



Annie Petterson and Mia Ekegren, Studieförbundet vuxenskolan väst (kulturcentrum väst)

***How did you use the project's outputs?***

We chose to disseminate the project results and involve local vocational education centers of organizations dealing with disability education and to stakeholders: services or networks of people with disabilities and umbrella organisations.

Indeed the project outcomes will sensitize various stakeholders and actors involved in the field of disabilities towards increase, improvement and innovation of educational activities for adults with learning disabilities. We also worked with a Local expert group which met at local and national level 3 times and who wish to go on learning about the project.

***Can you tell us how you shared the knowledge about the Cognition and Inclusion project at the multiplier event you organized?***

We chose to present the instruments and tools of Cognition and Inclusion in a digital conference that took place on November 11 2020. It was entitled "Curiosity, empathy and learning. Now Digital!". 32 participants attended. Kalle Möller, had a lecture on mindset. Like she said: "Be curious, empathetic and cultivate a grown mindset, Remember that you are outstanding, Help others in that sense."

How can you inspire learning? Can you practice your curiosity? What prevents curiosity? Is it possible to practice your empathic abilities? These are some of the questions that the lecture addressed. Participants should have felt inspired and curious to go beyond their comfort zone and to think in new ways in order to inspire and help people with intellectual disabilities to learn and develop more in everyday life. Participants should have gained knowledge about cognitive empathy, growth mindset (based on Carol S Dweck), learning and to arouse curiosity in themselves and others which links to life-long learning.

The C&I was presented together with the opportunities given by this Erasmus+ programme. Participants were given information about the models developed by C&I and how well businesses, staff and people with disabilities work to inspire and develop learning in people with intellectual disabilities.

### ***What follow-up did you organize after the event?***

Two questionnaires have been delivered and filled by the participants at the Multiplier Event asking for intentions to include topics of C&I in curricula and they indicated their intention to use the tools. Regarding changes in policies linked to disability, education the questionnaire when filled by policy makers indicated the intention to adjust policy. We took duly note they were positive and looked forward to use some of the Intellectual Outputs. Interviews were also made and supported us to provide further information about the project.

### ***What are your plans when Covid 19 disappear?***

We hope when corona is over to meet all municipalities and workplaces so that they we can help them to use the intellectual outputs of the project.

***We are so happy to be a part of this project, to see how it works in the rest of Europe. Lots of good ideas and memories of good meetings with lovely project partners".***



Fonte immagine: <https://www.sv.se/>

**Let's finish this journey in PORTUGAL with the *University of EVORA* where our last physical meeting was supposed to be held**



Fonte immagine: <https://www.uevora.pt/ue-media/noticias?item=31089>

### ***What did the Cognition and Inclusion project brought you?***

Cognition & Inclusion brought us Portuguese team and local partners an excellent network to increase capabilities to analyze and reflect about practical approaches to Transversal skills in adults with learning disabilities as well as to develop and validate tools to evaluate mindset about cognition and inclusion in adults with learning disabilities.

This opportunity improved our skills and reflection to give support to the implementation of Declaration of Rights of Persons with Disabilities, that Portugal subscribe and have the compromise to implement.

For 3 years the Universidade of Evora, APPACDM-Évora, Casa João Cidade-Montemor-o-Novo, Instituto Politécnico de Portalegre and Universidade da Madeira worked together and reinforced their capacities of networking.

### ***How did you promote the project at local and international level?***

Together, during the period of the project we organized 10 Openclasses, 5 National workshops, 7 Lectures and we participated in 3 International seminars, where we contacted 414 Professionals and 382 Students from Portugal, Germany, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique and others. We produced 4 chapters published in International books in the field of Cognition and Inclusion and one E-book with an overview written in Portuguese language for dissemination of intellectual outputs in Portugal, Brazil and all other countries with the official Portuguese language.

In Portugal, Multiplier Events took place during the month of November. Taking into account the rules imposed by the General Directorate of Portuguese Health, 6 events were promoted. Four were held in person and two virtually. In these events we had a total of 97 participants, 66 professionals and 31 students.

