



(Erasmus+, Strategic Partnership for Adult education)

TEd2 PROJECT – REPORT ON COURSE PILOTING

Country: Portugal

ORGANISATION	EPRALIMA - Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, CIPRL
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TARGET GROUP/ CONTEXT	<p>In Portugal the course was constituted by 10 elements interested in acquiring skills as dog manipulators in assisted animal interventions (AAI). Considering the objectives of project Te.D2, the course was aimed at unemployed people who met some or all of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Have at least the 3rd cycle of schooling;- Initial studies or professional qualification in the areas of health and / or social work and orientation;- Previous experience in working or dealing with animals;- Motivation and interest in the AAI field;- Ease of dealing with animals, especially dogs;- Demonstration of respect for differences and empathy with children, the elderly and people with physical and mental disabilities. 



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Like Portugal, the Italian partner directed the course for people interested in acquiring skills as dog handlers within Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI). They also recruited 10 unemployed people.

In Lithuania the course was addressed to people interested in implementing a training path to learn the skills of a PET TRAINER in the Assisted Animal Interventions (AAI), training pairs of dogs-trainers having the necessary theoretical and practical tools to operate within the teams that deal with AAI:

- Long term unemployed people;
- Students finished the studies and can't find a job;
- People who wants to change their job;
- People who are interested in AAI;
- People registered in Lithuanian Labour Exchange.

In Romania, People from the target group can be part of the following categories of beneficiaries:

1. Long-term registered unemployed; whether it is young unemployed - 16 - 24 years or an adult unemployed - 25-64 years;
2. Person looking for a job;
3. Inactive person;
4. Long-term unregistered unemployed; whether it is young unemployed - 16 - 24 years or an adult unemployed - 25-64 years;

The documents required for the target group:

- Sworn statement of belonging to the target group - according to Annex;
- certificate from public employment or unemployed copy book;
- Certificate / Certificate Extras REVISAL or ITM and tax bodies that have no taxable income.

Minimum conditions of access to the program relative to the degree:

- High school baccalaureate diploma;

Medical opinion in order to exercise the activity:

- Apt / clinically healthy.

In Spain, The target group is basically unemployed people who complains the legal



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	<p>requirements.</p> <p>Access requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to be registered at the National/Local Work Agency as an unemployed. This Agency depends on a Government. In the case of foreigners, they must prove a Spanish tax number and their studies must be homologated by the State - secondary level of education (minimum level of education) - people looking for a job being the same if they are receiving benefits from the Government or not. - long-term unregistered unemployed (more than 2 years) - the people who have more than 45 years old, they have priority. - The age it's not mandatory. <p>In Malta, Asylum Seekers, Refugees and those qualifying for international protection living in the open community;</p> <p>Women over 40</p> <p>Disadvantaged groups including children and youths</p>
<p>CONTENT/ /LEARNING</p>	<p>It was intended to build a pilot project for dog handlers in animal assisted interventions aimed at unemployed people with the goal of providing the necessary tool to try to re-enter the labor market. Although the specific course of the dog handler sector is sector-specific, many skills have also been given for successful inclusion in a specific area of work and, more generally, in the labor market.</p> <p>Upon conclusion of the course, participants will have an understanding of Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI).</p> <p>Participants will learn how to work as a team (a psychologist, dog trainer and veterinarians) and work together to deliver therapeutic sessions that help people with different health and social care develop, progress, improve and recover. For example: dementia, autism, premature babies, mental health and physical</p>



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OUTCOMES	<p>disabilities.</p> <p>Participants received first aid in case of disaster, recognition of dog stress, training and selection of dogs and preparation, treatment of canine therapy.</p> <p>Peculiarities of working with different groups of clients.</p> <p>Obtain theoretical and practical learning with the dog to learn the educational and relational model.</p> <p>Participants were able to verify their knowledge during the practice and, at the end of the course, completed the tests.</p>
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS	<p>For the course, five important aspects were considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learning outcomes: according to curriculum and abstract2. Training materials: to be provided by the trainer to the participants on paper, as well as in electronic format;3. Coaches and specialists: It has been agreed that a professional psychologist, educator and dog trainer will facilitate training and take on different roles as needed during the training;4. Training methods: it was agreed that formal and non-formal methods should be used because the course includes the acquisition of theoretical and practical skills through different modalities:5. Theoretical classes in progress to deepen the theoretical part and practical training with the dog to learn the educational and relational model / simulation of the AAI configuration <p>Logistics: formal part of the training occurred in a classroom, while practice in the context of work occurred in different entities (schools, nursing homes, professional centers or other institutions). The participants were previously informed, where the training would be conducted, as well as the target audience they would meet to carry out the activities.</p> <p>Execution of the course in the different partners:</p> <p>Portugal - 100 hours divided into 17 days (4 units) – the course was structured in</p>



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17 days, of which 11 were preparatory classes in the classroom and 6 were intended for practical training in a work context, with a total of 100 hours.

The course aimed to provide the trainees with technical and practical skills through innovative learning methods: theoretical classes to approach skills, practical classes using the dog in order to promote the relationship between both and the intended intervention, visualization of concrete examples / experiences of other entities / professionals.

