



SMARTS

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Supporting Me About Rights To Sexuality

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2nd Newsletter



October 2021



SMARTS: ONE YEAR INTO THE PROJECT

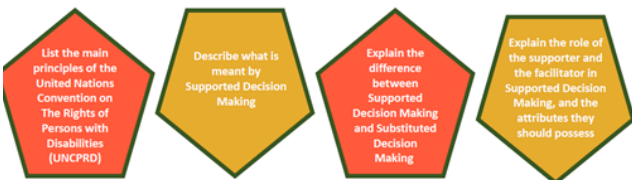
This September, partners met up for their second project meeting to discuss what has already been achieved and further plan the next steps of the project.

So far, the partnership has worked on developing guidelines on supported decision making (SDM) in the field of sexuality. These are addressed to persons with disabilities, support services professionals and family carers.

A wide range of topics are covered by the guidelines: from an introduction on SDM and sexuality to sections about the myths about sexuality, safeguarding and sexual abuse, as well as other more specific issues: contraception, fertility, pornography, commercial sex, relationship conflicts, etc. More to follow in the coming months, so stay tuned!

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this training learners will be able to:



The SDM process:



ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITY



In May, SCT delivered a training on SDM to the SMARTS partners, including senior professionals from ASTRES, ARCIL and THEOTOKOS. The training materials were based on the outputs of the IDECIDE project, and were used to initiate participants to the topic of SDM. Despite being online, the training was successful and triggered interesting interactions among the participants and the trainers.



LOCAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES



Building on the initiation to SDM which they had received from SCT a few weeks earlier, trained senior staff members of ASTRES, ARCIL and THEOTOKOS organised in-house training to train their colleagues in the use of general SDM. This first training was essentially about laying the groundwork for future trainings which will be more specifically about SDM in the field of sexuality.

The overall feedback from participants was positive: they enjoyed this learning experience and regarded it as a new perspective for their daily work with service users.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The partnership has defined the very next steps they are going to take for the project's implementation. And here is what's on the menu:

- Finalising the guidelines on SDM and sexuality.
- Testing these guidelines during a pilot early 2022.
- Starting to work on an awareness toolkit that will be accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities and/or mental health conditions.

Stay tuned as the project continues its progress!



THE PARTNERSHIP

The consortium is made up of several partners: Service providers: **Fundació Astres** (Spain), the coordinator, **ARCIL** (Portugal) and **Theotokos** (Greece). **SCT** (UK) who producing staff training, and **EASPD** (Belgium) who represent service providers.

Click on each partner's name to find out more about them.

For more information, you can contact the project coordinator, **Fundació Astres** at idea@plataformaeducativa.org



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