



ICALL: Inclusive communities for all

Grant Agreement No. 101133870 — ICALL — ERASMUS-2023-PCOOP-ENGO

Booklet: Collection of promising practices of inclusive communities

Deliverable D2.2



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Key Information	
Deliverable description	D2.1 Collection of promising practices of inclusive communities
Deliverable type	Booklet
Date of publication (month number/date)	M15 (Feb 2025)
Principal Author (name/entity)	Loukia Chaidemenaki/Petagma
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Dissemination Level	
Restricted	
Public	X

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Release history:

Version	Date	Status	Commentator	Main Author
1.0	03.02.2025	Draft		Loukia Chaidemenaki/Petagma
2.0	05.02.2025	Draft	Erdmuthe Klaer/REVES Marija Bumbak/OTB	Loukia Chaidemenaki/Petagma
3.0	10.02.2025	Draft	Omor Dhali/EASPD Nora Gyorke/EASPD	Loukia Chaidemenaki/Petagma
4.0	11.02.2025	Final	Dionyssis Antanasiotis	Loukia Chaidemenaki/Petagma

Grant agreement	Grant Agreement No. 101133870
Programme	ERASMUS-2023-PCOOP-ENGO
Key action	KA2-Cooperation Partnership
Action	KA2 - ENGO
Project acronym	ICALL
Project title	Inclusive Communities for ALL
Project starting date	01.12.2023
Project duration	3 years
Project end date	30.11.2026



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INTRODUCTION

People with disabilities should have full access to public services and enjoy an active social life. Driven by the goal of fostering inclusivity in communities and inspired to assess the progress of inclusive practices across Europe, the ICALL project seeks to create high-quality learning opportunities and scalable, evidence-based frameworks for sustainable community inclusion. The project brings together a consortium of partners from Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Greece, and Finland. The ICALL project will equip professionals in the community with the knowledge and skills to create environments where persons with disabilities can live a full social life, with access to all services offered to the public.

In the framework of the research phase of the project, a collection of success stories (promising practices) in regard to local inclusive communities for persons with disabilities at EU level was conducted. The “Good Practices Booklet” contains 10 good practices that are already implemented in different local communities in Europe. The success stories that are included in this Booklet layout the key principles to organizing communities to become fully inclusive to persons with disabilities.

This Booklet aims to be a valuable resource for individuals, organisations, and communities to learn from and apply successful strategies and approaches in their own context. The Booklet further aims to promote innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement by showcasing models of effective and efficient inclusive communities that can be adapted and replicated in other contexts.

The selection of those was based on the extent that the practices align with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Therefore, a screening committee and a list of criteria was defined by the consortium. Each good practice was reviewed and assessed to determine its strengths, weaknesses, relevance to the Convention and a variety of dimensions such as sustainability of social financing, social and demographic aspects, innovation, local dimension, community involvement and impact. Replication and transferability are also considered as essential dimensions of how to develop inclusive community practices.



METHODOLOGY

In order to collect good practices at the EU level one online survey on “good practices in EU about local inclusive communities for persons with disabilities” was developed by the consortium. The survey explored aspects of community development and inclusive living in all areas of living i.e. education, culture, employability, and independent living (see *Appendix*). Informal practices, pilot and non-funded were also included. The survey was launched by EASPD and was disseminated by all partner organizations in international and national networks. The online survey could be filled out in approximately 30 minutes and respondents could submit up to 1 good practice.

Target groups

The good practices call was addressed to those who provide direct support to PwDs mainly:

- Service Providers (Access to quality inclusive service, person-centred care, NGOs, volunteering associations and leisure centres)
- PwDs advocates and representative organizations
- Local authorities

Selection criteria

A selection committee was developed for the purposes of the ICALL project with the aim to review, assess and present the good practices. The international peer review group (selection committee) was constituted by one representative from each partner organization of the ICALL Project.

The practices submitted were assessed across three vertical criteria - innovation; impact; and scalability and one horizontal criteria to the extent that the practice aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as to “*promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity*”.

Out of 26 promising practices applied from EU and non-EU countries, 10 practices were finally selected as good practices and were included in this Booklet. 2 good practices have been selected as honourable mention.

