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NEWSLETTER

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BRIDGES - BROADENING POSITIVE REFLECTIONS ON THE ISSUE OF
DISABILITY, GENERATING EMPOWERMENT FOR STAKEHOLDERS
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Bridges Multiplier Event in Portugal

The European project "BRIDGES - Broadening positive Reflections on the Issue of Disability, Generating Empowerment for Stakeholders", held several meetings between the 10th and 12th of November 2021, online format. On the 10th, between 14.30 - 16.30, the first "multiplier event" of the project took place, with the presence of four national institutions and professionals from support services and their administrations.

Over two years, the BRIDGES project has developed a platform that simultaneously integrates a training tool for family members and stakeholders with connections to people with specialized educational and professional needs, including the connection to information and support services in companies and to their families, in order to promote the personal development, professional and social success of these individuals as well as providing access and training to their families and caregivers.

On the 11th, between 14.30 - 16.30, the second "multiplier event" of the project took place, attended by four national institutions and professionals from support services and their official representatives. The platform was presented taking into account the potentialities, tools and contents of the modules available in it. There was the possibility to analyze and explore some details of the platform, such as the accessibility tools, the listening and visualization tools.

On the 12th, between 14.30 - 16.30, the third "multiplier event" of the project took place, with the presence of three national institutions and professionals from the support services and their directorates. The platform with all its resources and potentialities was also presented. In this way, the invited institutions made an overall assessment of the form of the integrated contents and translations.

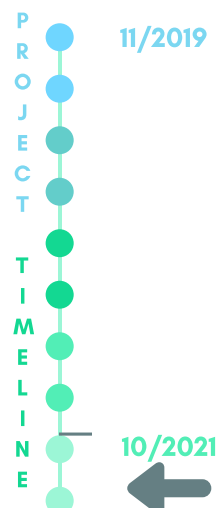
The project overall and the usefulness of the platform in specific were congratulated, as well as its assessment tools and feedback games that can be used by trainers and caregivers in general.

UPDATES:

Bridges Multiplier Event in Portugal

Bridges - Summary of a Capacity Building and Training Project in the field of disability

Bridges Final Conference



Bridges - Summary of a Capacity Building and Training Project in the field of disability

ATLÂNTICA - INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO (PT)

The BRIDGES project "Broadening positive Reflections on the Issue of Disability, Generating Empowerment for Stakeholders", underway since 2019, has already created and developed several innovative products within the scope of capacity building and training in the area of disability, mainly aimed at training mentors who accompany people with disabilities and seek their professional insertion and social integration.

This project, coordinated by Atlântica - University Institute, was developed through a network in which seven institutions from seven European Union countries participated (ATLÂNTICA - Portugal; XPCSA - Greece; CSI - Cyprus; InEuropa - Italy; CAMINOS - Spain; MEATH - Ireland; and Akademie Klausenhof - Germany).

In order to carry out this project, people with disabilities, other stakeholders, training providers, key players in the labor market, professionals in related fields, representatives of public bodies, as well as people from society in general were heard in the countries of the seven BRIDGES partners.

In addition to in-depth knowledge about disability issues, the project has developed the contents of a course for mentors of people with disabilities, which will be available online, free of charge, in the six project languages: Portuguese, English, German, Spanish, Italian and Greek. The course is composed of 7 modules, each of which presents updated knowledge on the module's topic, examples, case studies, exercises and illustrative videos, a glossary of technical terms, and bibliographic guidance. Anyone can access this course in its entirety or only in the modules of personal interest.

The project has also developed a digital platform, also free of charge, where the course can be followed in any of the indicated languages. It is an innovative platform that has included several tools that can be used by people with different functional abilities, since it allows them to print pdf texts, listen to the texts or increase the font size.

In addition to these functionalities, it is also possible to find a methodological guide about the course, with guidelines on pedagogical aspects and the practical use of the course.

The course has already been tested with several audiences and has proven to users not only interesting, but also very useful, in an area where these materials do not exist on a large scale.

