

«EDPOWER» project

Since the beginning of November, 2021, Initiatives Network Association (**Lithuania**) together with partners from **Slovakia** (TENENET o.z.), **Hungary** (Nevelok Haza Egyesulet), **Italy** (Fondazione Luigi Clerici), **Poland** (Fundacja Sowelo) and **Lithuania** (Viešoji Įstaiga Valakupių Reabilitacijos Centras) has begun to implement a project called «Empowering adult educators for improvement of accessibility and quality of learning opportunities for people with functional diversity» (**EDPOWER**).

By exchanging ideas, know-how, experience and good practices, the project aims to internationally develop and pilot a **new non-formal innovative training system** for improvement and extending the offer of high-quality learning and social integration opportunities for people with various disabilities.

Competency and needs analysis (IO1.1-IO1.2)

All partners conducted a country specific needs analysis in terms of qualifications of informal adult education providers working with people with disabilities and described the existing training methods according to a list of criteria. Later on an analysis was performed to define competencies of adult educators that must be improved

A questionnaire for professionals was created, in which we asked to indicate the competencies necessary to work in a specific field. A survey was used to carry out the analysis, which was given to people who work with disabled people in different areas of life. 68 people participated in the survey, including 28 Social workers, 21 Adult educators, 11 Representatives of the social enterprise and 6 psychologists, 2 healthcare assistants (see figure 1).

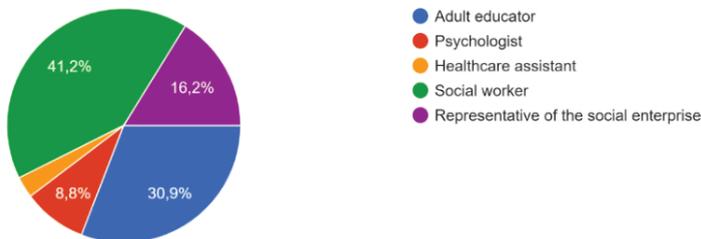


Figure 1: Survey respondents

Summary of needs analysis survey results

In the area of **"Promotion of independent living philosophy"**, 10 competences were defined as important for people who work in this area. According to survey results, competences that need to be improved most include: Leading the process of socio-professional integration of people with disabilities in companies and promoting motivation and self-motivation.

In the area **"Detection and prevention of abuse and neglect"**, there were 8 competences defined. Data analysis showed that special attention must be put to improve knowledge about support options for victims, negotiation skills, dealing with different situations in which people with disabilities are victims of violence as well as improving knowledge about different types of violence and the rights of people with disabilities.

Speaking about the area **"Improvement of digital skills and media literacy"**, respondents indicated that they are in need of improving skills in using available methodologies and information technology as well as their ability to ensure inclusiveness in the training environment.

In the area **"Strengthening entrepreneurial skills"**, 9 main competences were defined. Survey results showed that conflict management, group-oriented leadership and organizational sensitivity are the ones that respondents would want to strengthen.

Analysis of the responses concerning the **"Health education"** topic showed that out of 7 pre-defined competences, respondents note the highest demand for learning more about dealing with behavioral problems, prevention of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes as well as usage of psychoeducational interventions.

To sum up, the **conducted needs analysis indicates** the competencies that are in the **highest demand for improvement** according to the target group members (including informal adult education providers working with people with disabilities).

When developing individual modules, all **partners will be taking into account these findings** in order to better contribute to raising qualifications of the potential beneficiaries.



Figure 2: EDPOWER LOGO developed by Fundacja Sowelo

1st face-to-face Transnational Partners Meeting

On the 21-22nd of **March, 2022**, in **Slovakia**, in the town of Senec, the project partner organization **TENENET** held the first face-to-face transnational partners meeting. After communicating remotely for almost six months, it was nice to **meet live to share experiences**, discuss ongoing project implementation process and plan further steps of the project.

Although the global COVID-19 pandemic is gradually receding, not all participants were able to participate live, this, however, did not prevent **productive work and good mood**. With the help of modern technology, we successfully overcame the pushback and all team members were able to actively participate in the meeting. During the meeting, partners reviewed project goals, target groups, work programme, project outputs, implementation timetable. Each partner organization representative also made a short presentation regarding the **current state of project work** and **dissemination** activities carried out so far.

