

« AGID project»: harmonization and validation of training modules



The Faculty of Psychology UNIVIE- Vienna (Austria) has hosted the 2nd Coordination meeting on 17th and 18th of December 2012.

A crucial phase within the creation of the Curriculum proposal

The AGID project consortium, that aims to build training modules for professionals supporting aging people with intellectual disabilities, has met for the third time in Vienna last December 2012. Funded by the Executive Agency of the European Commission under the framework of the Leonardo Da Vinci programme, the project aims to build a training program concerning aging and Intellectual disability through e-training platform. Being co-developed within a multinational consortium comprised of motivated partners, the goal is to try to better meet the specific and evolving needs of this "new" population, aging people with intellectual disabilities..

First coordination meeting focusing on the creation and further development of the modules

Following the collection of data- the outcomes of the focus groups in early 2012, the topics and the content of the training has been defined.

The methodological approach, the so called Appreciative Inquiry, used for the conduction of the focus groups in each country last spring, included users, their families, the support staff and health care professionals working with persons with ID, and helped to collect all concerns about aging issue and users' future in each country. A meeting in the United Kingdom, last June, helped to classify in major themes the

enormous amount of information at our disposal. Six draft modules respectively assigned to six partners have been appointed. In December 2012, in Vienna, the works of various partners have been put in common for the first time, through a shared approach of the written materials at their disposal. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a joint harmonization of each module and prepare further developments of the module creation and its testing.

The steps of the work

The frame of the training program and its development during the last meeting has been decided, the work on the coherence of the form instead, leading to global harmony in the creation of the various modules, shall be the following step.

Standardization of the presentations

The Montfort University in Leicester in the UK, leader of creating the e- learning platform, had settled a uniform framework for a teaching support staff throughout e- training .platform.

The modules with an average of 80 slides each, will tackle the following topics:

- General overview of the aging process and pathological aging of people with ID,
- The development and importance of the project life- person centered planning
- Emotional regulation for professional working with people with ID
- Communication and social networks
- The design and the overall management of support and "take care".

Implementation of the Delphi process

Delphi process aims to generate consensus necessary for the legitimization of certain future decisions to be taken in this project. It draws the expert consultation (person with a good knowledge and sufficient legitimacy to give notice and / guidance on a particular topic). The method will highlight convergences on guidance to the project in terms of all modules provided to them. The experts will therefore shed light on areas of uncertainty identified within the topics treated within the modules and represent the least step of the module creation.

Testing in the field

Between February and March, after obtaining the feedback by the Delphi experts a face to face testing with professionals directly concerned by the content on the subject, will be conducted in each country. These sequences based on two modules (partners are working in pairs, each partner testes its own module and a module from another partner) will be used to verify the adequacy of the content of the training and if they match the needs of the users and the professionals.

All the feedback by the Delphi experts and the face to face testing will then been integrated within the modules as last step of the creation of the training program

The objectives for 2013

This regulatory work will be validated during the next meeting in Bologna resulting in a smooth remodeling of the modules, while the final outcomes of the entire project will be reviewed in autumn in Brest.

The final dissemination conference will take place in February 2014 in Vienna.



Dr. Roger Banks, a psychiatrist in the UK, is AGID special adviser holds within the working group: its analysis supply a constant consistency in the development of the project.

To have more information on the project, please contact agid@agid-project.eu or visit our website <http://www.agid-project.eu/>

The Consortium is composed by:

- Fondation A.P.E.M.H (Association des Parents d'Enfants Mentalement Handicapés) ; Luxembourg.
- De Montfort University in Leicester UK
- University of Vienna (Faculty of Psychology); Austria.
- A.R.F.I.E (Association de Recherche et de Formation sur l'Insertion en Europe) ; Bruxelles.
- C.A.D.I.A.I (Cooperativa Assistenza Domiciliare Infermi Anziani Infanzia) ; Bologna, Italy.
- Les Genêts d'Or (Association du secteur Médico-Social en Bretagne) ; France.
- Zonnelied (Association Médico-Sociale Sans But Lucratif) Belgium