In Romania, 96 hours, divided in 12 days; In the ARGO curriculum adaptation process, developed by the Italian partners within the project, the two experts involved took into account a range of information, namely:

- National situation in Romania, about animal assisted therapy (TAA) animal assisted activities (AAA);
- Main national trends;
- Best practices Identified, in Romania;
- Views of stakeholders, gathered in the research carried out in the project;
- Specialists in classic therapy - psychological;
- Specialists in adult training;

Italy - 112 hours divided in 14 days - as required in the National Guidelines for AAI approved on 03/25/2015, was structured into 14 total days, 3 of which are preparatory and 11 basic lessons for a total of 112 hours of theoretical-practical training.

The course aims to equalize theoretical and practical skills through innovative learning methods: frontal classes for theoretical questions, training based on experience with a dog to learn the teaching-relational model; video modeling to learn the appropriate ways of approach in the AAI context.

Some guidance and support modules have also been implemented to provide training in general skills in relation to the labor market and to improve the employability of human resources.

In Spain, 120 days of training, divided in 15 days, practical activities included; the



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	<p>adaptation of the Argo course was carried out by considering variables such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- literature about national and local policies regarding AAI and TAA- our research and interviews with the professionals in the TAA field to understand the needs in this field.- collaboration with the local and national NGO's specialized in AAI / TAA- best practices identified and also related in our national report <p>The adaptation process has respected the ECVET technical specifications.</p>
<p>RESOURCES NEEDED</p>	<p>Human Resources needed for the piloting process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Te.D2 Team;- Course Coordinator;- Psychologist;- Professional Educator;- Veterinarian;- AAI expert / Dog Trainer. <p>Technical and Pedagogical Resources, Materials and other Resources needed for the piloting process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dogs suitable for AAI training (health and behavioral requirements);- Training manual;- DVD concerning descriptive case studies and video case studies;- Video modelling to learn the operational techniques / styles within the Dogs Assisted Interventions setting;- Intervention plan examples for case studies;- Training room equipped with all materials and technical-pedagogical resources;- Outside space suitable for practical sessions and training with dogs;- Clickers, prize bags for dogs, several objects used to train dogs (balls, arches, toys...); <p>Objects used in the daily routine of various target groups, in accordance to the case studies presented during the training programme (target groups: children, elderly, people with reduced mobility, people with various types of physical, motor</p>



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	or mental disabilities).
CHANGES IMPLEMENTED AND REASONS	<p>Initially, in Portugal was predicted, as conditions for the candidates selection two requirements: compulsory secondary schooling and verification of the unemployment situation. Candidates who came through personal and / or institutional contact, unfortunately didn't meet all the conditions previously stated. From the 10 graduates, 2 were possessed the 3rd cycle of schooling, 6 of secondary education and 2 with higher education.</p> <p>This was the only criteria that was not fully guaranteed, but all the other criteria were verified: unemployment, study area or professional experience associated with the Social Work and Orientation and / or Health aspects.</p> <p>Originally, the plan of Malta, was to have 10 units (8 units covering the didactic part and 2 covering the placement). In order to meet the needs and the demands of the participants, the course structure was re-arranged in that the didactic part takes place over a period of 5 days, spread of 8 hours per day to cover 5 intensive units totaling 40 hours. The practical placement is made up of 40 hours to be carried out with a maximum period of 30 days.</p> <p>Training is one of the institutional activities of the Pet Therapy Centre (Italy) but for this course was added new and specific topics regarding labour market:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Knowledge of professional competences and profiles: expectations and motivations;- Communicate with others in a working context: team work;- Methods and tools for active job searching, labour law, cv writing, professional presentation letter, job interview;- AAI Management ;- Production sector evidence. <p>They chose to add these specific topics because either employed or unemployed people need to have updated info regarding the different aspects and contexts of labour market and marketing strategies.</p>



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	<p>The experience and backgrounds exchange between the two kinds of participants helped in increasing personal motivation, which is a crucial characteristic for those who wants to work in AAI.</p> <p>In Lithuania the training was conducted in accordance with the adapted program. No changes were made.</p>
PROBLEMS DURING THE EXECUTION OF THE COURSE	<p>No problems were encountered during the course, as it was as planned and planned. However, of the 10 participants only 8 achieved final certification. One of them was unable to finish the course due to personal problems and another, despite attending the course to the end, did not obtain certification because he could not demonstrate the acquisition of skills that was necessary.</p>
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT	<p>Following the evaluation carried out to the group of trainers and the group of trainees, we observed that in the field of suggestions, the need to have other courses of this kind, but with a longer period, has been identified, in order to consolidate and deepen practice the interaction with dogs for the exercise of assisted interventions.</p>

This report was made according to information from the following partners:

- ✓ EPRALIMA - Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, CIPRL (Portugal);
- ✓ Asociatia Vasiliada (Romania);
- ✓ ULSS 4 Alto Vicentino – Local Health Unit ULSS 4 Alto Vicentino and Associazione N.E.T. Networking Education & Training (Italy);
- ✓ The Geminarie Group (Malta);
- ✓ Viesoji Istaiga "Svietimo, Tyrimu ir Konsultaciju Centras" (Lithuania);
- ✓ Asociación social Asocrom (Spain).