

Te.D2 NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

March 2016

About Erasmus+

Erasmus + (2014-2020) is the new 16 billion euro catch-all framework program for education, training, youth and sport. It is built on the well-known and respected EU brand of the highly successful Erasmus student exchange program.

The main objective of Erasmus plus is to improve employability of the youth by acquiring supplementary competences appreciated by employers, as well as improving their language skills and flexibility.

The programme has 3 Key Actions:

- Key Action 1: Learning mobility of individuals; It is addressed to Staff (teachers, trainers, school leaders and youth workers) and students. Here we can find the old Youth in Action actions 1.1, 3.1, 2 (EVS), 4.3 (which now can be up to 2 months).
- Key Action 2: Co-operation and Innovation for Good Practices; It is addressed to Universities, international NGOs and youth workers. In this action will be included the old 1.2 action, but only the trans-national youth initiatives. The national youth initiatives will disappear. It will also be included short term and long term EVS for youth workers.
- Key Action 3: Support for Policy Reform; In this action will be included the old action 5 from Youth in Action. It will also be included EU presidency events and Council of Europe events.

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Erasmus+



Context:

Programme—Erasmus +;

Key Action—Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices;

Action—Strategic Partnerships;

Which field is the most impacted—Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training;

Call— 2015



Project Identification

Project Title—Te.D2 - Therapy dog handler: development of a certified training course for dog handler in the AAI according to the Ecvet procedures;

Project Acronym—Te.D2;

Project Start Date—01/09/2015

Project Total Duration (Months) — 24 months

Project End Date— august 2017

Applicant Organisation Full Legal Name—Asociatia Vasiliada

The **Te.d2 project** aims to generate a new training tool for potential therapy dog handlers. It is definitely a high quality learning opportunity since it incorporates the development of essential Skills in the domain of dog management in Animal assisted interventions (=Animal Assisted Activities and animal assisted Therapy) These skills cannot be developed in isolation. They will be developed through the essential learning areas in the domain and in different contexts across the curriculum by using an integrated and innovative approach: interactive learning and work placement.

Moreover the Te.D2 project is focused on the development of an innovative and fresh training on line curriculum to support and help vulnerable people who have difficulties. As the structure of the European population shifts and as mid-career changes become more frequent, the need for constant upgrading of skills increases and with it the relative importance of CVET. The adoption of an outcomes-based approach for vocational qualifications, as promoted by the EQF and ECVET, is key to achieving this.

Te.D2 project curriculum provides a high quality training focused on work-based learning adapted to individual who want to enter or re enter the labor market, a flexible and modularized individual learning curriculum and a work-based learning focused on the acquisition of key competences in

Project partners

- **Asociatia Vasiliada** - Romania;
- **Associazione N.E.T. Networking Education & Training** - Italy;
- **Local Health Unit ULSS 4 Alto Vicentino** - Italy;
- **Viesoji istaiga "Svietimo, tyrimu ir konsultaciju centras"** - Lithuania
- **EPRALIMA_Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, C.I.P.R.L.** - Portugal;
- **The Geminarie Group** - Malta
- **Asociacion Social Asocrom** -Spain

Vasiliada Association

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Logo of Asociatia Vasiliada

About Asociatia Vasiliada

Vasiliada Association is a nongovernmental association with Christian and social character, non-profit, without political involvement created under the patronage of Oltenia's Archbiscopric having as president of honour His Holiness Father Irineu - Archbishop of Oltenia.

The creation of the Association took place on 20'th February 2001, thru Judicial Decision no. 45 from 14th of June 2001.

Our mission is to provide social services to the people, to the families, to the social groups and to the communities found in situation of difficulty or in situations generating marginalization and social exclusion, having as a base love towards our peers.

Our goal is to support people found in difficulty and to ensure that the human fundamental rights are respected, especially of the social disadvantaged categories.