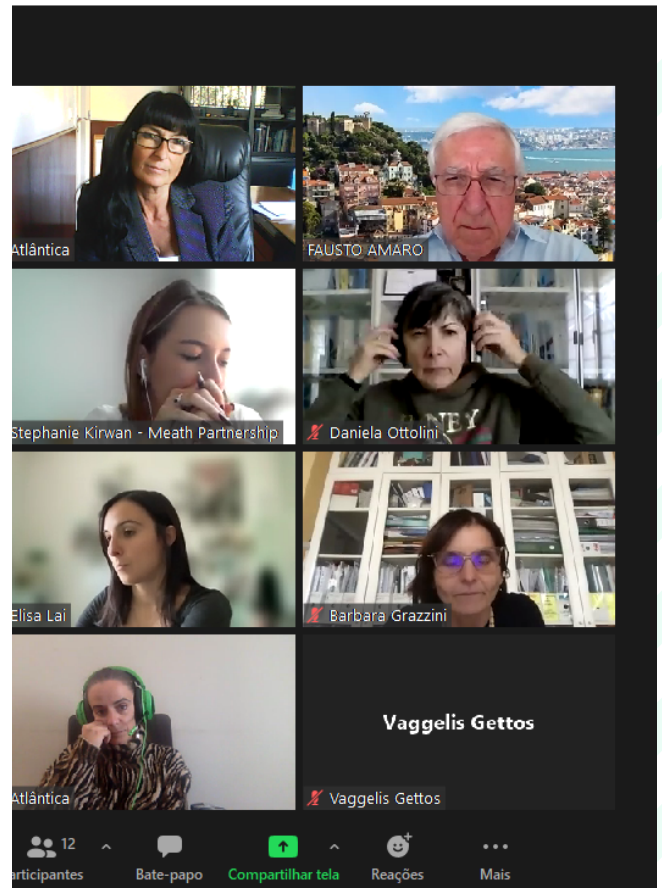
In addition to the above, the project gave rise to two articles awaiting publication in English and Portuguese, and eventually in other languages.



Bridges Final Conference

ATLÂNTICA - INSTITUTO UNIVERSITÁRIO (PT)

The Final Conference of the Project BRIDGES - Broadening Positive Reflections on the Issue of Disability, Generating Empowerment for Stakeholders, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, took place on 19 November 2021, at 9am, in online format. The event received the registration and attendance of about 50 people interested in the subject. The objective of this Conference was to debate the importance of digital innovation in the areas related to empowerment, education and training in the area of Disability as a strategic element for the improvement of equal opportunities and greater socio-professional integration. The contributions were very interesting, namely the sharing of information of what is being done at national level, as well as the dissemination of Bridges. In the scope of the external guests' interventions, the Conference started with Dr. Catarina Marcelino, Vice President of the Social Security Institute, I.P., who spoke about "Policies, Good Practices and Tools for Integration of People with Disabilities in Portugal". Among other projects of the entity she represents, Catarina spoke about the number of people benefiting in Portugal from MAVI - Support Model for Independent Living. According to her, the pilot project, financed with European funds, has been in the field for about two years and allows people with disabilities to have the support of a personal assistant to do the tasks they cannot do alone. It is a pioneer programme in Portugal that creates conditions for people with disabilities to decide and make choices about their own lives. In this sense, she congratulated the partners of the Bridges project for their contribution to this very important area, at national and international level. Dr^a Marta Ferraz, from ARIA - Associação de Reabilitação e Integração Ajuda, shared her experience with the use of the platform developed in the scope of this Project and how she tested it with ARIA's trainees, with great success. The Conference had the participation and intervention of European partners, namely Ineuropa, from Italy who told us



about the priorities of the Bridges Project; the Meath Community, from Ireland, who informed us about the training modules and contents; Caminos, from Spain, who told us about good practices;

Greece, with the partner Xenios Polis, who explained us the results obtained and the added value of the Bridges Project; Germany, with the Akademie Klausenhof, who told us about the dissemination of the project and the post-project. Professor Carla Silva, from Atlântica, presented a video explaining the new technological challenges and the creation and development of the Bridges Platform.

The conference ended with the valuable intervention of Dr. Emanuel Boieiro - Coordinator at UGT for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities, who spoke about the "Difficulties and constraints for the integration of people with disabilities in the labour market".



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