Screening questions:

- Innovation: Is this practice innovative? Does it look into creative and new ways the beneficiary's lives will be improved? Does it include any fund innovations?
- Impact: Is it impactful? Does it have measurable success in enabling accessibility for persons with disabilities?
- Scalability: Does it have the potential of replicating the project on a large scale?
- Alignment with UNCRPD: To what extent the practice is in line with UNCRPD articles

The questions were scored in a scale 0 to 5, (1) Strongly Disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither Agree nor Disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly Agree



SELECTED PRACTISES

1. Special Rescue – A voluntary fire brigade for people with disabilities

Organization: Special Rescue -project

Location: Pirkanmaa, Finland

Start date: 2020

Status: active

Beneficiaries: people with intellectual disabilities, people with neurodiversity

Funded by: Multiple sources of funding; EU's Rural Development Fund, community resources, Pirkanmaa regions rescue services, community college

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

Illo's VPK's Special Rescue department is intended for adults who need special support. It is a functional group for people over the age of 15 with intellectual disabilities or people with neuropsychological challenges. The purpose of the department is to organize functional activities related to everyday safety, first aid and, as applicable, fire brigade operations. The purpose of the project is to contribute to the increase/expansion of participation in hobby activities and society. The activity is organised in the premises and equipment of the Illo free fire department, and the instructors are two professionals from the health and safety field, who have experience in rescue and first aid and/or volunteer fire department activities. The experience of participation is expected to increase as civic and security skills are accumulated to the needs of people with disabilities. In addition, teaching safety skills to special groups is an important part of civic skills common to all. Strengthening safety skills increases people's feelings of competence and security. Safety skills also benefit the community. From autumn 2020, the activity was included in Sastamala Community College's courses.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

People are involved in safety education where they learn for example first aid, extinguishing and different safety skills for daily living. They learn applicable fire brigade activity and communication about safety. They are also part of voluntary support activity.





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This practice builds on community development on inclusion by raising awareness on safety measures for people with disabilities, involvement of different sectors from health to education and disability service providers and engagement of community resources.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

The Special Rescue initiative in Finland represents an impactful and innovative approach to both inclusive community engagement and emergency response training. This is the first known initiative of its kind in Finland, as there has been no precedent for a specialized fire brigade designed to include individuals with intellectual disabilities and neuropsychological challenges. This is particularly innovative as it combines fire safety training and volunteer emergency services for people with intellectual disabilities and neurodiverse individuals. The program allows participants to acquire real-world skills, including first aid, safety training, and fire brigade activities, which increases their independence and self-confidence while contributing meaningfully to their communities. Unlike traditional models where people with disabilities are seen as recipients of support services, Special Rescue empowers them as active participants in community safety and preparedness.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

People who participate in Special Rescue activities experience a powerful sense of involvement in their own lives, communities, and society. It can be stated that the rescue service voluntary activities have expanded the participation of the participants. As a result of voluntary rescue activities, participants have got to know more people and a whole new community from outside their families and service system. In addition, they feel that the skills learned in the rescue service are important, not only for themselves, but also for the community and society. (attached picture)

Since 2020, more than 45 people with disabilities have participated. The operational model of the activity can be replicated to other contexts. To further ensure the activities funding, the courses should be implemented in community colleges curriculum permanently so that the salary of the instructors could be paid.



2. Mitt Val

Organization: Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan

Location: Västra Götaland, Sweden

Start date: 2018

Status: active

Beneficiaries: people with intellectual disabilities

Funded by: Not explicitly stated; multiple sources of funding; EU's Rural Development Fund, community resources, Pirkanmaa regions rescue services, community college

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

This practise involves learning about the EU elections, rights and voting. Through the “Mitt Val” method people are learning about their rights and are supported through voting. The practice covers the following topics: How does democracy work? How can we all contribute to the functioning of democracy? How can we influence those who decide in society in different ways? Who can vote and why should you vote? What is democracy in the region and municipality? What is the Riksdag? What is the government? What is the EU?