Objectives:

- To provide specialized primary social services, as well as services of social medical care according to the legal frame in this field.
- To create and maintain some support networks, at the community level for the people or the social groups which are found in situation of difficulty.
- To create and develop partnerships with the decentralized public services of the of the ministries, public organisms of central and local administration,
- To actively participate at applying social policies, strategies, and action plans both at national county and local level.
- To make studies and social researches concerning different problems and social phenomena.
- To inform the public opinion on the social problems, with the purpose of educating and raising the awareness organizing conferences, seminaries, round tables, debates a.s.o.to edit publications (magazines, brochures, hand-out's) audio-video materials in

**Associazione N.E.T.
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Logo of Associazione N.E.T.

About Associazione N.E.T.

Associazione N.E.T. is a not for profit association founded in 2001 by experts of the training and educational sector. Net addresses above all disadvantaged people like women, long term unemployed, elderly, disabled people and single parents to support them from a social, training and employment point of view. The association is very active at local and regional level by collaborating with public organisations and institutions like Regions, Municipalities, Local Health Units (ULSS), Universities, Chambers of Commerce but not only. Associazione N.E.T. is very active in the third sector to develop self sustainable and fair activities and to develop a sustainable economy through micro credit by collaborating with cooperatives and associations of the private sector that in Italy substitute the Public sector in many situations.

Associazione N.E.T. aims at contributing to the local and regional development by organising activities and developing sustainable community projects and programmes. Recently the Association is trying to go towards fair and sustainable type of activities developing innovative actions and supporting new ideas.

Associazione N.E.T. was partner in the Leonardo TOI 2012 Te.D1 (therapy dog handler) transferred to Germany, UK, and Poland. We have a long experience in working in AAI and supporting the Ulss4 Alto vicentino in their European initiative concerning animals initiatives and therapies. In this project Associazione.

NET collaborated in the development of the research and module. We were responsible for the dissemination and evaluation of the project activities.

Morover, Associazione NET has been collaborating for years at local level with the most important vocational training centres of the regions and closely with the local community and public organisations to train and long term unemployed. The relations with the system is very closed thanks to the involvement of Associazione NET members in training and teaching activities.

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About Education,
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Education, Research & Consultancy Center

Švietimo, tyrimų ir konsultacijų centras

Logo of Education, Research & Consultancy Center—ERCC Association

About Education, Research & Consultancy Center—ERCC Association,

Education, Research & Consultancy Center — ERCC Association, is located in Klaipėda, Lithuania, is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization as consortium of psychologists and higher education lecturer with the aim to provide research, consultancy and training for interested bodies: enterprises, non-governmental organizations and public institutions. Education, Research & Consultancy Center's psychologists have much experience in work with adults and youngsters.

ERCC has good relations with companies and governmental institutions, providing employment services, working in the field of labor market training as well as with different kind of technical schools, colleges in western part of Lithuania.

During last 6 years ERCC is active in the field of organizing internships for teachers and students of higher education and vocational schools. We made a good name as experts of mobility, especially in Leonardo da Vinci Mobility projects. By striving to propagate Lithuanian culture and traditions, spread information about social and economic life of our country as well as business environment and generally increase knowledge about Lithuania ERCC Provides guided tours in Western Lithuania in English, Russian and Lithuanian languages.

Numbers:

- ERCC is working almost 10 years;
- Currently 5 people are employed on employment agreement basis;
- Over 20 experts collaborate with us as freelancers;
- ERCC hosted 96 students under LdV mobility projects;
- ERCC trained over 100 trainees under various training and international programmes.

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The **Geminarie**
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Logo of Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, CIPRL—Portugal

About Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, CIPRL

Epralima Vocational Training School is a private, non-profit, cooperative organization, which focuses on Vocational Education and Training, offering II and IV level Youth and Adult Education Training Courses. The main field of Epralima's intervention is education. The School has based its development strategy on preparing youths and adults for a successful (re)integration in the labor market and in the entrepreneurial world, through the development of innovative and practical training programmes and developing mechanisms that increase the articulation between the School and the economic institutions, as well as professional and cultural associations of the social community.

