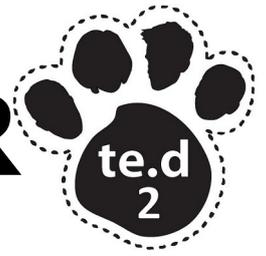


Te.D2 NEWSLETTER



Issue 2

May 2016



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Erasmus+

TRANSNATIONAL MEETING NO.2

The Geminarie Group Head Office - 604, St. Joseph High Street, Hamrun, Malta

Host organization: The Geminarie Group

01–02 June 2016

The main objectives of the meeting:

- Review and approval of the consolidated research report;
- Define and establish deadlines for activities, products and results;
- Clarifying tasks and time for activities;

Between 01 - 02 June 2016, in Hamrun, Malta, took place the second transitional meeting within Te.D2 project.

This two day event was focused on the achievement of each partner regarding Activity 2 – Research Report and on the next activity, namely adaptation of the ARGO curriculum.

The half of the second day of the meeting was focused on the steering committee—and dissemination strategies, web site, Facebook page, stakeholder meetings, translations, financial and administrative issues, PFA and TCA next meeting date, newsletter content and date and the NA feed back.



Te.D2 website:

Starting from the middle of May, the official website of the project is available online. The main role of the website is to maximize the dissemination and valorization of the project learning, products and outcomes.



www.Ted2.org

te.d 2 Therapy Dog Trainer

ASOCIATIA VASILIADA SP. VASILE Sprijin pentru cei in nevoie

HOME PROJECT PARTNERS RESEARCH DISSEMINATION TRAINING MATERIALS MEDIA DATABASE GLOSSARY

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

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

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.

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

The website it is available in seven languages, the official languages of each partner involved, namely: English, Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Maltese and Spanish.

The platform wave eight sections, that offers information relevant for the implementation of the project activities and results. Also, after the finalisation of this project, the website will remain a very important instrument for promoting animal assisted therapy and a database for interested organisation or institutions that want to develop related activities.

The main sections of the website:

- **Project:** contain information regarding the project, main activities, objectives, results, etc;
- **Partners:** information regarding the partners involved within the project;
- **Research:** contain the individual research report and consolidated research report related to animal assistant therapy in each partner country;
- **Dissemination:** in this tab, the partner publish the most important materials related to the dissemination of the project activities;
- **Training materials:** the materials related to the training for therapy dog will be added in this section, after the end of this activity;
- **Media:** contain photos from the main activities developed within the project;
- **Database:** this section is updated permanently with info about organisations that work in animal assisted therapy, in Europe;
- **Glossary:** explain the main terminology and concepts in animal assisted therapy and intervention;

The project has also a Facebook page and a LinkedIn account that are updated permanently:

<https://www.facebook.com/TeD2-project>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8436343>

Te.D2 - Therapy dog Handler: development of a certified training course for dog handler in the AAI According to the ECVET Procedures

Research Report

One of the most important activities of the project was related by the report into the current situation and needs of the target groups, in every country of the project.

In the first period of the project implementation period, each partner applied a full training needs analysis regarding existing of training courses, review of specialized literature, interview with 10 dog handlers, interviews with stakeholders, interview with government representative body, best practice case study, actual legislation.

The consolidated research report and each partner national report can be accessed at <http://www.ted2.org/research/>.

The most important information form the consolidated research report:

IN ROMANIA:

Unlike other countries, Romania does not have a legislative framework for TAA, and any regulations regarding the settlement of these services. However, in our country exist qualified staff and dogs and horses TAA programs in Cluj, Bucharest, Iasi, Sibiu, Timisoara, Satu-Mare. Vier Pfoten Foundation involve from many years therapy dogs how may also perform search and rescue missions. Babes-Bolyai University in collaboration with the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Cluj offers a postgraduate course in TAA training for people with special needs, bringing together students from all over Romania.



Interest in therapy and assisted activities animal in Romania dates back somewhere in early 2000, when various foundations and associations of animal protection began to offer services to people (from children to the elderly) how needs physical and intellectual recovery. Although it was practiced by several national NGOs, animal assisted therapy is not well known at the national level, and, at this moment also, it is not viewed like a choice of therapy, beneficiaries prefer classical therapies (medical or psychological), primarily due to lack of specific information. At the moment, in Romania, there is no legislative framework to regulate this form of therapy. All the therapy activities are regulated by procedures and regulations developed by different NGOs who practice this activity. In Romania there is only legislation relating to stray dogs and modalities for holding dangerous dogs.