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Mitt Val is a method that makes voting and politics accessible to people with intellectual disabilities. It is based on a study circle with easy-to-read information about how our democracy works and is structured. The method has been developed together with the Riksförbundet FUB and Inre Ringen, FUB's section for members with intellectual disabilities. The method includes an easy-to-talk election discussion where politicians answer the participants' questions. This methodology allows for **active learning, repetition, and peer support**, making it an effective approach for people with intellectual disabilities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The initiative contributes to inclusive community development by:



- Promoting Political Inclusion: Many people with intellectual disabilities lack accessible information about elections, leading to lower voter participation. "Mitt Val" bridges this gap.
- Encouraging Municipal Engagement: Implemented across multiple municipalities, it facilitates cooperation between local governments, disability organizations, and advocacy groups.
- Creating a Platform for Direct Political Dialogue: Politicians are involved in responding to participants' concerns, increasing their awareness of disability rights and needs.
- Empowering Individuals: By understanding and practicing political participation, beneficiaries gain confidence in engaging with society.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

This practice is first of Its Kind in Sweden: While disability advocacy exists in Sweden, "Mitt Val" is unique in systematically addressing political accessibility. It is further innovative because it uses simplified educational tools (the study circle format and easy-to-read materials) in order to ensure the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in democratic processes. It is important because it fosters direct political engagement. Few initiatives provide a structured space for people with disabilities to interact directly with politicians in an accessible way.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

The "Mitt val" practice is implemented in municipalities all over the country. The program has been implemented across Sweden and could be adapted for other countries with similar accessibility barriers.

3. Art and Culture Companion activities

Organization: City of Tampere

Location: Tampere, Finland

Start date: 2013, (Concept originally created in Jyväskylä in 2006)

Status: active

Beneficiaries: people with and without disabilities, volunteers

Funded by: Municipality

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

The Art and Culture Companion Activities initiative is a best-practice model for inclusive cultural participation, blending social support, volunteerism, and accessibility to create a truly inclusive cultural experience for all. The Art and Culture Companion Activities aim to make cultural activities more accessible and socially inclusive for all city residents. The initiative provides trained volunteers who accompany individuals to cultural events, ensuring that those who might feel isolated, hesitant, or physically restricted can engage with arts and culture. The Art & Culture companions:

- Encourage participation in cultural events such as museum visits, concerts, and theatre performances.
- Provide assistance for people with mobility issues, helping them buy tickets and access venues.
- Offer companionship to make the experience more meaningful and interactive.
- Facilitate cultural well-being, enriching the lives of both the participants and the volunteers.

This free-of-charge service is available to anyone who feels they need support or company to enjoy cultural experiences. They are trained volunteers who encourage their peers to join them on trips to museums, concerts or theatre performances. They might assist people with mobility as necessary, help them buy tickets or advise them on what to do at the venue. The main thing, however, is being able to share the experience with someone and to interact with another person. Sharing a cultural experience often makes it deeper and more effective. The Art and Culture companion activities are free of charge for those using the service.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The initiative operates through trained volunteers (Art & Culture companions) who guide individuals in choosing and attending cultural events, provide assistance tailored to personal needs (e.g., supporting mobility or ticket purchasing), encourage social interaction through shared experiences, offer specialized support such as audio description training for assisting visually impaired individuals.

Beyond one-on-one cultural companionship, the practice includes:

- Community walks that integrate local history and culture.
- Workshops on cultural engagement.



- Social gatherings (e.g., coffee sessions at health centres) that facilitate community connections.

This peer-support model ensures a non-hierarchical, friendly, and welcoming environment for individuals who might otherwise struggle with accessing cultural spaces.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The practice is addressed to all members of the community. The presence of a peer creates an uncomplicated and non-hierarchical atmosphere. This highlights the positive impact of peer support and collaboration in creating an inclusive and relaxed environment. The Art and Culture Companion Activities contribute to inclusive community development by bridging the gap between cultural institutions and marginalized groups (e.g., elderly people, persons with disabilities, and those experiencing loneliness), facilitating accessibility and participation by offering free or discounted tickets, encouraging volunteerism, where companions themselves benefit from social engagement and promoting a community-wide culture of inclusion, enabling shared cultural experiences across different social groups. The initiative ensures that cultural opportunities are not limited to a privileged few, but rather become a shared public good, accessible to all.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

