

Project @kaleidoscope

Tools and resources to improve
knowledge about functional diversity



description of the organization

Autismo Sevilla is a non profit organization that was created in 1978 by a group of parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis. Our mission is to improve the quality of life in people with ASD, and their families throughout the life cycle. We do so by means of our specialized services guided from six-year-old children to adult stage. As an specialized association in ASD, the Ángel Riviére Integral Resources Center offers to society a team of experienced professionals that are able to advise, to guide and to collaborate in all promotion actions to people with ASD and their families, from an integral view.

Our vision focuses on the commitment to a common project aimed at improving the quality of life, through a responsible, ethics and excellence-guided management.

We share the strategic priorities defined by Autism Europe, that consider long term concerns about an appropriate attention, education, well-being of people with ASD, ageing, the lack of public support, care crisis and the role of the families and employment, following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.

We have received many awards that recognize the path we have lived through in order to develop equal opportunities policies and to improve expectations on future in people with ASD and their families. Andalusian Volunteer Award in 2001; Best Non Profit Organization in 2009; Award of Educative Merit in 2009 and 2014; Good Practises in attention to people with disabilities Award in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015; Lux et Veritas Award in 2011 and Good Practises Award, from the professional association AETAPI in 2012.

Autismo Sevilla has several acting areas that are:

- education and training
- information and social awareness
- independence and self-determination
- employment and housing
- cultural activities and sports
- social participation and advocacy



what is ASD?

Autism is a part of the autism spectrum and is sometimes referred to as an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. As a spectrum condition, people with ASD share certain difficulties that affect them in different ways. There are three main areas that are affected, sometimes known as the triad of impairments: social communication, social interaction and social imagination.

- ✓ Social communication, verbal and non-verbal language. They can find difficult to understand facial expressions or tone of voice, jokes and sarcasm or common phrases. Some people with autism may not speak or have fairly limited speech. Others will have good language skills but they may still find it hard to understand the give-and-take nature of conversations.
- ✓ Social interaction and empathy. They usually have difficulties recognising and understanding other's people emotions and feelings, and expressing their own. This becomes people with ASD find hard sometimes to form lasting friendships and personal relationships.
- ✓ Social imagination allows us to predict and to understand other's behaviour. They can have difficulties with abstract ideas and situations of daily routine, and also predicting what will happen next, or be prepare for changes and plan the future.

contact

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask us!

Angélica Gutiérrez
Kaleidoscope Project Director

angelicagutierrez@autismosevilla.org

Raúl Olmedo
Autismo Sevilla Project Director

raulolmedo@autismosevilla.org

context

The social image of people with disabilities has been an element of concern in all studies that have been developed on inclusion of these social groups. How we perceive functional diversity set a collective way to consider skills, abilities, expectations of these people and their way to perform in society, are not always positive.

There are, of course, social barriers that inevitably appear in everyday life and it is hard to be eliminated. Numerous investigations point that the barriers, obstacles, prejudice, stigma, finally, discomfort or inability to live a "normal" life are sometimes present in the psyche of the people affected by disabilities and their families, but mostly in civil society. Representations and perceptions about disabilities are built from stereotypes and unverified information, instead of direct experience. And that means that it can be changed.

These perceptions about disabilities are crucial to organizations like Autismo Sevilla, that work hardy in order to promote a positive vision about autism and the possibilities to manage and independent life. In order to break those stereotypes Autismo Sevilla promotes this project, from the conviction that improving knowledge about functional diversity is the best way to modify attitudes towards people with disabilities.