Another national trend is related with the need to prepare specialists in animal assisted therapy for persons with disabilities, children with special needs, people with mental disorders, etc. But, the first step in achieving this is to develop a new profession in Romanian legislation, namely Animal Therapist or Dog Handler.

In Romania, the research was implemented by Vasiliada Association.

IN ITALY:

The use of pets for assisted activities has been recognized as an official care with the President of the Council of Ministers Decree on the 28 of February 2003. [1] This Decree has established for the first time in the history of our country the role that an animal can have in the emotional life of a person and the therapeutic value of pets. The definition of worth methodological tools and guidelines regulating



such practices is needed by all professional groups working in this field in order to safeguard both human health and the welfare of animals used in therapies. It should be emphasized that the people involved are most frequently represented by the elderly or children, particularly vulnerable and in need of customized interventions, especially in the case of specific diseases.

In Italy until 2015 the situation was extremely heterogeneous. There was not a clear legal definition regarding the procedures and minimum requirements necessary to start activities with animals. This led to the creation of a heterogeneous landscape of workplace self managed and often self certified, with operational methods often very different one another.

In Italy, we are witnessing an increase in activities involving horses, dogs and dolphins and, in more recent times, even donkeys. One of the main factors that has limited the development of AAI in Italy is certainly to be found in the fact that, at least until a few years ago, the activity was carried out almost exclusively by vets, who have had the honor to lead and spread the culture of animals in teaching contexts, but have not been able to engage in an important way doctors, psychologists, etc. depositories of care, education and re-education of people. Until a decade ago, many works have been carried out. Nevertheless they were not coordinated nor adequately disseminated and shared and this has meant that much valuable information was lost.



In Italy, the research was implemented by Net Association and Local Health Health 4 "Alto Vicentino".

IN LITHUANIA:

Nowadays Animal Assisted Therapy is making its very first steps in Lithuania. For this report there were made interviews with 12 dog handlers, interviews with stakeholders and an interview with government representative body. There is only a little specialized literature in animal assisted therapy field and only one scientific research report done by now. However, canine therapy is doing a big job in people's health field and people working with AAA/AAT are doing their best to form standards or ethical guidelines for animal assisted therapy.

Only in the last few years first attempts to define quality criteria have been made, but the development into policies, guidelines and standards is missing, there is incomplete process documentation, lack of indicators to determine the achievement of objectives.



**Education, Research
& Consultancy Center**
Švietimo, tyrimų ir konsultacijų centras

In Lithuania there is no public body that deals only with AAA. However, The main body which regulates alternative medicine in Lithuania is Lithuanian Ministry of Health. Legitimacy of animal assisted therapy in Lithuania depends only on this institution. However, employees of the Ministry do not have the competence in AAT/AAA area, so Lithuanian healthy living and alternative medicine Chamber is preparing recommendations, which will be presented to the Ministry of Health. The question is still problematic, because today the Ministry of alternative medicine practitioners only see people with higher medical education in animal assisted activities.

Animal assisted activities began with a meeting with people with disability, in elderly people's homes, orphanages, and later the number of meetings increased, they began to visit the oncological departments and people with mental disabilities. There are many public and private organizations that have been working for several years with Pet Therapy, both in terms of training, research and implementation of activities connected with animal therapy.

In Lithuania, the research was implemented by Education, Research & Consultancy Center—ERCC Association.

IN MALTA:

The therapeutic use of pets as companions has gained increasing attention in recent years, not least in Malta. Pet interaction has been proven to be therapeutic in helping patients making the hospital surroundings less lonely and more like one's home. A more familiar surrounding helps patients towards the road to recovery. However, AAT/AAA in Malta is still at a young stage and there is limited local evidence/research to demonstrate that such a therapy exists.

To date, there is no legal framework regulating AAT/AAA in Malta and all initiatives carried out in relation to AAT/AAA are done by nongovernmental organizations on a voluntary basis.

Animals in Malta are regulated by the Animal Welfare Act of 2001 with its numerous additions and amendments over the years, the Electronic Identification of Dogs regulations of 2012 and other regulations on the sale of animals and minimum standards for animal sanctuaries. There is no legal framework governing AAT/AAA in Malta and as stated above, there is no evidence leading to the beneficial use of animal contact. However, there is widespread consensus that animal welfare is a human responsibility and may be assessed on the basis of health, nourishment, safety and the ability of express innate behavior.

