



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter

### AuTrain and COVID-19

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic placed a tremendous strain on the project team and influenced our work. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread and persist public bodies relating to administration, education, health and social services were unavailable or sometimes even closed for a long time.

The above-mentioned situation had a massive impact on our project, specially related to delays in collecting data for writing the “State-of-the-Art Report” (IO1), a European study on the actual situation and needs of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and stakeholders on how to achieve autism-friendly environments.

Due to these reasons, the project team decided to adapt the structure and internal processes to keep AuTrain running. The major changes are:

- Online-conferences instead of face-to-face meetings
- Parallel working on several Intellectual Outputs instead of step by step tasks
- The next transnational meeting in February will probably be held online
- The scheduled transnational teaching and training activity will be restructured

### European Analyses - Latest Findings

European analyses base on several corner stones, one of them is online surveying (n= 250) of two target groups in several European countries (see State-of-the-Art Report). The main quantitative and qualitative findings of Intellectual Output 1 “State-of-the-Art Report” can be outlined as follows:

#### 1. People who regularly are in contact with people with ASD:

- 96% of the respondents demand more support, such as information and training sessions
- 95% of the respondents suggest individual training
- 59% of the respondents would like to have internal specialists on ASD in their organizations
- The trainings should include social behavior, communication, practice-oriented examples



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Grant Agreement Number: 2019-1-AT-KA202-051218

## 2. People with ASD:

- Personal contacts and communicative challenges are the main stressors in daily life
- Majority of respondents faces problems in daily life situations
- 90% of the respondents think that caretaker in all sectors should have more knowledge on ASD at their disposal

In the context that is described above there is a definite need for simple but effective training courses on ASD in Europe for non-professionals, as the one developed by the AuTrain project.

**There is a definite need for simple but effective training course on ASD**

## Actual Tasks

The next months will be an intensive period for the project team and we have already started working the following steps:

- Finalization of the curriculum for the training course
- Designing the training handbook
- Division of work on contents regarding teaching and training material
- Implementing the AuTrain online-platform on the project website
- Selecting an external accreditation body for the ISO-17024 certification

**Visit our website**

[www.autrain.eu](http://www.autrain.eu)



The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.