



AGID- Developing Training Modules for Staff On Ageing and Disability Issues

AGID – Newsletter N°1/2012

Dear readers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the AGID project. This issue will focus on the origins of the AGID project, its goals and the Appreciative Inquiry methodology implemented and the achievements of the project so far.

Please feel free to contact us if you wish to receive more information about the project.

For further information please visit the website www.agid-project.eu.

We hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter!

Why the AGID project?

The life expectancy of people with disabilities is increasing and this poses a major challenge for the everyday support and care of people with intellectual disabilities (ID). Though ageing brings similar challenges and issues as for the general population, there are specific ageing-related care issues for people with ID. Moreover, professionals in health and social care services have very little knowledge and awareness of the complex health and social care needs of this group of people. It is vital that frontline staff and professionals have a sound knowledge of these complex needs in order to be able to provide appropriate, personalized care and support services.

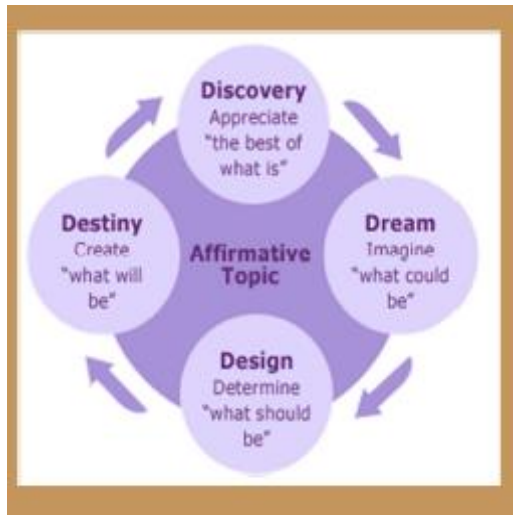
The progressive ageing of European society is an issue affecting the European Union as a whole. It is in this context that AGID highlights and takes into consideration the specific needs of people with disabilities. The AGID consortium believes that a transnational approach based on the experiences and knowledge of partners belonging to different cultural backgrounds and with a variety of expertise in dealing with ageing issues can produce effective and durable results at the European level.

The project:

The AGID project is about developing a web-based training platform for frontline staff and professionals on ageing and intellectual disability issues. AGID brings together, at a European level, various partners involved in the care and support of disabled people whether they are service providers or research centres. AGID intends to gather the expertise of two university bodies in the field and the experience of service providers from several European countries, all with the aim to improve the quality of life of service users through quality staff training. Web-based training modules will be based on the skills and knowledge required for the delivery of person centred support and care. They will incorporate the cultural values of all the partners and will be reflected in the experience and narratives of people with ID and family carers captured through the use of video clips within the web-based training platform.

Goals of the Project:

- To improve the quality of life of people with ID by increasing the knowledge and competency of frontline staff and professionals
- To involve people with intellectual disabilities, their families, professionals and frontline staff in the formulation and development of the training
- To Reflect the UN-Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in all the steps of the project.



Methodology:

The innovative character of the AGID project is based on the use of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) methodology, where people with ID and their families are involved from the very start in all the different phases of this project. AI is the basis for conducting focus groups in each partner country from which is derived the pattern for developing and delivering the training modules. AI is based on principles of inclusion and enables the voices of users, families and professionals to be heard. AI concentrates on exploring ideas that people have about what is valuable in what they do, and then tries to work out ways in which this can be built upon – the emphasis is on appreciating the activities and responses of people rather than

concentrating on the problems.

The AGID consortium decided to use this methodology because:

- AI represents a collaborative effort to bring people together, it involves multiple members or stakeholders conversing and working in partnership.
- AI is inclusive; it invites a widening circle of voices, representing all stakeholder voices within a system.
- AI is generative, it fosters a dialogue that cultivates scenarios and theories that leads to greater cooperation and productivity. Participants are drawn to work together more toward a common vision and goals.

EU's approach:

In accordance with the European Disability strategy 2010 – 2020, the AGID project intends to “Raise disability awareness and specific knowledge among health professionals, considering the specific needs of female and male patients”. As highlighted by the Commission in the European Action Plan of 2003, “healthcare systems are now called to give a new importance to the objective of enabling older and/or disabled people to live active, healthy and independent lives further into old age” (Commission Communication of 30 October 2003, Equal opportunities for people with disabilities: a European action plan).