All initiatives carried out in relation to AAT/AAA are done by non-governmental organisations. In deed, it was only in 2001 that the first Animal Welfare Act was enacted, providing an invaluable legal framework to non-governmental organisations which tirelessly advocated for animal welfare and animal rights.

In Malta, the research was implemented by The Geminarie Group.



IN PORTUGAL:

In Portugal, AAT is still a poorly explored field, both in theoretical and in practical points of view. From the theoretical point of view, there are only a few academic works and the literature is still scarce. From the standpoint of the practical development, there are some organizations that are developing programmes, but there is a lack in qualified human resources, there is no access to appropriate training programmes and funding resources are needed.

There are no specific legislation and regulation about AAT in Portugal. Specific legislation only exists for guide dogs and assistance dogs. Some studies recognize the importance of AAT and some professionals seriously try to carry out some Animal Assisted Interventions, but there is no regulation regarding AAT. A recognized professional to conduct Animal Assisted Interventions doesn't exist. Intervention programmes are mainly developed by volunteers or in the basis of cooperation protocols between institutions.



The diagnosis carried out by Epralima regarding AAT in Portugal identified different levels of needs: 1. need to introduce national policies regarding AAT; regulate the professional profile of the Animal Assisted Therapist or regulate the profiles of the professionals who can incorporate AAT in their professional practices. 2. need to train professionals in the field of AAT and AAI; create a specialized and accredited course regarding AAI which allows to qualify professionals in AAI.

In Portugal, the research was implemented by Escola Profissional do Alto Lima, CIPRL—Epralima.

IN SPAIN:

Domestic animal's perception has changed a lot in the past 10 years. There is a greater conscience for their care and well-being that has directly influenced the impact they have on the lives of others. Similarly, seeing eye dogs and AAI, have been impacted. Schools, associations, foundations and private ventures connected with the field increased in number.

161 websites offering these therapies are found online and although many people put AAT in practice, fewer are those who have the relevant experience and some carry AAT with untrained dogs and on a voluntary basis. A study carried out in Catalonia shows a wide knowledge of AAT's existence, but a lacking conscience in what it represents or how it is applied. It is directly linked to dogs, horses, dolphins and other pets.

We will present an example of a good practices of an organization who combines the assistance with the therapy. It is called Associació d'Acció social DISCAN. Similarly, several canine schools give AAT courses that give credit to the alumni training as technicians or experts in AAI and AAT. These include: Discan, Educán, Canaem, Dogtor Animal, CTAC, Humanymal and others, where Bocalán Foundation stands out. There are also universities that give such courses and there is a Master focused on AAT at the University of Seville, the UAM, Oviedo University, Zaragoza University, the UCM and the UAB. (Autonomic University of Barcelona).



One of the most notable changes in AAI with dogs is the evolution in canine training in Spain, with the improvement in training techniques through the clicker training and the Behavioral Analysis as well as the performance at work and the options it provides during therapy sessions. It should also be highlighted the importance that the introduction of AAI has in specialized centers of particularly vulnerable groups: centers for the elderly, centers for special education, circular compounds etc... Also, the increasing interest and support from associations of parents with underprivileged children such as the AP-NA (Association of Parents to Autistic Children).

In Spain, no public organization regulates the AAI's, although some autonomic laws exist on guide dogs to some extent. Nonetheless, there is a law at the national level of Social Corporate Responsibility by which big corporations must direct a part of their benefits to social and charity work. This can enable the inclusion of AAT through private firms that practice it in public and private centers. There are also several associations and non-profit organizations that promote and regulate these practices.

In Spain, the research was implemented by Asociacion Social - Asocrom.

OVERALL FINDINGS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Finding from this research report show an increase interest in the presence of animals, thus supporting the use and investigation of animal assisted therapy. The presence of an animal can in deed act as a social catalyst. It is true that in certain countries pet therapy has been taking lace for many years, but there is still little research in the majority of the consortium countries to demonstrate the positive effects of Animal Assisted Therapy and under what conditions AAA/AAT can best be made of use. Furthermore, many questions have not yet been addressed, thus there is a need for further research in this field.

