

Activism Against Ableism <hello@connectus.eu>

Di 15.08.2023 11:55

Gelöschte Elemente

An: Maximilian Noak <m.noak@iserundschmidt.de>;



Dear M ,

this is the first newsletter for our project "AAA - Activism against Ableism". We are very proud to present you our first results and what we could achieve so far. Of course, we will also introduce you to the project to better explain what is our goal in this Erasmus+ project. We hope you will continue to stay tuned to our newsletter! The next one will follow soon and will tell you more about our collaboration with differently-abled young people from Europe, with whom we have created a methodology.

Also follow our social media channels, linked here as well as on our website. For questions, please write us an e-mail or contact us via social media!

Lutz Peschke (coordinator)

Noemi Kolloch, Janina Scholz for the AAA consortium



Kick-off meeting in Valencia

AAA started with a kick-off meeting in the beautiful city of Valencia in Spain. Here, all project partners met in a hybrid meeting to talk about the project, its first steps and the distribution of tasks.

Such international meetings are always a forge for creative exchange and input. The next international meeting of the project partners will take place in October in Porto, Portugal.

Building a European network

During AAA, each partner had to build a national network of organisations, associations, NGOs, cities, institutions and politicians to support the project. We were able to acquire a total of 95 contacts for our European network, consisting of the national networks from Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Germany.



Welcome Events in Europe

In addition to our national network building, each project partner organised a welcome event with their national network in their respective country. Here, every supporter and interested person could learn more about AAA and how the project will help to strengthen the political participation of young people in Europe. The Welcome Events were a first good opportunity to bring the aim of AAA to more people. We were able to reach 138 people with the help of these events.



What is AAA all about?

The project "AAA - Activism Against Ableism", stands for "Activism against Ableism - Promoting political participation and activism of young citizens with different disabilities" and is founded by the European Union in the Erasmus+ programme. AAA started in September 2022 and will be accompanied by different European organisations, NGOs, companies and municipalities until 2024.

The aim of the project is to develop transnational cooperation regarding to young people with disabilities. New resources are to be developed that will help these young people, for example, to take part in civic participation or even to set one up themselves. Overall, a new network of stakeholders, organisations and political decision-makers is to be created at European level, which will help young people with disabilities to assert their interests, especially in politics.

In addition to the young people, employees of the respective project partners and partner organisations should also benefit from the project results by incorporating them into their practice and receiving appropriate training. This should raise the awareness of employers for the rights of persons with disabilities and enable equal participation and integration of persons with disabilities in the labour market. All developed resources within the project

will be made available in seven languages and will be freely accessible for five years after the end of the project.

[Visit our website!](#)



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AAA – Activism Against Ableism

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Mi 06.09.2023 12:10

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Dear M ,

in our second newsletter, we share with you how we created our methodology to strengthen the political activism of people with disabilities. All the input came from an international group of young activists with disabilities. The entire process was very inspiring and informative - for project partners as well as for participants of the international work group. To that end, we also give you an overview of what is in store for AAA in the coming months and how these tasks will be divided. Spoiler: It will be about the training for youth workers

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First Online IWG Meeting

The first international working group meeting - abbreviated as IWG - took place at the end of April. Each project partner brought two participants from their respective country to the first online meeting. The participants were young activists with disabilities who were willing to develop a methodology for AAA.

This methodology aims to strengthen the political participation of citizens with disabilities. Specifically, it should: Promote awareness of the link between individual



experiences of deprivation/exclusion and socio-economic circumstances arising from social and political structures that give rise to exclusion and reproduce empowerment, develop strategies for political participation in society to claim necessary structures and services, promote emancipation, collective representation and empowerment of participants.

LTTA in Cyprus

From 16.05 to 18.05 AAA met young activists with disabilities from countries like Spain, Portugal and more in Nicosia to discuss issues such as inclusive education, equal access to employment, disability and gender. The group had important discussions on how to strengthen the political participation of people with disabilities in Europe and how to raise awareness.

The discussions among them showed that we can only achieve something together to tackle major structural problems such as education politics, fair access to employment and making the public environment more accessible for people with disabilities. Each participant emerged from the meeting with more experience and a greater wealth of knowledge.



Completion of Methodolgy

The methodology was completed with an emphasis on coming to an understanding regarding the prior activities like the LTTA in Cyprus. This all will accumulate to the Handbook and In-Service Training for Youth Workers, this group assisted partners in



addressing both previously acknowledged and unidentified needs. These participants encouraged the growth of the technique that was developed to aid youth workers and equip them to use it to encourage young people's political participation.

The creation of this international working group was essential to the success of the entire project since it allowed the target audience, young people with disabilities, to design and create the project results.



What is in store for AAA now?

