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## PowerUP! Project Press Release 2

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## PowerUP! Project Advances Educational and Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Youth with Special Educational Needs Across Europe

### Press Release 2

The Power Up Project, funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ framework, continues to break new ground in entrepreneurship education for youth with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Led by a consortium of expert organizations—Centre for Creative and Social Practices (CCSP), TATICS GROUP, Enoros Consulting Ltd, VAEV R&D, and the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (iED)—the project addresses gaps in educational resources while fostering inclusion, skill development, and empowerment for young people with SEN.

Key findings from the project's Needs Identification and Module Design (A2) reveal a significant lack of tailored training programs for young people with SEN, particularly those with functional autism and dyslexia. This gap extends to reskilling opportunities for educators and professionals in inclusive education. Experts participating in focus groups and completing surveys identified four main challenges: the need for specialized approaches to address communication and behavioral difficulties, the differing needs of individuals with autism versus dyslexia, difficulties in using technology effectively while maintaining engagement, and the importance of linking training programs to real-world job opportunities.



To address these challenges, the project proposes innovative solutions, including the development of photo stories—visual, real-life scenarios accompanied by voiceovers in easy language—to enhance comprehension and engagement. Interactive learning tools, such as non-judgmental quizzes, games, and hands-on activities, are also being designed to foster confidence and collaboration. The modules will incorporate case studies of inclusive enterprises, involve guest entrepreneurs in discussions, and emphasize real-world applicability. Small-group sessions led by trained professionals will ensure tailored support, peer learning, and a focus on inclusive environments.

The project has already achieved several milestones. The Small-Scale Data Review and Analysis Report (A1) provided a comparative analysis of SEN inclusion and entrepreneurship education across consortium countries, forming the foundation for module development. Insights from the A2 activities, gathered through collaborative focus groups and surveys with 52 key stakeholders—including SEN educators and psychologists—have shaped the design of six microlearning modules. Additionally, the Power Up website, accessible in all partner languages, has been launched, and the project has been actively promoted through events such as Erasmus Days, the Up to Youth Festival in Cyprus and Info Days taking place in all partner countries.

Moving forward, the Power Up Project will deliver six interactive microlearning modules tailored to empower youth with SEN in entrepreneurship. These modules will be hosted on an inclusive digital platform, featuring engaging resources such as photo stories, interactive quizzes, and real-world scenarios. Educators and trainers will also receive comprehensive guides and toolkits to bridge gaps in SEN-focused entrepreneurship education and promote inclusion and skill-building.

By addressing barriers to entrepreneurship education and fostering inclusive practices, the Power Up Project creates meaningful opportunities for young people with SEN. Through innovative resources, collaborative efforts, and evidence-based strategies, the project seeks to empower individuals and promote societal change.



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