CONCLUSIONS:

Animal assisted therapy appears to offer promising results. It can therefore be concluded that further research and theory development needs to be conducted on animal assisted therapy. In deed, there is a lot of planning, training and work to be done so that animal therapy is safe and beneficial for the different beneficiaries in the consortium countries.

DISCAN

Association of Social Action

The organization

The "Associació d'Acció Social DISCAN" (AAS DISCAN) is a non-profit organization registered with the number 34975 in the first section of the Registry of Barcelona.

The AAS DISCAN was created with the will to promote the autonomy of disabled people in order to facilitate their social and employment integration, collaborating with the identified needs in the "plan of action of European advice for the promotion of the rights and complete participation of people with a disability in society", from the 5th May 2006, for that which disabled people must be able to live in the most independent way possible, and integrated into society (action line number 8: life in society).

Today, the AAS DISCAN offers their services, not only to a collective of disabled people, but also to people who are at risk of social exclusion, whatever the situation:

- Children at risk of social exclusion;
- Old people;
- Addicts;
- People with anxiety or depression;
- People with mental disorders;
- Long-term sick;
- Cardiological diseases;
- Oncology;
- Dysfunctional families at risk;
- Others;

Organizational aims are:

To train dogs, in a process of selection and study (carried out by trained professionals who are qualified for that purpose, training them as assistance dogs (guide dogs, service dogs, signal dogs for medical alert and autism dogs) with the aim of being given to the visually, physically, and auditory impaired as well as those with other illnesses or with autistic spectrum disorder (according to the Law 19/2009 of the 26th November, it establishes the access to an environment where people are accompanied by assistance dogs, from the Government of Catalonia) which can see an improvement in their quality of life.



DISCAN - Association of Social

ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

In the field of Animal Assisted Intervention, presently we are doing the following programs:

- Dog Assisted Intervention;
- Hippo therapy in:
 - Autism Spectrum;
 - Hyperactivity;
 - Physic Disability;
 - Cognitive Disability;
 - Mental Health;
 - Social Exclusion.
- Marine Mammals Assisted Intervention:
 - Pilot project made in Mexico on 2013 in the company Delhinus S.L. and the DIF from Quintana Roo, where the aim was evaluating the efficiency of the Dolphins Assisted Intervention with children that have Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum disorder and cerebral palsy.

ASSISTANCE DOGS:

Currently in the field of Assistance Dogs, the AAS DISCAN is registered for training and giving credit to the five different types of assistance dogs recognized by the Law 19/2009, from 26th of November, about access environment for people with disabilities and their assistance dogs:

- Guide Dogs, for people with visual disability;
- Service Dogs, for people with physic disability;
- Hearing Dogs, for people with aural disability;
- Autism Dogs, for children with Autism spectrum disorder;
- Alert Medical Dogs, for people with recurring crisis or sensorial disconnections;

In the current moment, we have eleven recognized assistance dogs:

- 5 service dogs;
- 2 alert medical dogs;
- 1 hearing dog;
- 2 autism dog;
- 1 guide dog



DISCAN - Association of Social

EDUCATION

In the field of training, we yearly make different courses at our entity that can be offered online, in-person or a mix of both, always taking in account the apprenticeship and tutoring the student.

In the university field, we have been the organizing of the first Master in Assisted Intervention Educational-Therapy with dogs, in the University of Barcelona, during the four editions that took place.

In addition, we have been involved in two talks in the University of Santa Paula, which is the only university that offers the degree on Physic Therapy of Costa Rica. In fact, we are currently organizing together a Postgraduate of Assisted Intervention with dogs for this year 2015.



Press & Media

In addition to our own documentaries, in our Youtube channel is possible to see all our television appearances:

In 2011 we appeared in some television news: Night News Programme of Hospitalet, <http://youtu.be/O0jll9j-Tpk>

Night News Programme of the Catalan Television TV3, <http://youtu.be/pVbqoHbwZuA>

and three chapters of the programme “Veterinaris” (it means veterinarians), of the same channel <http://youtu.be/g476i7WjF24>

In 2013 the Azteca Television and México News also dedicated a documentary of the pilot project of Therapy with Dolphins made at the Delphinus Group Via Delphi: <http://discanterapiaconanimales.blogspot.com.es/p/terapia-con-delfines.html>

In the following link it is possible to see all our videos in the net: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AASDISCAN/videos>

CONTACT:

www.discan.org

E-mail: info@discan.org

Phone: (+34) 692060858

Address: C/ Lorena, 65, Barcelona, Spain

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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