This initiative is innovative because it targets both cultural accessibility and social inclusion by addressing psychological and practical barriers to cultural participation. It further uses trained volunteers instead of professional caregivers, making cultural engagement feel more organic, peer-driven, and non-institutionalized. Interestingly, it offers personalized cultural engagement, where companions recommend and tailor cultural experiences based on individual interests and needs. Finally, it encourages social interaction beyond events, such as community coffee sessions, which allow people to form friendships and social connections. This human-centred, peer-led approach to cultural participation redefines accessibility beyond just physical access, ensuring that culture is emotionally and socially inclusive as well.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

This practice is impactful since it fosters cultural accessibility: many individuals who would not otherwise engage with cultural institutions now have access. It further follows a social approach since participants form friendships, engage with their communities, and gain a sense of belonging beyond disability services. Notably, in 2023 alone, approximately 2,300 people benefited from the program in Tampere. This



practice is a municipality-funded model as the city of Tampere provides full funding, but other municipalities fund the initiative through a mix of local government budgets, project funding, and third-sector support. Since its original launch in Jyväskylä (2006), the initiative has spread across multiple Finnish cities, demonstrating its adaptability and transferability.

4. Nevronas Festival of Inclusive Performing Arts and Artistic Interaction

Organization: Nevronas FESTival

Location: Athens, Greece

Start Date: 2022

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: disabled and non-disabled artists (both professional and amateur), disabled and non-disabled audiences, volunteers, students, and the general public interested in inclusive arts

Funded by: sponsorships from companies and institutions, ticket sales

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

The Nevronas FESTival is an inclusive performing arts and artistic interaction festival that breaks down barriers and fosters cultural accessibility and inclusion and has a strong cultural impact. The festival is challenging stereotypes and normalizing disability representation in the arts by providing an accessible platform that recognizes and promotes disabled artists, both amateur and professional, educates and raises awareness about disability, accessibility, and inclusion, encourages social participation through artistic and cultural interaction, provides entertainment and learning opportunities through a variety of artistic expressions. The festival features over 70 inclusive activities, including theater, music, dance, and cinema performances, exhibitions and workshops, discussions and speeches on accessibility and inclusion in the arts. Held at Technopolis, Municipality of Athens, Nevronas FESTival is open to everyone, ensuring that both disabled and non-disabled individuals can experience and engage with art equally.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The Nevronas FESTival promotes inclusivity through a multi-layered approach. It provides a space for disabled artists and ensures their participation in mainstream artistic events. It further creates an inclusive audience experience by providing fully



accessible performances (e.g., sign language interpretation, audio description). Moreover, it offers workshops and discussions that educate the public about disability rights and accessibility in the arts and encourages artistic collaboration between disabled and non-disabled performers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Nevronas FESTival significantly contributes to inclusive community development. By using art as a vehicle for social change, the festival enhances community cohesion and promotes a more inclusive society. It promotes awareness of disability rights and accessibility through art and cultural expression and creates an integrated space where disabled and non-disabled individuals can collaborate, engage, and learn from one another. It builds on a culture of care by engagement of volunteers, where participants gain valuable experience in disability inclusion.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

The Nevronas FESTival is a highly innovative practice within the Greek context. It brings disabled and non-disabled artists together on the same platform and provides a barrier-free cultural experience by implementing universal design and accessibility in all aspects of the festival. It uses art as a tool for inclusion and advocacy, changing perceptions and societal attitudes toward disability. It further provides employment opportunities for disabled and non-disabled artists which is a significantly overlooked area in the Greek context. Unlike traditional disability-focused events, Nevronas FESTival does not segregate disabled artists but rather integrates them into the mainstream cultural scene, making it a true model of inclusion.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

The Nevronas FESTival model is highly replicable in other countries and cities. Its core principles—accessibility, inclusion, and cultural participation can be applied globally, as a model for community engagement through the Arts. It is a highly impactful initiative based on the growing artist and audience participation, over 350 artists and 3,500 attendees have engaged in the festival since its inception. It has a strong community engagement, the event has mobilized 120 volunteers and 50 workers, strengthening civic participation. Its success in Athens demonstrates that fully accessible cultural events are both possible and necessary. By educating, entertaining, and inspiring communities, this festival not only promotes artistic expression but also drives meaningful social change.



5. Social Cooperative Enterprise ORAMA bykentroameasotir

Organization: Social Cooperative Enterprise ORAMA (by "Kentro AMEA Sotir")

Location: Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia, Greece

Start Date: December 2021

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: adults with intellectual disabilities, including individuals with Down syndrome and autism, local businesses and organizations partnering with ORAMA, the broader community benefiting from increased awareness and inclusion.

