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 – 6-12 MONTH UPDATE

elcome to the second newsletter update of the European All Are Champions League (EACL) project! As we mark the halfway point of our journey, we are thrilled to share the progress made in months 6 to 12. These months have been pivotal, with the successful development and production of the International Football Manual for Inclusion (D2.2) and its Easy-to-Read version (D2.3). Both resources are now ready to empower stakeholders in making football a more inclusive sport for individuals with intellectual disabilities (PwID).

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. **Completion of the International Football Manual for Inclusion (D2.2)**

The International Football Manual for Inclusion is a comprehensive guide designed to equip coaches, educators, football clubs, and families with the tools and knowledge needed to organize and support inclusive football activities for PwID. The manual was developed collaboratively with input from experts, coaches, and stakeholders across Europe.

Key features of the manual include:

- Understanding Intellectual Disabilities: Insight into the challenges and strengths of PwID and how to address their unique needs in sports.
- Inclusive Training Techniques: Strategies for adapting football rules, equipment, and sessions to ensure that PwID can fully participate and thrive.
- Competitive and Non-Competitive Models: Detailed guidelines for creating leagues that balance inclusivity and engagement, including competitive formats inspired by La Liga Genuine and non-competitive formats like the Special Power League.

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2. Production of the Easy-to-Read International Football Manual for Inclusion (D2.3)

To ensure accessibility for PwID, we have also created an Easy-to-Read version of the manual. This simplified resource was developed with the direct involvement of PwID to ensure its usability and relevance.

Key features of the Easy-to-Read manual include:

- Simple Language: Clear, straightforward text that is easy to understand.
- Visual Support: Use of illustrations, icons, and photos to convey concepts visually.
- Step-by-Step Guidance: Instructions broken down into manageable steps, covering everything from joining a football club to participating in matches.
- Engagement-Focused Content: Encouragement and motivational elements to inspire PwID to take part in football activities confidently.

NEXT STEP

With the manuals now developed, the focus of the project will shift to implementation and piloting. Over the next six months, we will:

- Conduct pilot football activities in partner countries, using the manuals to guide inclusive training and competitions.
- Gather feedback from participants, trainers, and families to evaluate the manuals' effectiveness.
- Begin drafting Policy Recommendations (D3.2) based on lessons learned during the pilot phase.

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