

Participants:

Austria – KOMIT, Germany – Phoenix, United Kingdom – Paces

C. Priorities

ADULT EDUCATION: Designing and implementing effective provision for enhancing the basic skills and key competences

Prior aim of Conductive Education is to lead persons with a disability (mainly cerebral palsy) to an as far as possible independent respectively self – determined way of life.

E. Description of the Project

What is the rationale of this project, in terms of objectives pursued and needs and target groups to be addressed? Why should this project be carried out transnationally?

Originally, Conductive Education has been developed for children with cerebral palsy. The aim was to prepare them for integration into mainstream school system with the help of support in special kindergarten- and schoolgroups

Beside that, there could be recognized the suitability of the system for adults with other cerebral movement disorders (e. g. Morbus Parkinson, condition after stroke etc.). This target group has been (and is in many places) cared for in altered setting (weekly group sessions, individual sessions, block courses etc.).

In the meantime, the circle of potential beneficiaries has been extended – there are kindergarten- and schoolgroups for children with complex impairment (mainly cerebral palsy). Elements of Conductive Education have also proved to be well applicable in education of children with sensory needs and autism spectrum disorder.

As children with more severe disabilities are now being promoted in schools following the principles of Conductive Education, the number of those who cannot be included in mainstream schools without problems rises.

Though, following the idea of inclusion, those students – regardless of their impairment and assisted by additional staff – should attend classes in mainstream

schools, many parents (and also pedagogues) think that the needs of those students can be met in a better way with aimed support in specific groups.

Mainly for persons leaving these school groups, in the past ten years the need for following settings has become apparent. So day structuring facilities based on the principles of Conductive Education have been established. There are also some places where sheltered living with Conductive Education is offered.

However, there is quite an uncertainty how Conductive Education can be adapted to meet the demands of adult participants. Although not a priori inherent in the system, application is sometimes characterized by authoritarian bearing of the educators. Independence and self-determination, the main aims of Conductive Education, are in danger of fading from the spotlight, measures for motivation get into dangerous proximity to pressure.

Important practises which are very motivating for children, e. g. using songs as a support in motoric training, seem to be less apt for adults.

Also, the expectancy of success and consequently the determining of goals and documentation may be different for adults than for children.

Concerning these topics which surely are on the minds of all responsible persons in institutions offering Conductive Education für adults with CP, there has so far not been any exchange of opinion and good practice.

Within this project, contacts among those institutions which have so far felt as „lone fighters“ and „pioneers“ are to be established. Similarities and differences in approaches as well as arising issues will be watched and discussed on-site. Guidelines for practice of Conductive Education with adults with CP in the field of day structure and sheltered living shall be set up.

In what way is the project innovative and/or complementary to other projects already carried out?

So far, there have not been any contacts among the attending organizations concerning this specific topic. Also, there could not be found any relevant literature. This fact suggests the assumption that this project might be one of the first approaches towards the topic.

In the past years it has already become evident that European Projects („Think outside the box“, „Communicate & participate“, „EVIBACE“) can give important impulses, motivation as well as strengthening and affirmation to the partner organizations especially in this widely scattered conductive community.

How did you choose the project partners and what experiences and competences will they bring to the project? How was the partnership established and does it involve organisations that have never previously been involved in a similar project? How will the tasks and responsibilities be distributed among the partners?

Criterion for being partner is to be an institution providing or planning to provide in near future conductive groups as described before.

Some of the partners have already been involved in similar projects (networking of institutions providing Conductive Education) – but with different focus. For this project, there has been specific search for Institutions offering or planning to offer Conductive Education for adults with CP in the field of day structure and sheltered living.

Task for all partners will be: Planning and organizing meetings at the own location (schedule, suggestions for accommodation etc., written record), giving the possibility for observations; between the meetings summaries of previously agreed aspects of „good practice“ in the own field of work, checking of possible practice developed in discussions regarding suitability for use etc.

The coordinator will set up a concept for the whole project and is responsible for complying with formalities including the realization of products.

How will cooperation and communication happen among all project partners and with other relevant stakeholders? What will be the purpose and frequency of the transnational project meetings and who will participate in them?

Communication between the meetings will work with the help of email and the platform „epale“; each partner institution will host at least one meeting where in addition to the main members of the project team further persons (staff, clients...) from the hosting institution should be invited to take part.

Meetings planned:

29.-31.10.2017 Erasmus+, Sheffield, UK, PACES

22.-24.03.2018 Erasmus+, Munich, Germany, Phoenix

13.-15.06.2018 Erasmus+, Wien, Austria, KOMIT

27.-29.09.2018 Erasmus+, Munich or Nuremberg, Germany with final conference