Achievements so far:

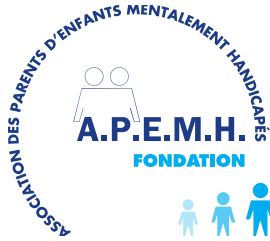
Including people with ID to actively participate within the AGID project is in accordance with a broad interpretation and application of the article 30 of the UN CRPD which affirms the right of people with disabilities to participate in political and public life, including 'participation in non-governmental organisations and associations' with the possibility of 'forming and joining organisations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels'. Thus the inclusion of people with disabilities in the direct participation of a European Project can be seen as a step forward to the full enjoyment of this right. Feedback from the focus groups consultation emphasizes three main themes: self-determination in daily life (irrespective of age), material means for minimum comfort for a life with dignity and the need for social relationships.

Additionally, the French and Italian groups gave similar emphasis to the notion of freedom of choice and non-institutional living. Northern countries' participants ascribed importance to the collective aspect and social links necessary for the individual's balanced quality of life,

Based on the results of the focus groups the following six topics have been chosen to be the training modules of the web-based training platform:



AGID Consortium



La Fondation A.P.E.M.H. (Association de Parents d'Enfants Mentalement Handicapés) is a national NGO working in Luxembourg for the support of people with intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities and dual diagnosis. The principal aim of the association is to improve the quality of life of their client groups and to ensure their social and vocational inclusion. A.P.E.M.H. has numerous services in various areas, such as residences, educational support structures to enable people to live in the community, sheltered workshops and a training centre -UFEP- for professionals in the field.

www.apemh.lu



University of Vienna is the largest teaching and research institution in Austria. The project partner will be the department of clinical psychology, which has a special focus on research topics in the field of intellectual disability and ageing. The partner has a high competence in designing and offering training courses, in designing research and evaluation, and in dissemination activities (publications and conferences). The partner organisation has broad experience in jointly developing curricula and training modules especially in the context of EC funded projects.

www.univie.ac.at



ARFIE- Association de Recherche et de Formation sur l'Insertion en Europe brings together at European level various partners involved in the care and support of disabled people, associations of and for disabled people, training bodies, researchers and professionals all working in initial and continuing training; ARFIE is a member of the European Disability Forum and has been organizing training modules for professionals working with people with disabilities. It has also held conferences and issued reports on various important issues in the disability sector. The role of ARFIE will mostly focus on dissemination of the project outcomes through its European network (EDF and Inclusion Europe). ARFIE could also promote regional surveys and targeted studies through members not directly involved. ARFIE will play an active role during the project Final Conference through direct dissemination among its members.

www.arfie.info



CADIAI (Cooperativa Assistenza Domiciliare Infermi Anziani Infanzia) is a social cooperative and has been operating in the services to disabled people as a managing agency of services. It has also assisted many persons in the difficult transition to aging. CADIAI has created a work group called "Disabled become Old" composed of an expert in training process, a pedagogue and two researchers of the University of the Studies of Bologna. CADIAI operates since its foundation (1974) in the area of the services to the elderly, in domiciliary, semi residential and residential services.

www.cadai.it



Association "Les Genêts d'Or" was created to promote the establishment of structures to meet the needs of rural families in the department of Finistère (France). Its statutes define its purpose by the recognition, hospitality, support and integration of persons with disabilities and dependent people. It currently manages 24 properties, hosting over 1500 people and conducts studies on the ageing of the population. It also provides individual responses and / or group best suited to peculiar situations.

www.lesgenetsdor.org



ZONNELIED vzw is a national NGO working in Belgium for the support of people with an intellectual disability, multiple disabilities and dual diagnosis. The principal aim of the association is to improve the quality of life of their client groups. They have numerous services in various areas, such as residences, day care center, supported employment. ZONNELIED vzw has been working for 30 years as a service provider (home, work, leisure, education, health, support ...) and has been faced with the growing challenge of aging of people with disabilities.

www.zonneliedvzw.be



De Montfort University is based in Leicester, in the heart of England and consists of four Faculties - Health and Life Sciences, Business and Law, Technology and Art, Design and Humanities. The four faculties offer 400 diverse undergraduate and postgraduate subjects, with full-time, part-time and distance learning options offering much flexibility. The university's pioneering research is driven by over 1,000 research students and supported by 500 staff.

www.dmu.ac.uk



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www.fgoe.org