
PowerUP! Project Press Release 1



PowerUP! Project Advances Educational and Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Youth with Special Educational Needs Across Europe - Press Release 1

The Power Up Project, funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ framework, is forging paths in educational innovation for youth with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Collaborative efforts by a consortium comprising the Centre for Creative and Social Practices (CCSP), TATICS GROUP, Enoros Consulting Ltd, VAEV R&D, and the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (IED) have been instrumental in shaping robust educational modules aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among youth with SEN.

Significant strides have been made through a series of focus group events and a comprehensive questionnaire prepared as part of the needs analysis and research for the project. The questionnaire, distributed across partner countries, was designed to capture the unique insights of professionals working with youth affected by dyslexia, high-functioning autism, and other special needs. The insights gathered are crucial for tailoring effective teaching modules for both educators and the youth they support.

Focus groups

Italy: On May 16, 2024, a session led by Roberto Quatraccioni, Barbara Di Pietro, and psychologist Tania Bazzurri included discussions on adaptable training programs and best practices within Italian educational frameworks for SEN integration.

Greece: Coordinated by Andreas Almpanis on April 23, 2024, this group identified societal stigmas as significant barriers, advocating for practical, story-driven educational methods enhanced by real-life imagery.

Cyprus: An online focus group on June 12, managed by Enoros Consulting, brought to light the crucial need for social skills training among youth with SEN, reinforcing the significance of the tailored questionnaire in understanding educational necessities.

Findings

Key feedback from the questionnaire underscores a critical demand for social skills training, development of vocational and life skills, and improved access to educational technology. Professionals stressed the importance of practical training materials and advocated for the incorporation of video tutorials and interactive activities to enrich educational delivery.

Participants expressed enthusiasm for the project's innovative approaches, such as the incorporation of photo-stories in training modules, and suggested that these materials be presented at scientific conferences to enhance their impact. These collaborative insights are instrumental in developing educational modules that aim to integrate SEN individuals fully into societal and professional environments, thereby augmenting their contributions.



Challenges encountered during discussions, such as managing dominant voices and aligning expectations, were addressed effectively, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach to module development and implementation.



The PowerUP! Project remains dedicated to leveraging these insights to refine and expand educational materials that are not only effective but also broadly accepted across educational landscapes. This initiative promises significant enhancements in the educational and professional opportunities available to individuals with SEN throughout Europe.

Next Steps

Focus groups will take place in all partner countries and the findings will be consolidated in a report and implemented in the topics and formulation of the 6 educational modules that will be created as the next step of the project.

Stay tuned!



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