Funded by: retail and wholesale sales of handcrafted products, government grants and philanthropic contributions, charitable donations and corporate partnerships.

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

ORAMA #bykentroameasotir is a Social Cooperative Enterprise designed to integrate vulnerable social groups into economic and social life. Established under Greek Law 4430/2016, ORAMA specifically aims to support the employment and social inclusion of adults with intellectual disabilities by providing professional training (clay sculpting, production of plant-based candles, personalized printing, unique porcelain decorations). It is an operating store where these individuals can apply their skills in a real work environment. The practice is establishing partnerships with local businesses to promote inclusivity and raises awareness through community events and campaigns. By combining skill development with employment opportunities, ORAMA fosters economic independence and social empowerment for people with disabilities.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

ORAMA's approach integrates vocational training, employment, and community engagement. Individuals receive specialized workshops to develop skills in arts, crafts, and retail management. The cooperative operates a physical store where employees apply their learned skills in a real-world commercial setting. Furthermore, ORAMA collaborates with local businesses and organizations to market its products, spread awareness about inclusive employment and importantly, advocate for accessibility in the workplace. This holistic model ensures that people with intellectual disabilities gain real employment experience while strengthening their autonomy and social presence.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ORAMA contributes to inclusive community development grounded on the employment right of people with disabilities. This cannot be achieved without awareness among local businesses, encouraging more inclusive hiring practices and work opportunities for people with disabilities.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

The innovation of ORAMA lies in its multi-faceted approach that bridges a business model with a social mission. ORAMA blends social inclusion with economic sustainability, providing meaningful employment opportunities and employment training for people with disabilities. This practice is implemented in the big city of Greece, Thessaloniki, where very limited similar initiatives exist. This real-world employment initiative challenges the notion that people with disabilities are dependent on social welfare, proving that they can both contribute to and benefit from the local economy.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

ORAMA has successfully hired and trained individuals with Down syndrome and autism, allowing them to become active members of the workforce. In terms of scalability and replicability, the cooperative enterprise structure can be expanded to other cities and can be adapted for various industries and other contexts.

6.Civic education for self-advocates /Academy of self-advocates

Organization: Eudajmonia Foundation

Location: Dolny Śląsk and Lubuskie regions, Poland

Start Date: 2018

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: people with disabilities

Funded by: City of Wrocław, Marshal's Office, Active Citizens Norwegian Funds, PFRON (State Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People)

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Website: [Regional Academy of Self-Advocacy](#)

Facebook Page: [Academy of Self-Advocates](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

The Academy of Self-Advocates is a civic education initiative that empowers people with disabilities to actively participate in society and advocate for their rights. Inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the principle "Nothing about us without us", the program equips PWD with the skills and knowledge necessary for self-advocacy and independent living.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The academy's methodology is centred on empowerment and experiential learning, ensuring that participants do not just receive education but actively shape their communities. The academy conducts workshops in local communities, where participants meet once a week for at least three hours. The approach includes practical self-advocacy training, community involvement (discussions with local stakeholders), peer Support & Mentoring.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strongly following the UNHCR agenda, the Academy of Self-Advocates fosters inclusive community development by promoting active citizenship among people with disabilities. It provides opportunities for engaging in policy discussions with the local community (i.e. connections with local schools, volunteering).

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

Unlike traditional disability programs, where decisions are made for people with disabilities, this initiative fosters advocacy of people with disabilities where they are empowered as citizens with the aim of true representation of people with disabilities in the community. The academy challenges the perception that PWD are solely recipients of care as it fosters opportunities to contribute to and shape society.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

This is a highly needed and impactful practice. As mentioned since 2018, over 300 people with disabilities have participated. Through this practice, people with disabilities are empowered to actively engage in civic life, advocating for their rights in all aspects of community life. Stronger networks between self-advocates and policymakers are needed in order to include perspectives of people with disabilities in decision-making. Following the UN convention, advocacy initiatives are very essential in representation



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of people with disabilities which can lead to policy changes and more inclusive communities. This practice can be replicated in different contexts.