At the level of inter institutional sharing, we managed to disseminate our project to 44 different institutions and companies. We emphasize that several institutions have shown an interest in using our instruments. At this level, we obtained an interest from participants from Portuguese-speaking communities in using and adapting the instruments in their countries (Brazil and Angola).

## 4. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROJECTS



- **TRIADE 2.0** project aims at promoting and enhancing the social inclusion of a new target group within society: ageing adults with intellectual disabilities (AAWID). Dealing with the double problem of “ageing” and “intellectual disability” is what makes the project innovative as the development of new solutions in the ageing and disability field is as necessary as difficult to achieve.

<https://www.ivass.gva.es/Triade2>

Leader: Instituto Valenciano de Atencion Social-Sanitaria (IVASS) - Spain



Fonte immagine:

<https://www.facebook.com/entre4all/>

- **ENTRE4ALL** - an innovative outreach programme to equip adults with disabilities with key competences (1st October 2019 - 31st December 2021) The main aims of the project is to ensure social inclusion, access, and participation in the digitalized labour market of young adults with a disability. To produce training material and a toolkit which will include all essential resources to acquire entrepreneurial and digital skills so to be able to enter the digital market and create their own social enterprise.

<https://entre4all.eu/en/>



Fonte immagine:

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_it](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_it)

- **PROTOCOLS** - The Erasmus+ project "European Training on innovative Restorative Protocols for clinical and technological changeable" (PROTOCOLS), was born on the idea of Dr. Humberto Cerrel Bazo, Head of the Recovery and Functional Rehabilitation Unit of the Highly Specialized Rehabilitation Hospital (ORAS SpA) and is rooted in the research for innovative home care rehabilitation paths for the discharged patients. The project aims at innovating the vocational education and training in the field of Restorative Neurology through the use of wearable technologies, for the healthcare professionals and professional trainers. The innovative competences and skills in the field of rehabilitation that will born assume greater relevance and importance in view of the emergency caused by COVID-19. ORAS will lead the consortium of the "Hospital Nacional de Paraplejicos" (Toledo, Spain), "Sword Health SA" (Porto, Portugal), the Technology Park of Ljubljana (Slovenia), the professional institutes "AEVA" (Aveiro, Portugal) and "Fondazione Lepido Rocco" (Italy).

- **Zero Project** - Zero Project is an initiative focused on identifying innovative practices and policies that promote the rights of people with disabilities worldwide. Support of the Veneto Region, Brussels office as a member of the Zero Project network in the selection and creation of a shortlist of *zero project 2021*. The upcoming Conference will be held as a virtual event from February 10th to 12th, 2021. #ZeroCon21 will introduce you to some extraordinary highlights, including: Zero Project WebTV and the new Solutions-based approach centered on online communities of innovators and thematic leaders.



Fonte immagine:

<https://zeroproject.org/>

<https://zeroproject.org/>

## 5. EU - NEWS FLASH



Fonte immagine:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200604STO80506/parliament-calls-for-a-new-ambitious-eu-disability-strategy>



Fonte immagine:

[https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/2030-agenda-sustainable-development-new-frontier-rights-and-progress-eu\\_en](https://europa.eu/newsroom/events/2030-agenda-sustainable-development-new-frontier-rights-and-progress-eu_en)



Fonte immagine:

<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east-south/stay-informed/news/eu-budget-recovery-increases-funds-stronger-europe-world>



Fonte immagine:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/italy/it/succede-al-pe/il-presidente-del-pe-sassoli-sulla-protezione-del-diritto-d-autore>

- The European Commission announced in January that it will present a **new disability strategy** in 2021.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200604STO80506/parliament-calls-for-a-new-ambitious-eu-disability-strategy>

- Transforming our World: the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable development**, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, was adopted on 25 September 2015 by Heads of state and Government at a special UN summit. The Agenda is a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda was a landmark achievement, providing for a shared global vision towards sustainable development for all. The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda are transversally addressed in all European Policies and programmes of the European Commission for 2021-2027.