Epralima has a Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre, which promotes: Vocational Guidance to Youths and Lifelong Vocational Guidance to Adults; supporting adults for the effective management of their careers and (re)construction of their life projects, encouraging for the return to education or training, facilitating the transitions between the training and the labour market, etc.

Epralima has been working on several European Projects in various subjects and has a wide network of transnational partnerships. Since 1998 that the School promotes European Mobility Programmes for Youths in IVET courses and for staff. Epralima is also a hosting organization in Erasmus+ mobility projects, receiving Youths and Adults and integrating them in the School training programmes and in internships, in articulation with the local/regional enterprises.

Epralima implemented a quality management system process and is a certified entity by the ISO 9001/2015.

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Logo of The Geminarie Group

About The Geminarie Group

The Geminarie Group is a Non-profit, Non-Governmental Voluntary Organization, founded in July 1996. The organization started its activities in July 1996 and since then, it always aimed to promote understanding and appreciation of the global community through exposure to social, political, historical, artistic, and cultural backgrounds. The organization has been set up for the promotion of opportunities, awareness building, training and research in the educational, social and cultural fields in Malta, Europe and the Mediterranean. The Geminarie Group is the National Co-ordinator of the ALF Malta Network and the Head of the Malta Circle of the Mediterranean Circle Assembly

The main aims of the organizations are:

a. To actively promoting the review, introduction and implementation of policies in Malta and Europe, whether public or private, and for the adoption of better, affordable, accessible and more

professional procedures and standards in all walks of life;

b. Promoting guidance and training assistance to people from all walks of life, including members of their families in case of negative, traumatic or other similar effects arising out of events connected to the performance of their duties;

c. Enhancing networking with similar organizations and/or institutions and/or non governmental organizations in Malta and in other European and Mediterranean countries with the aim of establishing collaborative initiatives; and

d. Creating research and training infrastructures in various areas including but not limited to the following fields: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, languages, business management and other fields of knowledge.

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**ASOCROM**

Asociația Românilor din Catalonia

*Logo of Asociacion Social - Asocrom***About Asociacion Social - Asocrom**

Asociacion Social Asocrom was established in early 1999, legally constituted (based on operating status) and registered by the Ministry of Justice of Barcelona, Department of Legal Entities in 2001. The main activity of the association is to promote and development social, cultural, economic activities in the Catalan community for people among all social categories, especially young people, with focus on promoting and developing activities of integration of Romanians in Catalan society.

Association develops activities, including youths, in three departments: Culture, Integration and Human Resources. The development of cultural activities in the arts, exhibitions, music, theater, dance, book, literature, cinema, basically represents the central area of Asocrom in the culture and education sectors.

The professional training courses for young people designed to facilitate the transition from school to work, integration in Catalan society (round table - Citizenship and Emigration-; approval of the law of welcoming foreigners in Catalonia), development of the entrepreneurship and the economy in general (public debate: "How to live together in a society so diverse"?)

The social component plays an important role in our association's activities that address to people and young people who are at risk of social marginalization. There were organized many conferences, symposiums and events for youth on topics of interest such as "Multiculturalism and Citizenship", "Immigration and regulation Policy in the EU", "Labor market Rights and Migration" seminary and discussion on "Immigration - Vision of business men and social sector".

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Logo of ULSS4—Alto Vicentino

About Local Health Health 4 "Alto Vicentino"

The Local Health Health 4 "Alto Vicentino", is a public body that provides social and health prevention, services, care and rehabilitation to the citizens of the 32 municipalities belonging to it, ensuring even emergency services and medical emergency.

In 2007 the Directorate General ULSS 4 "Alto Vicentino" has set up a Pet Therapy Center that deals with Animal Assisted intervention working closely with health and social services and in collaboration with professionals in the area.

The Professionals Unit of Pet Therapy implements projects linked to the Animal Assisted Education and therapy aimed at elderly accommodated in nursing homes and Alzheimer's groups, disabled adults, children-boys with ADHD, mild mental and medium-mild, social unrest, autistic spectrum, uncomfortable adolescent eating disorders, psychiatric disorders, born preterm, deviation Rett syndrome.

