



Education and Culture

Socrates
Grundtvig



BASKI

BASKI – Basic Skills Training Model

Dear Reader,

This second newsletter will inform you about some activities within the ongoing EU-project called BASKI (Basic Skills Training Model). BASKI is an innovative project which develops Basic Skills training for people with mental or multiple disabilities.

Austria

Territory	83871,1 km ²
Borders	Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland
Population	8,22 millions
Capital city	Vienna
Political system	Republic
National currency	Euro

Bulgaria

Territory	110,993.6 km ²
Borders	Greece, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey
Population	7.97 millions
Capital city	Sofia
Political system	Parliamentary Republic
National currency	Lev

A first outcome of the BASKI-project: the study Targets and reflections for a Basic Skills Training Model

This comparative study considers some of the main issues which effect the education, employment and life of people with disabilities in the six project partner countries Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary and Poland. It is based on initial data gathered in national studies of the project partner countries.

Some of the aims of this study are to make known the situation and needs of the target group and legal frameworks in the partner countries, to identify common factors and differences in the treatment and experiences of people with disabilities with regards to education and training, to living and working conditions of them in the six countries, to identify barriers to people with disabilities obtaining training and (well paid) employment, to identify good practice which can be transferred but also unsuccessful approaches to be avoided.

Although there have been previous studies of different countries this study was necessary to analyze issues which are helpful for the development of the BASKI training model by comparing different aspects in western and center/eastern Europe.

Some study's issues include the situation of disabled in project partner countries and of their needs, different legislative approaches, specific rehabilitation to assure the integration of this group into the society, specific facilities for living, education and work in partner countries, provision of qualified trainers and coaches to support such practices.

After a short presentation of the study and of the background of the project BASKI it follows the main section of the study (section 3), where the issues presented above are examined in the partner countries. After conclusions about developments and initiatives in project partner countries which can be used for BASKI, this section ends with some conclusions on European level.

The last section summarizes the results about statistics, legislation, benefits, living and training facilities within the project partner countries and training needs, presents the types of basic skills for the BASKI target group to fulfill these needs, and gives information referring to the formation of trainers and coaches for such skills.

Germany		At the end of the study the study itself will be related to the BASKI training model.
Territory	357,021 km ²	
Borders	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland	Despite the considerable differences in the history, socio-political and economic situations of these six countries, similarities according to the situation and attitudes of people with disabilities are more striking than the differences.
Population	82,42 millions	All six partner countries have legislation on equal rights for people with disabilities, including specific provisions to encourage equal access to education and training and employment.
Capital city	Berlin	All six countries either currently or in the past have used a quota system as one of the main legal mechanisms to encourage employment of people with disabilities.
Political system	Federal Republic	The six partner countries have a social and welfare or a benefit system. There are some differences in the political and ideological philosophies underlying the working of the systems in the six countries.
National currency	Euro	
Greece		One main result of the short national studies in partner countries is that many people with disabilities miss the self-determined capability to express their needs and, to make use of facilities offered by national and European initiatives as well as of their rights. They feel very negative about themselves and are often discouraged. In order to avoid thinking negatively of themselves, assertiveness behavior and self-awareness should be trained through certain measures, e.g. speaking up clearly what they want and stating clearly their needs. Collaboration of trainers with parents, friends, doctors, therapists to develop a positive self-image is very important.
Territory	132,000 km ²	
Borders	Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria, Turkey	
Population	10,55 millions	
Capital city	Athens	
Political system	Chaired Parliamentary Democracy	
National currency	Euro	Staff, engaged in the field of teaching people with disabilities, recognizes that basic skills should not be separated from other aspects of peoples' lives. Teachers want to be able to respond to the overall needs of their students and to have the chance to work more closely with other agencies. They want students to achieve progress but to achieve that students must have more individual attention and a longer time frame to reach their goals.
Hungary		The quality of current provision of training materials and curricula for people with mental disabilities in the project partner countries as well as in other European countries needs to be improved. Provision is not readily available to all the people with learning difficulties who want to learn. It tends to exclude particular groups within the community, such as older adults, those with severe or profound /multiple learning difficulties, and those with an additional disability.
Territory	93,030 km ²	
Borders	Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania,	
Population	9,98 millions	
Capital city	Budapest	
Political system	Parliamentary Republic	
National currency	Forint	
Poland		Provision in the BASKI project must be designed to meet specific individual needs that people with all levels of learning difficulty to realize their full potential. The most effective vehicle for improving basic skills is to develop skills in relevant contexts, and this will directly improve the quality of life also for people with mental difficulties.
Territory	312,685 km ²	
Borders	Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast), Slovakia, Ukraine	For BASKI-Model the trainers or counselors have to be styled for qualified professionals in psycho- social counseling.
Population	38,54 millions	It is required that they already graduated as social worker, pedagogue, therapeutic pedagogues, social pedagogues, special education teacher, teacher, psychologists, social- and life- consultants or psychotherapists.
Capital city	Warsaw	
Political system	Republic	
National currency	Zloty	

Learning centered groups

According to the BASKI proposal learning centered groups are organized in some partner countries to pre-evaluate the BASKI training modules. The idea of this task is that people with disabilities are experts of their own matters and therefore they should be included as experts in the conception of the Curriculum A and the methodical/didactic materials developed within the BASKI project. Learning centered groups allow experts to reflect their own experiences and needs within their institutions and explain their needs and their attitudes of self-determination, empowerment and self-advocacy.