One of the most important parts of the meeting was the change to get acquainted with the **experiences and best practices** of other countries and organizations. For instance, meeting participants got a change to see the work of the **non-governmental organization "Betania"**, where people with functional diversity work under the supervision of professional workers and thus their integration into society is promoted. It was a useful experience for the project participants, which they can build on when **developing methodological materials** for the training program. Finally, it is clear that such meeting are beneficial for **strengthening the partnership** by getting to know each other.



Participants of the 1st «EDPOWER» face-to-face project partners meeting

Partners

**INICIATYVŲ
TINKLAS**

Initiatives Network Association (INA) was founded in 2007. Association has participated in numerous National and International initiatives seeking to promote independent living of people with disabilities, development of the role of personal assistants, volunteering, life-long learning and job activation aiming for human resource development and social inclusion. We aim to promote dissemination of good EU practices and lifelong learning. Through our own Training Centre we provide up-to-date adult education trainings related to provision of high quality social services: including trainings for personal assistants, palliative care providers, volunteers providing social services to elderly and disabled. Webpage: www.itinklas.lt



NEVELŐK HÁZA EGYESÜLET

Nevelők Háza Egyesület/Educators' Centre Association (ECA) is one of the leading NGOs in Baranya county (Hungary). As a center of community development activities, the organization acts as an umbrella for more than 90 communities, operates a community space in the heart of Pécs, carries out numerous projects at national and international level, provides consultation and training services for NGOs, carries out research, and hosts cultural and learning activities related to adult education, equal chances, youth work. Webpage: www.ckh.hu; <https://www.facebook.com/ckhpecs>

*Fondazione
Luigi
Clerici*

Fondazione Luigi Clerici is a private non-profit organization active since 1972. Organization has 20 branches. It aims to promote training and services to support work placement, responsive to the needs of the area and the local production system. FLC aims to empower people at professional and at personal level by offering professional, cultural and social training. FLC focuses on the educational project of the person and on the development of methods and training paths through which the realization of its potential in the context of life can be improved. FLC intends to take care of the person as "a whole" by supporting them with a wide range of services, developed ad hoc to meet their needs and by helping them to realize a life- and professional project in harmony with their competences. Webpage: <https://www.clerici.lombardia.it>



TENENET
NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANISATION

Tenenet, n.o.: The mission of the organisation is to contribute to the expansion of expert knowledge and practical skills in social work through education, training, internships. It also provides social services related to socio-legal protection of Children and to families in risk, and specific services to minors who are in difficulties (disabled youngsters, sexual abused, drug addicted, bullying at schools etc.). Activities of the organisation are focused on community support, employment services for persons with disabilities, supported employment and social economy, development of educational programs, developing and publishing educational and methodological materials. Tenenet provides an Ambulance of clinical psychology and psychotherapy.

 **FUNDACJA
SOWELO**

The Soweło Foundation started its' journey in June 2017 as an informal group of Specialist who are operating in the area of social projects. Main field of interest of the foundation was and still is social and professional activation of persons with disabilities. Also there is a social enterprise employing workers with disabilities. The group was registered as The Soweło Foundation in September of 2018. Our key values include independence, equality and promotion of full participation in social life of people with disabilities. The Foundation staff co-created and implemented projects aimed at developing assistance services for the residents (with disabilities) of Poznań. At least 200 people benefit from this work. Moreover, the organization regularly held training and supervision sessions for personal assistants working with people with disabilities.



Valakupių
reabilitacijos centras

Public Institution Valakupiai Rehabilitation Centre has a mission to seek for a better quality of life, health and social participation of each person by providing complex, person-centred and community-oriented services. Over 100 VRC staff members provide social, vocational and medical services, social day care and driving school services for people with severe and moderate disabilities in Lithuania. Every year more than 700 service users benefit from the services provided in two Vilnius and Kaunas locations. Webpage: www.reabilitacija.lt | www.facebook.com/reabilitacija.lt/

