

AGID Project Kick-off meeting

A European approach on Aging and Intellectual disability



Kick off Meeting in Luxembourg 30th and 31st of January 2012

Facts, findings and challenges

People with intellectual disabilities like today's society as a whole are living longer. This has made crucial to integrate the new demographic challenges into the facilities that medical and social services provide.

European and Member States' public policies have been incentivized to promote projects which look for a panoramic innovative framework to meet the needs of these newly emerged types of users (less congenital disability & more psychological trauma). The lack of public services able to meet the needs of people with intellectual

disabilities with growing loss of autonomy, has outlined the need of creativity and interlinked solutions going beyond the existing services and structures.

A common concern for European frontline staff

When we speak about Aging and Disability, we are not only talking about getting old; as aging is a very complex phenomenon, there are so many different ways to get old, and so many ways to get old with a disability.

The AGID project gathers seven European partners to research on this issue within the Life Long Learning Program. Targeting frontline support and care staff in social services, this project will provide the opportunity to increase their knowledge and competence in old age related challenges (physical, mental) and in supporting older people with intellectual disabilities.

AGID Project partners :

- Fondation **A.P.E.M.H.** (Association des Parents d'Enfants Mentalement Handicapés); Luxembourg.
- **North Umbria University** Newcastle; United Kingdom
- **University of Vienna** (clinical psychology department); Austria.
- **A.R.F.I.E.** (Association for Research and Training on Integration in Europe).
- **C.A.D.I.A.I.** (Cooperativa Assistenza Domiciliare Infermi Anziani Infanzia); Italy.
- **Les Genêts d'Or** (Association intellectual disability in Brittany); France.
- **Zonnelied asbl** (NGO – intellectual disability and dual diagnosis); Belgium

The uniqueness of this project addresses significant societal issues concerning quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities within different cultural and social frameworks as also aims to design an inclusive training content targeting: users, their families, frontline support workers as healthcare professionals: social workers, psychologists, nurses, doctors, teachers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists.

An innovative and ambitious Project

On a more concrete level, the project will be constructed around e-learning modules available on a website by multilingual access.

The Belgium partner **Zonnelied** organized a training meeting on Appreciative Inquiry to instruct partners' frontline staff responsible for collecting data and questionnaires within the focus groups.

University of Vienna instead is responsible for elaborating and developing the training modules, while the **University of Northumbria** will be the responsible for the delivery of those training contents within the e-learning platform open to the public. A regularly updated website will monitor the progress of the AGID project.

CADIAI will conduct the evaluation of the online training modules, while **ARFIE** and **Genets d'Or** will be the main leaders in the dissemination of the projects' outcomes. **A.P.E.M.H.** the promoter of the project will be responsible for the management of the AGID project.

For further information, please contact the project partners through arfie@arfie.info