In a first session of learning centered groups after a self-presentation of the experts, the team leader gives a short overview of the Basic Skills Training Model. The group expresses their opinion about the Model in a following session where the group is asked how this training would work for their selves, their colleagues, other similar groups etc. In a last session the team leader presents the transformed Basic Skills Training Programme (including the ideas and suggestions of the 1. and 2. session). The experts are invited to reflect on the adapted and improved Basic Skills Training Programme.

Some experience from working with these groups in partner countries:

Three people with disabilities took part on the meetings of the "Learner-centered group" which took part three times at the "Lebenshilfe Graz und Umgebung- Voitsberg". Participants of the meetings were people mentally handicapped, partly combined with physical impairments, at the age between 40-50 years and living in supported housing. The motivation of the participants was high. They were interested, curious and anxious in all meetings. The participants have been pleased about being asked as experts and about the personal exchange of experiences. The group was very interested in the concrete contents of BASKI. The participants considered the BASKI modules as suitable and good and they were especially impressed by the modules "Resources" and "Communication". Beside the pre-evaluation of the BASKI training modules, the group meetings were used for the personal exchange about the matters, stories and situations between the participants. The phone numbers of the participants were exchanged to stay in contact and for continuing in meeting. Some statements done by the participants: "I have learned a lot", "I feel free", "I am disappointed about the meetings ending", "The group gave me strength, trust and comfort", "The exchange between the participants was very stimulative", "I want to take part in BASKI".

Dia-sport Association conducted 3 learning centered group sessions in the period April-May 2006. The experts are between 18 and 50 years old and live during the week in the Metropolitan municipal daily centre for persons with mental disabilities. After a short presentation of BASKI project idea a discussion of current situation, needs and wants, experiences of the group, discussion of experts' and group's skills and abilities, of their experiences, needs and interests have been organized.

Detailed information about the daily activities within the institution and family have been obtained from the experts.

Results from the sessions show the following aspects to be considered

- the great importance of interpersonal contacts and relationships with people within the institution, need for greater support and involvement of families, eagerness for outside contacts and communication, awareness of their own situation, willingness to improve personal skills and to develop new ones;
- the strong interest for new technologies, willingness to participate in group activities, willingness to take part in exercises and activities featured in the Basic Skills Training;
- the great willingness to participate in any learning activities.



Project Progression



- What has been done so far?

After the preparatory phase of the project the partnership started to elaborate the products of the project. The project products are a handbook+CD-Rom (including Curricula and methodical/didactic material) and a web site.

The development of the products is divided into 7 working phases. We started with the 1 phase called "**PREPARATION**" (Dec 05–Jan 2006), where each partner created an ABSTRACT as a first brief draft of the products and its contents. During the 2 phase called "**FEEDBACK I**" (Feb 06–Mar 2006) the prepared documents were exchanged and each partner gave and received feedback on their prepared abstracts from one another. On base of the abstracts and the included feedback for each product a base document as a first interim product could be created



With the 3 phase called "**FORMULATION**" (Apr 06–Jun 2006) the partnership was invited to develop detailed contents for the products considering the base documents.

Right now the partnership started the 4 phase called "**FEEDBACK II**" (Jun 06–Jul 2006). Project partners are exchanging their prepared detailed contents for giving and receiving feedback.

According to our proposal four of our project partners developed some modules and the methodical didactic material with the collaboration of people with disabilities. This process took place in small **learner-centered-groups**. The learner-centered-groups pre-evaluated our products. Their expertise led to further improvement of our work before the modules would have been implemented.

Besides the creation of the products the partnership prepared **national studies** (Dec 05–Apr 2006), which will be a part of the handbook. The national studies show some background information concerning the situation of people with disabilities in different countries, explain the current situation of people with disabilities in the countries involved, results of any needs, statistic material and draw a picture of the European dimension. The results and the summary of the national studies (May 06–Sep 2006) will be presented to the partnership at the next project meeting in September 2006.



In February the partners finished their **1. Financial report** for the period October 2005 to January 2006 thereupon received their first Socrates co-funding share of 40% and filled in the first evaluation questionnaire for the first **interim evaluation report**.

For the project intern communication and for the exchange of files a yahoo group as project communication platform was installed (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BASKI-project/>).

The partnership has been using the platform since March 2006. The platform can be visited under: What is going on at the moment?

Right now some of the project partners are still working on their detailed contents for the products they are responsible for, the others already started the 4 phase called "FEEDBACK II" (Jun 06 – Jul 06). During this phase project partners are exchanging their prepared detailed contents for giving and receiving feedback.

For an exchange of experienced the first **web-conference** is prepared and takes place at the beginning of July 2006.

The 2. Financial Report is prepared for the period February to May 2006.

- What will be done in the future?