The Pet Therapy Center of Ulss4 constantly develops training/educational activities delivering courses of the 1 and second level to become dog handler and have a certificate to work in a team to carry out Animal assisted therapies or Activities.

The training courses are delivered during the year and held by experts in the sector.

The multi-professional team, formed by a group of professionals who have been working in the field of social Animal Assisted intervention (AAI) and as specialists in their profession, both as educators dog lovers and dog handlers: Ivano Scorzato vet, Michela Romano psychologist-psychotherapist and Chiara Menardi professional educator and Cristina Frigo referent for the piloting and dissemination.

The skills acquired have allowed this team to be a partner of the project Leo Toi Te.D - Therapy Dog Trainer. The goal was the sharing of educational models to increase the skills of the participants and provide new employment opportunities.



Local Health Health 4 "Alto Vicentino"



The salutogenic perspective is a key aspect of health promotion

According to the concept of salutogenesis, health and disease aren't two conditions that are mutually exclusive, but rather mark the end points of two opposite poles of one unique continuum. In Antonovsky's opinion, health is not a state of balance, but the result of a dynamic interaction to help "make sense of the world". Health must be re-created and maintained through life's challenges and daily difficulties. From this perspective, it is natural to ask how it is possible to better face and overcome difficulties, and support a movement to the direction of the "health pole". Antonovsky's response to this question is given by the research and description of the resources people use to overcome difficulties, defined as "general resistance resources", which include physical, personal, psychological, interpersonal, social, cultural and material resources. This is in short the potential that every individual has, a kind of expertise that allows us to deal with tensions and difficulties constructively.

The salutogenic perspective is a key aspect of health promotion.

What does it mean in practice? Using a metaphor, Antonovsky compares life to a river full of dangers, in which we swim; it is not about preventing the individual from swimming in the river, but exploring the river, identifying hazards and improving the ability of the swimmer in order to acquire greater confidence in dealing with the hazards.

How can pet therapy start from the perspective of salutogenesis? We can start by considering the patient from this point of view.

Watching the images and videos about pet therapy, we often encounter people with significant problems such as: autism, quadriplegia, severe cognitive delays, children with cancer, and so on. Such patients may be difficult to help, they may have already tried many rehabilitative, clinical, psycho-educational treatments where the results were not obvious.

Local Health Health 4 "Alto Vicentino"



The approach considered useful by many and the one that Pet Therapy Center is implementing, starts from the resilience of the patient, by going to look for it even though it may be very well hidden. Look at the person as an individual who can still give and have although their body may have been tortured and their soul thrown in the towel. The presence of an animal, its affective warmth, its specific way of approaching that is so different from that of humans, can reach that part of the patient that has not been explored yet, that part free of defenses that preclude him/her from opening to the world, the relationship ME-YOU.

The ICF (International Classification of Functioning) considers the relationship with animals both as a qualifier of relationships and social support and as a product for culture, recreation and sport. The Ministry of Health (Italy) recognizes and defines the role of Animal Assisted Activities and Animal Assisted Therapy.

Where can working with animals be beneficial?

Studies conducted in institutional settings showed that the presence of animals improved the relationship between residents and professionals in the institution.

Dogs are able to interact with people in a friendly way and encourage people to socialise with others.

In hospital settings, work with patients with dissociative identity disorder, found that a therapy dog calmed the patient and the dog alerted the therapist when it detected anxious patients. Also the presence of animals was associated with a substantial reduction in noise levels from patients. Studies with patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease showed a decrease in aggressive outbursts and episodes of anxiety.

In educational settings, animals attracted and held the attention of children with inattention and hyperactivity disorders, the animals directed the children's attention away from themselves and resulted in a decrease in agitation and aggression, improving the educational environment.

In special therapeutic settings, where animals live in, they may support therapeutic services such as psycho-social rehabilitation including communication, special education, physical exercises and language therapy.

