

EASPD Study Visit to Beit Issie Shapiro

November 7-8, 2022

After the success of study visit to Agenzija Sapport, Malta last year, the forum member Beit Issue Shapiro hosted this year study visit in Israel. The aim of the visit was to walk through BIS's work with PCT MF members in the field of assistive technologies to exchange knowledge and best practices. In total, 6 representatives from different EASPD members from Greece, Albania, Austria, and Georgia and 3 represent from Israeli attended the event.

Highlights of activity in the day 1 –

- With the welcome remarks by Rotem and Dana, occupational therapists, the participants had the chance to quickly present their organisations and the rationale for attending the study visit. Beit Issie Shapiro presented their introduction with an emphasis on their family-centered approach, and the teamwork needed to provide innovative services through their Technology Centre.
- Next, several uses of technology in their contexts were presented, such as SONGO (playlist motivator), Applicable, Issieapps, eye gaze technologies, Inclusive costumes, IssieRoots, IssieWizzy. The participants took a tour in the premises (pool, gym, library, etc), and observed a class in which an interactive board and tablets were used by the students and their support staff.
- After a short break, educational frameworks were presented by Rachel and the services in the GEHA Mental Health Center were explained by Noa Nitzan, in which an interactive app (Woebot) is used to support people with psychiatric diagnoses. Other technological applications were presented such as Predictix, CALM, the Smarthome program, the Memoapp, which all make an impact on the lives of people with disabilities and psychosocial difficulties.
- Lastly, the AAC leadership groups (in cooperation with ISAAC organisation) was presented by Lilachin where people with disabilities get the chance to discuss on their needs and make an impact on the services provided to them.

Highlights of the activity Day 2 --

- The second day started with a trip to Beit Issie Shapiro's centre in Kalanswa , a city with a large Muslim community. The early intervention services were presented by Alaa and Hiba, and the participants had a chance to observe a class during their lesson. Their beneficiaries have multiple disabilities and are supported by several technological means, such as tablets, interactive boards and eye gaze technology.
- Later on, the participants took a tour to the multisensory room accessible to all service users for therapeutic followed by an educational session in a personalized manner.
- At the end of the visit, the participants discussed the experience and explored few ideas on cooperation opportunities, with Sharon Geshkel Oron.

After the study visit, the participants will share their learning and experience within their organisation through holding focus group discussions. In addition, they will share their learnings and new proposals within the PCT member forum meetings.

Participants Feedback –

'In the short two days of our visit, my colleagues from other organizations and I had the chance to meet with the BIS team, who shared with us their vision for social change! Through a guided tour to

Beit Issie Shapiro's premises, to the Sindian Early Intervention Center and to the educational and therapeutic services offered to PwD and the community, it soon became clear that innovation is the result of the collective work of professionals who collaborate to find simple, easy to use, accessible and effective solutions under the umbrella of an organization that motivates them to dream big in order to support every person with disability to participate in all aspects of life.'

- Lemonia Aidonidou, Amimoni
Psychologist, Head of the Educational Programs,
IRIS Day Center
AMIMONI PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES, Greece

'Technology is used in Beit Issie Shapiro's services in an optimal way, as they adopt a family centered view by creating personalised services for their beneficiaries, making a large impact to the community. I will my overall experience to our Board of Directors and our colleagues in different departments. With focus groups will then be organised with the professionals in each department to discuss the implication of technological solutions in daily service provision.'

- Angeliki Louloumari
Psychologist, Research & Development Department

PloesE.Psy.Me, Greece