The given feedback will preface the 5 phase called "**TRANSFORMATION**" (Jul 2006) during which the given feedback will be included into the prepared products.

In September the partnership will meet in Budapest for the second **face to face conference**. The meeting offers the opportunity to discuss the

already developed products, to modify and specify them and to clarify and agree on further proceeding.

After the meeting the products can be revised and specified another time if necessary (Oct 06–Nov 2006).

Besides the 6 phase called **"TESTING"** will be prepared and organized.

The 6 phase called **"TESTING"** (*probably* Nov 06 to Apr 2008) will start with a pilot run in Bulgaria, in Greece and in Austria. During this phase the elaborated Curricula will be tested, modified and evaluated.

After approximately 16 month of pilot study the project products will be finished in the 7 phase called **"FINAL PRODUCT"** by including the evaluation and test results into the products.

Another 2 face to face meetings will take place. The third project meeting will take place in Athens in January 2007 and the fourth and final meeting will be organized in Gelsenkirchen (DE).

Evaluation activities



In order to evaluate the first phase of the BASKI project Convelop, the partner who is responsible for evaluation, developed a questionnaire which all partners had to answer. The questionnaire consisted of three parts: A) understanding BASKI and specific working requirements B) reflection on the first partner meeting C) reflection on working conditions and improvements for the project phases.

The analysis of the filled in questionnaires shows that the knowledge of the specific background of each partners' institution is still limited. In this respect partners would like to clarify in further detail the implementation of the model and the specific dissemination/usage of the results in each country. In spite of the fact that every partner declares his/her personal familiarity with the BASKI concept and aims, partners want to assure a common understanding.

The partners are generally satisfied with the partner feedback about the developed materials and with the help provided by the project coordinator. However an improved communication and cooperation between all partner institutions is desired. Especially the lack of face-to-face contacts between the partners is pointed out as a weakness of the project.

Most partners are satisfied or even positively surprised with the abstracts developed during the first working phase.

However some would like to improve abstracts during further outlines

A yahoo-group "BASKI" was established for internal data exchange and communication between the partners. Until now not all functions provided by the yahoo platform are in use. The ease of use of this communication tool is criticized by some of our partners but according to the limitations in customization of this platform this can not be fixed.

The emails on deadlines and uploaded information send to all members of the BASKI yahoo-group are mentioned as helpful. However there seems to be no actual necessity to intensify the usage of the platform

BASKI partners expressed their willingness to improve cooperation for the following project phases by recommending:

- Establish better communication and cooperation between all partners

 - Establish better communication of coordinators in each country

 - Meeting the deadlines and taking responsibility must be secured

 - The common standard of quality should be revised by discussing and defining the products with the practical experience gained during the first project phase.

 - Different expectations of partner institutions should be clarified.

 - The implementation of results according to experiences tasks and

specific regional frame work conditions should be discussed.

Due to the fact that the numbers of personal meetings of the partners are limited by the proposal, the meetings which are taking place must be of highest effectiveness.

Public Relations and Dissemination activities within BASKI



Two main activities within the BSKI project are

- to identify interested audience for the project results and build relationships between the project team and target audience who will receive tailored messages from the project members (Public Relations) and
- to present project activities and results directly aimed at influencing the opinion and the acting mode of people (Dissemination).

Dissemination activities in BASKI began at the start of the project to inform as many people as possible about the course of the process and therefore, to contribute to the shaping of awareness in a wide public and to guarantee that the project corresponds to the needs of the target group. The first dissemination activities on the information level addressed disabled individuals and institutions in the disability sector as potential participants also of the pilot studies planned within BASKI.

Some of the following public relation and dissemination activities are examples for actions which have been undertaken in BASKI:

- Networks and national and regional forums where the partners belong, relevant regional and national/international organizations responsible with disabled people as well as disabled people have been contacted and informed about the project and explained about advantages of having such training modules and curriculum,
- The project has been presented in each partner organization and on the website of the partner organization (see the web-sites of the partners)
- The project has been presented at two international conferences. One example was the WEBIST (2nd International Conference on Web Information System and Technologies) 2006 in Setubal, Portugal within a poster and an oral presentation (see the Photo). The materials have been published.

Busse, Thorsten/Hamburg, Ileana, 2006: Supporting re-learning of basic skills of people with disabilities by web-based training. In: Cordeiro, José/Pedrosa, Vitor/Encarnaçao, Bruno/Filipe, Joaquim (eds.): WEBIST 2006: proceedings of the Second International Conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies; society, e-business and e-government - e-learning; Setúbal, Portugal, April 11-13, 2006. Setúbal: INSTICC - Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication, pp. 371-374

Hamburg, Ileana/Busse, Thorsten, 2006: Improving design of e-learning courses to meet special needs. In: Cordeiro, José/Pedrosa, Vitor/Encarnaçao, Bruno/Filipe, Joaquim (eds.): WEBIST 2006: proceedings of the Second International Conference on Web Information Systems and Technologies; society, e-business and e-government - e-learning; Setúbal, Portugal, April 11-13, 2006. Setúbal: INSTICC - Institute for Systems and Technologies of Information, Control and Communication, pp. 357-362

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