Objectives

- Understand and compare the perceptions about disabilities among the participants and also their thoughts about inclusion, independent and self determined ways of living.
- Offer concreat tools to participants in order to break stereotypes, improving their knowledge through direct experience.
- Promote volunteer activities among the participants showing the collective benefits of collaborate with the community.
- Launch a social network to share all the experiences in order to detect ways to promote a positive vision of functional diversity and publish a guide.
- Share all the contents with policy-makers, youth experts and representatives of public authorities in charge of youth, .
- Promote the active participation of young people in democratic life through an empathic attitude and taking in consideration other visions.

activities

The project is expected to initiate in January 2017 and end in October 2017. Project activities will take place in all partners places and we will have an international meeting in Sevilla (Spain) in spring, as you can see below:

1. Coordination meetings

2. Online platform and landing page

3. Oficial project launching

4. Local meeting

5. International meeting

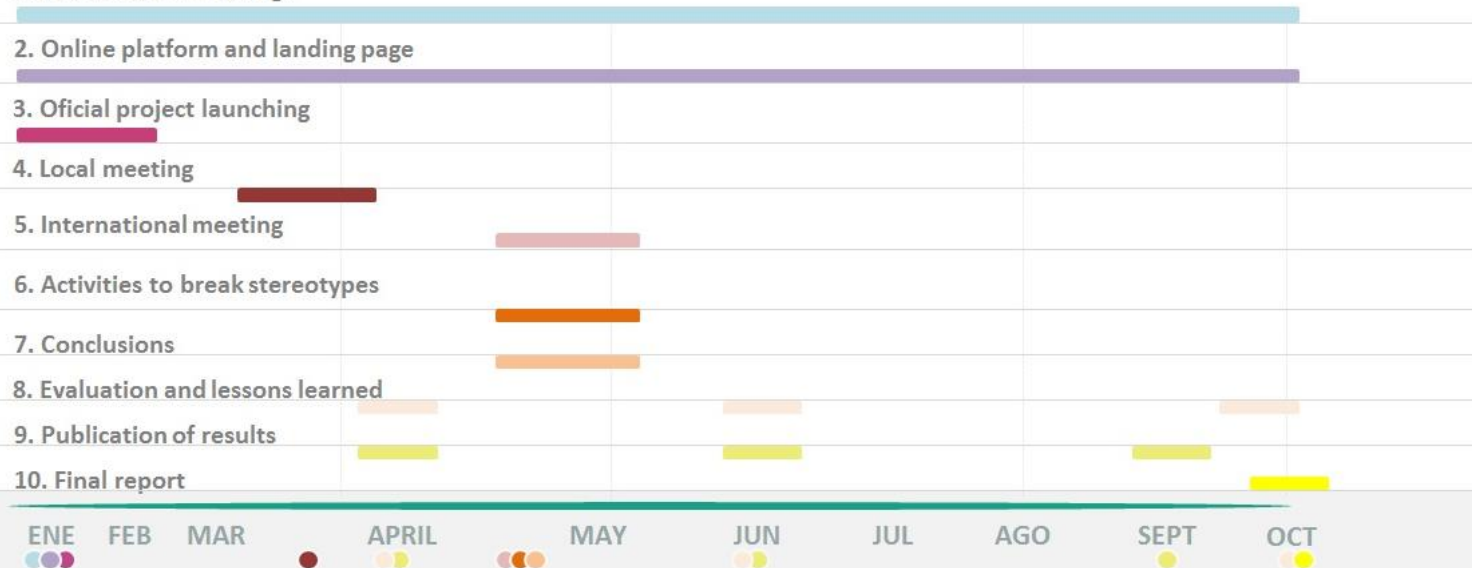
6. Activities to break stereotypes

7. Conclusions

8. Evaluation and lessons learned

9. Publication of results

10. Final report



participants

- ❖ Young people
- ❖ Disability organizations, civil society organizations, youth organizations, municipalities, universities, citizens and others



become a partner

To develop this project, we are looking for motivated groups of partners from 3 EU member states, comprising of:

- 1) A civil society organization, preferably working with people with disabilities
- 2) A local/regional authority
- 3) University and others

We plan to submit the project for funding under the ERASMUS+, Key Action 3 Support for policy reform: structured Dialogue, in the final of 2016 coming Erasmus+ deadline (October 4th).

We believe that the success of this project depends not only on the commitment of all the partners but also in their participation in the development of the overall project, in order to ensure its adaptation to the diversity of realities of the partners countries but also that it reflects the wide range of experiences, needs and expectations of each partner.

In order to join to any project in ERASMUS+ each organization has to be registered in ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service – ECAS), in URF (Unique Registration Facility) and needs a PIC number. Remember it!