NEWSLETTER

EACL

European All are Champions League for PwID: Developing fundamentals for football inclusion

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Comprehensive Medical Consultations
- Specialized Treatments
- State-of-the-Art Diagnostic Services
- Preventive Care and Health Screenings
- Emergency Medical Services

PROJECT TEAM

- ISTARSKA SPORTSKA AKADEMIJA
- BARCA FOUNDATION
- ΚΟΙΝΣΕΠ PUZZLE
- OLYMPIACOS F.C.

SO1

Some disabilities may limit an individual's ability to move and cause physical discomfortduring sports activity, training or playing. The project's objective is to establish secure and engaging settings that motivate PwID to participate in football activities, helping them to overcome challenges.

SO2

The aim of the project is to provide specialized skills and knowledge to experts working with people with disabilities in sport-related activities. The project will develop a manual to assist sports staff in implementing football activities for different target groups of PwID

SO3

Participation in sports can improve the physical and mental health, as well as the overall wellbeing of PwID, while also promoting their social integration. The project aims to foster the development of skills of PwID, as well as the stakeholders involved, through the training and pilot phase

SO4

The project seeks to increase awareness of the positive outcomes associated with sports for PwID. Developing Policy Recommendations based on the pilot experience will serve as a useful tool for raising awareness about the importance of promoting sports as a means of inclusion.

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EACL PROJECT NEWSLETTER – FIRST 6 MONTHS UPDATE

Over the past six months, the project has made significant strides toward promoting football as an inclusive sport for people with intellectual disabilities (PwID). Funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Sport program, EACL aims to create a more accessible football environment, with key milestones achieved in the research, development, and implementation phases. Here's a recap of our progress so far.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The EACL project is dedicated to enhancing social inclusion through football for PwID. By focusing on research, training, and the development of resources, EACL seeks to empower coaches, educators, and football clubs to implement inclusive football activities. Our efforts also include raising awareness and creating policy recommendations to promote the integration of PwID in sports across Europe.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIRST 6 MONTHS

1. Research Phase Completed

The project's first key objective was to conduct research that would form the foundation for the development of the International Football Manual for Inclusion. This phase focused on gathering essential insights on the challenges PwID face in football activities and understanding best practices for inclusive sports programs. Over the last six months, we successfully completed both desk and field research in all partner countries (Croatia, Spain, and Greece).

- Desk Research: A comprehensive analysis of existing inclusive sports programs and methodologies was carried out, identifying best practices and resources in each participating country.
- Field Research: Two focus groups were conducted in each country—one with professionals working with PwID in football, and the other with PwID, families, and caregivers. These sessions provided valuable feedback on the barriers PwID encounter and how football can be tailored to meet their needs.

The findings from this research phase are now being synthesized into a report that will serve as the foundation for the next stages of the project.

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2. Development of the International Football Manual for Inclusion

Building on the research findings, we have initiated the development of the International Football Manual for Inclusion (D2.2). This manual will be a vital resource for football clubs, coaches, educators, and families, offering guidelines on how to organize inclusive football activities for PwID. The manual is currently being drafted with input from experts in the field and will cover key areas such as:

- Understanding intellectual disabilities in the context of football
- Evaluating the abilities and needs of PwID
- Adapting traditional football rules to promote inclusivity
- Strategies for inclusive training sessions and competitive play

In addition to the full manual, an Easy-to-Read version (D2.3) tailored for PwID is under development. This simplified version, featuring clear language and visual aids, will empower PwID

NEXT STEP

As we move forward into the next phase of the project, the focus will be on:

- Finalizing and disseminating the International Football Manual for Inclusion and its Easy-to-Read version.
- Conducting pilot football activities in partner countries to test the manual's application.
- Developing Policy Recommendations (D3.2) to promote the inclusion of PwID in sports at the local, national, and European levels.

We are excited about the progress made so far and look forward to sharing further developments in the coming months.

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