7. Solidarity coffee

Organization: Solidarity Coffee ("Solidarumo Kava")

Location: Panevėžys, Lithuania

Start Date: 2020 (Concept developed in 2019)

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: Young people with intellectual disabilities, local community members who engage with the initiative

Funded by: European Solidarity Corps, grants, donations, and revenue from coffee sales

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[Solidarity Coffee](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

Solidarity Coffee is a social enterprise that provides meaningful employment opportunities for young people with intellectual disabilities. Founded by five young individuals with disabilities, it was developed to address barriers to employment, social inclusion, and personal empowerment. The initiative operates a coffee shop and mobile coffee service to provide people with disabilities with employment opportunities that promote independence and financial security. The Solidarity Coffee can be seen as a platform for social interaction to break stereotypes and advocacy for equal rights and participation in society.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Solidarity Coffee's approach is comprehensive and hands-on, ensuring that young people with disabilities receive practical training, employment opportunities, and continuous skill development.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Solidarity Coffee bridges the gap between people with disabilities and the broader community through a successful case example. It showcases that people with



disabilities have equal rights in community participation and employment. This initiative fosters a culture of inclusivity, respect, and mutual support at a local level.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

Solidarity Coffee empowers people with disabilities through real employment, not just workshops or training programs. It is further a social enterprise model which is an inclusive case example of how communities could be benefited by active participation of people with disabilities.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

Solidarity Coffee is an impactful practice that fosters community engagement and inclusion and can be replicated elsewhere. Over 20 young people with disabilities have received training and employment and over 70 PWIDs have been involved in various activities.

8. Dopo di Noi project

Organization: Tuscany Region

Location: Florence, Tuscany, Italy

Start Date: 2018

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: people with severe disabilities aged 18-65, particularly those without parents or with elderly parents.

Funded by: state-level funding, with public services, NGOs, and associations co-financing at least 20%, Tuscany Region supplementary funding, personal contributions, property donations.

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

The Dopo di Noi Project was created in response to a critical concern among families of people with disabilities "What will happen to my child when I am no longer able to



take care of them?" . Inspired by Italy's 2016 "Dopo di Noi" Law (L.112/2016), this initiative offers solutions for independent living by preparing adults with severe disabilities for autonomous living, providing co-housing opportunities, where small groups live together under the guidance of social and healthcare professionals. It further operates on the basis of personalized life projects based on each individual's abilities, needs, and aspirations. The project is a collaborative effort between public services, NGOs, and private organizations, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can build independent lives even when family support is no longer available.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The Dopo di Noi Project follows a structured and gradual transition to independent living. It includes assessment & personalised life planning (i.e. relationships, training, employment, and social participation), co-housing experience, family support, integration with local services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The project significantly contributes to inclusive community development as it is shifting from institutional care to community-based living, it engages local NGOs, businesses, and municipalities to create tailored opportunities for people with disabilities and their families. It further encourages workplace inclusion through partnerships with employment programs.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

This approach ensures a smooth transition to adulthood, helping individuals live meaningful, self-determined lives through independent living. It combines public and private sector collaboration – merging government funding with NGO initiatives to maximize resources and expertise.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

This is an impactful approach as it provides opportunities for people with disabilities to live independently. This is a replicable model for inclusive living focusing on supported living.



9. en Rijk Leven (a rich, inclusive life), De VeranderKIZT

Organization: De VeranderKIZT

Location: IJmuiden, The Netherlands

Start Date: 2011

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: people with disabilities (including those with multiple and complex disabilities), families and support organizations, local schools, businesses, clubs, and community initiatives

Funded by: ZonMW (National Learning Network "Zeggenschap & Inclusie", Nuts-Ohra (Expedition Inclusion 2013-2014), self-reliant funding

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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

The Een Rijk Leven (A Rich, Inclusive Life) project supports people with disabilities and complex support needs to lead self-determined lives within their communities. The aim of the practice is to promote self-determination for people with disabilities in education, employment, leisure, and housing, and encourage participation in society through valued social roles in schools, workplaces, and clubs. It further creates sustainable support networks involving families, professionals, and local communities and