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/sustainable-development/SDGs/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/sustainable-development/SDGs/index_en.htm)

- 10 November 2020, **Next multiannual financial framework and recovery package: Council presidency reaches political agreement with the European Parliament** The German presidency of the Council today reached a political agreement with the European Parliament's negotiators in talks aimed at securing the Parliament's consent to the next multiannual financial framework, the EU's long-term budget. The agreement has been reached following intensive consultations with the Parliament and the Commission that have been underway since the end of August. It complements the comprehensive financial package of €1 824.3 billion negotiated by EU leaders in July, which combines the next multiannual financial framework - €1 074.3 billion - and a €750 billion temporary recovery instrument, Next Generation EU (in 2018 prices).

- 12 November 2020, **Sassoli on EU budget agreement: A good deal for EU citizens**

"This is a good deal for European citizens. Together this package of measures will help European countries recover from the immediate crisis, while also investing in Europe's long-term future.

<https://europarl.europa.eu/the-president/en/newsroom/sassoli-on-eu-budget-agreement-a-good-deal-for-eu-citizens>





Fonte immagine:

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1137&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9835)

[langId=en&catId=1137&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9835](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1137&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9835)

- 20 November 2020, European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 helped to **remove barriers**. The European Commission has published the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. The Strategy aims to empower persons with disabilities to enjoy their full rights and to benefit from participating in society on an equal basis with others. It also implements the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at EU level. The 10-year evaluation shows that, while there is room for improvement, the Strategy had a positive impact on EU rules and policies.

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1137&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9835)

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Fonte immagine:

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- 1 December 2020, **Equality: City of Jönköping** in Sweden wins 2021 Access City Award. The 2021 Access City Award goes to the city of Jönköping for making the city more accessible to persons with disabilities. Jönköping, in the south of Sweden, made continuous improvements in both the new and old areas of the city, in collaboration with disability organisations. The city also created a local 'Access City Award', for businesses or organisations that worked with their customers to improve accessibility. Out of 50 applications, Jönköping was designated the winner of the 11th edition of the Access City Award at the online ceremony on 1 December.

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1137&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9847)

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Fonte immagine:

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1748&furtherEvents=yes)

[langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1748&furtherEvents=yes](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1748&furtherEvents=yes)

- 3 December 2020, **European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2020**. Hosted by the European Commission, in partnership with the European Disability Forum, this annual event (1-2 December) is been an opportunity for the EU to mainstream disability issues and to raise awareness of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in their everyday lives.

Politicians, high-level experts and disability advocates has attended the conference to discuss the challenges, solutions and projects for improving policies related to persons with disabilities. The 2020 conference included discussions on the *Covid-19* pandemic and its impact on persons with disabilities. It was also be an opportunity to put forward the final results of the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and to have a last round of reflections for the forthcoming Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1748&furtherEvents=yes)

[langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1748&furtherEvents=yes](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1748&furtherEvents=yes)



Fonte immagine:

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

11 December 2020, the European Parliament and EU Member States reached a political agreement on the **new Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027**. With a dedicated budget of more than €26 billion, the new programme will be more inclusive, innovative, digital and greener. It will be key to achieve the European Education Area by 2025. It will be characterized by an increased accessibility and a more flexible mobility formats. It will provide opportunities to a more diverse group of learners. Moreover, synergies with other Eu programmes will be possible and a "quality label" could be given to proposals that are of good quality but not able to be funded and that could benefit from other complementary funding, like ESF.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_2317](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2317)

- 14 December 2020, **ENSA Elderly and Disability Webinar Meeting**. *ENSA - Elderly and Disability Meeting* took place on December 14th, 2020, coordinated jointly by the Département du Val De Marne and the City of Rotterdam. The meeting included an interactive round table and presentations on the Social Development Goals (SDGs), the European Pillar of Social Rights implementation after the Commissioner Von der Leyen State of the Union speech, the new funding opportunities by the EU together with EU projects exchanges.

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## TO ALL READERS,

This project is about to conclude but is not over, we are looking forward to be working together with this partnership and all committed stakeholders towards an **inclusive society, leaving no one behind**.

Greetings!



**To Johan Warnez,**  
project coordinator,

On behalf of all the C&I partners thank you so much for your huge work, motivation and inspiration that supported us to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, giving them a chance to participate in society.

We look forward to follow it up in with future in person trainings on C&I tools, hopefully early spring 2021.



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**Ensa website:** <http://www.ensa-network.eu/news.htm>