What are the benefits and who can benefit?

The groups that may benefit are very varied and the diversity is increasing with time and experience. Fine (2003) presents the following areas and contexts where AAT has been used effectively: schools, centres for people with developmental disabilities, hospital programs for patients with HIV, palliative care programmes at home, centres and projects for older people, prisons and juvenile homes, victims of abuse and sexual abuse.

Cusack (2008) discusses AAT programs applied to specific groups such as older veterans, psychiatric patients, mentally ill young people, residents of a recovery unit, patients previously confined in institutions, people in hospitals, prisoners, children and young people with different disorders (emotional disorders, abuse, institutionalization) and families (normal, abusive and dysfunctional etc.).

The encounter with the animal

Pet therapy is a clinical, educational tool, which allows the "encounter". It's a very special encounter: meeting the animal encourages the encounter with the therapist and then, as the therapy process goes on, the encounter with oneself. The animal is a truly amazing emotional activator and, if the moved energies are well channeled through the presence and work with the therapist, they can become the engine of different ways of being in the world. They can help the patient to look at him/herself from another perspective, to have self-esteem, to believe in their own abilities and possibly support a better quality of life.

Meeting a donkey, a dog or a horse, is an experience that leaves an impression: their spontaneous ways of living in the world seem to create some sort of plot in which it becomes possible to "belong".

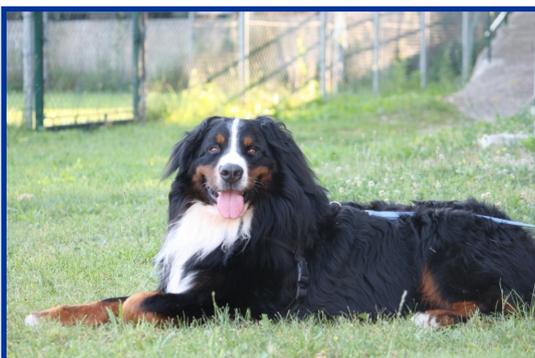
When illness undermines the confidence we have in ourselves, to the point of making us wary of our own body and considering it an obstacle to the realisation of our potential rather than enabling opportunities, here's the dog or donkey, who come and greet us, curious and affectionate and interested in that body we felt betrayed by (Reinger Cantiello P., p. 12).

The animal conveys emotions, allowing us to listen to ourselves. It's communication without words but at the same time with a great emotional impact. Borgogna states "what makes the emotional life and affection, a prerequisite for every treatment is the fact that in it, there is always a relationship that is building up, albeit sometimes in a fragile and fragmented way, a dialogue and listening, a silence, a contact, an inter-subjectivity: a continuous flow between the one who cares and the person cared for" (Borgogna, 2005, p.188).

When our patient is a person with autism and we cannot use words to communicate, or a drug addict with a chaotic life, or a schizophrenic who has split from his/her own feelings and whose behaviours demonstrate "acting out", it is unlikely that, especially at certain times, classic therapy may work, as it is difficult to build a relationship and a genuine communication. The animal then represents another opportunity for communication and relationship that does not involve mental and verbal processes, but expresses on the instinctive and physical level. In the presence of the animal we immediately get in contact with our bodies, with our impulses; reactions are visceral, from tenderness to fear, from desire to approach and touch, to the need to get away.

Our primary processes are moved (Reinger Cantiello P., p. 38) and the word, as a means of communication, has a very low value: thanks to the animal we "speak" through the body, as the animal allows us a relationship in a profound, instinctual and archaic dimension, it activates emotional and irrational responses, awakens affectivity and sensitivity allowing a patient to find the will, the joy of doing. All these aspects are clearly visible in the triangular relationship of patient, therapist, and animal and therefore they offer important potential for the therapist to work clinically with their patient.

This article has been written by Local Health Health 4 "Alto Vicentino"



MATERIAL DEVELOPED UNDER THE PROJECT

Te.D2 - Therapy dog handler: development of a certified training course for dog handler in the AAI according to the Ecvet procedures;



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