Now that the methodology has been completed, we can move on to the next section of AAA, working with youth workers. The first activity will be focused on the development of a handbook to systematise and further disseminate the methodology.

It will: promote awareness across Europe and beyond on the nefarious psychological and socioeconomic effects of ableism; present and reflect on the process of development of this methodology, demonstrating the importance of the active political engagement of people with disabilities; present the proposals that arose during that process in terms of strategies, activities and practices to promote the social and political participation in this context; and it will define guidelines for the replication of the methodology so that it can be used to promote the political participation of differently abled citizens by institutions across the world.

The second activity will focus on the development of the In-Service Training Activism Against Ableism for youth workers. This training aims to prepare youth workers to implement this methodology with their beneficiaries. It will be based on the experience of creating the methodology and on the handbook itself, creating innovative and appealing resources that can be used by partner/associated organisations, the institutions part of the European and national networks and all who may be interested. These materials will be made available in the project's website.

The third activity will be a LTTA in Greece next year in which this In-service training programme will be implemented with youth workers. This LTTA will be a workshop throughout three days. All materials will be afterwards translated in the specific partner languages.

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Do 15.02.2024 11:24

Gelöschte Elemente

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Dear M ,

in this newsletter you will find out everything about the last seven months at AAA and what has been going on. Over the last months we have focussed on working with youth workers and providing resources for them. These resources were created with our AAA community and summarised by us in a practical handbook and in-service training. The consortium also had a hybrid meeting last year in beautiful Porto, Portugal. It was a great opportunity for the team to get together again and discuss the project further.

In the coming months, we will now focus on our final work with the youth workers, followed by the publication of the AAA results in the form of a joint policy paper, events at a national level in the respective project partner countries and the major AAA conference in Germany in July.

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Handbook for Youth Workers

This activity centers on the development of the "Activism Against Ableism" handbook for youth workers. The handbook aims to systematize methodology and provide recommendations for adaptation to various contexts and target groups. [Following initial drafting, pilot sessions will be conducted nationally, involving a minimum of five participants per chapter.](#)



Ultimately, the handbook will be translated into seven languages, ensuring free access for all interested in exploring and implementing its methodology. Results will include the handbook itself, value propositions, and local working group reports, marking a significant step forward in empowering youth workers to combat ableism effectively.

Meeting in Porto

The partners of the AAA project convened in October in Porto for the 2nd transnational project meeting. During the gathering, they delved into discussions surrounding the development of the value proposition for the handbook and the In-Service Training Programme, alongside the corresponding materials and resources.

Looking forward, the 2nd LTTA is scheduled for April 2024, with Connectus set to host the event in Greece. The project's overarching goal is to raise awareness about disability and ableism, supporting young European citizens with disabilities to actively participate in social and political spheres. By promoting participation and activism on disability policies and challenging ableism in various aspects of society, the project aims to combat discrimination and social prejudice against people with disabilities.



Piloting and In-Service-Training

The second phase of AAA centers on the development of the In-Service Training for youth workers, building upon the groundwork laid by the handbook. Following comprehensive review and feedback from all



partners, AAA will collectively develop resources, materials, and activities tailored to engage youth workers through innovative, learner-focused approaches. These modules will serve as a vital tool for training youth workers in effectively implementing the methodology, thereby fostering empowerment and encouraging civic, social, and political participation among their beneficiaries.

Moreover, the training program will delve into the developmental process of this methodology, equipping youth workers with valuable knowledge and skills in participatory intervention strategies. This, in turn, may inspire the creation of new projects through cooperative, participatory methods. Upon completion, implementation at the LTTA, and translation into partner languages, the training program will be accessible on the project website. This ensures widespread dissemination and future exploitation of project results, facilitating knowledge transfer and continued impact.



Policy Paper and Events

The final phase of the project focuses on Promoting “Activism Against Ableism”. This entails the development of a comprehensive policy paper summarizing the project's experiences and key conclusions regarding social, professional, and political inclusion of people with disabilities. The paper will highlight the detrimental effects of ableism, emphasize the importance of social and political participation among differently abled individuals, and outline strategies to promote their empowerment. In addition to the policy paper, this phase includes a series of promotion and dissemination activities, including multiplier events and a final conference.

These events will showcase the outcomes of AAA, including the methodologies developed before, the "Activism Against Ableism" handbook and training programs for youth workers, and the policy paper itself. Partner organizations will host multiplier events in their

respective countries, while the partner coordinator will organize the final conference in Germany. Each event will feature presentations by project staff and youth participants sharing their experiences. A keynote speaker will be invited to the final conference to provide additional insights. Results from this phase will include guidelines for the policy paper and the translation of the policy paper into seven languages.

Overall, these activities aim to not only disseminate our project outcomes but also to contribute to meaningful policy discussions and promote lasting change in combating ableism.

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