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The Een Rijk Leven (A Rich, Inclusive Life) project develops a personalized future plan for each participant, guiding their journey toward independence based on values of personal future planning, social role valorization, and asset-based community development. Participants co-design their lives with family, community members, and professional supporters. Assistance is provided via Personal Budgets (PGBs), allowing individualized care arrangements.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The project works towards community development as it encourages deinstitutionalization, providing the community with integrated housing options and ensures long-term social connections with supportive networks (i.e. families). It further operates at a local level and with local resources by building strong local networks, including sports clubs, cultural organizations, and local businesses.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

The Een Rijk Leven model stands out because it enables people with complex disabilities to lead fully integrated lives, something rarely seen in Dutch disability services. It further shifts support from institutional to community-based settings, promoting co-housing and social engagement and a person-centred support. It fosters employment and volunteer opportunities, ensuring that participants engage meaningfully with their surroundings.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

This practice is an inclusive practice that operates at a local level. This initiative is a groundbreaking model of inclusive living, offering a scalable alternative to institutional care and showing that people with disabilities are contributing members of their communities.

10. Visual Workshop

Organization: Irmák Nonprofit Kft. Service and Supported Housing Centre

Location: Esztergom-Kertváros and Keszölc, Komárom-Esztergom County, Hungary

Start Date: 2021

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: people with disabilities, neurodiversity, people with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, people with mental health issues

Funded by: Irmák Nonprofit Kft. , donations from the artist/mentor and material contributions

Contacts:
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OVERVIEW OF THE PRACTICE

The Visual Workshop is a creative arts program aimed at enhancing self-expression, emotional development, and social inclusion for individuals with disabilities. The annual joint exhibition includes works by both disabled and non-disabled artists, providing a space for artists to advocate for their rights as expressed through Arts in the local community.

THE METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The Visual Workshop is structured to accommodate diverse disabilities, ensuring each participant receives tailored artistic and emotional support through visual arts and expressive media. It is a structured workshop offered once a week.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This practice fosters community development as through cultural accessibility provides a space for disabled artists to be visible and to engage with the community.

THE INNOVATIVE ASPECT

This practice is a contemporary creative way to showcase that people with disabilities have the right to contribute to the cultural life of the community. The practice bridges the gap between disabled and non-disabled artists and challenges social stereotypes through joint exhibitions and creative partnerships.

IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

This is an impactful practice offering increased employment opportunities for disabled individuals in local businesses. Since the beginning of the project, over 50 participants have joined the weekly visual art workshops. As indicated, the public engagement has grown, with exhibitions reaching a broad audience both in-person and online.



ANNEXES

Honorary mention - Good practices

1. Music Centre Resonaari

Organization: Music Centre Resonaari

Location: Uusimaa, Finland

Start Date: 1995

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: people with developmental disabilities, neurodivergent people, physical disabilities, professionals working with special-needs groups in music education, general public, policymakers, and cultural organizations.

Funded by: City of Helsinki (state funding for basic arts education), STEA (Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organizations), tuition fees from students (aligned with other Finnish music schools), grants and donations from private foundations and corporate partnerships, revenue from concerts and training activities

Contacts:

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The Music Centre Resonaari, located in Uusimaa, Finland, is a pioneering initiative that promotes inclusive music education, employment, and community participation for individuals with disabilities. Founded in 1995, the centre has grown into an internationally recognized model for integrating people with developmental disabilities, autism, and other learning or functional challenges into the field of music. The organization operates with a multifaceted approach, combining education, professional development, and social advocacy to transform accessibility in the arts.

Resonaari offers a unique music school that follows Finland's national arts education curriculum, but with adaptations that enable students with disabilities to fully engage in musical learning. The school serves over 300 students annually, guided by 16 trained teachers who implement individualized learning strategies. These strategies include the use of figure notation, a simplified music-reading system developed at Resonaari, which allows students who struggle with traditional notation to learn and play music effectively. In addition to music instruction, Resonaari serves as an expert centre for training educators, caregivers, and professionals who integrate music into disability support services.



The Music Centre Resonaari is an impactful and innovative practice that reshapes how individuals with disabilities engage with music, education, and employment. Through a combination of pedagogical innovation, professional opportunities, and social advocacy, the centre has created a sustainable and scalable model for inclusive cultural development. Its impact is not limited to the field of music; it serves as a broader example of how society can move toward full inclusion by providing meaningful opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

2. Sinergastiria (Co-Workshops)

Organization: Liminal

Location: Athens, Greece

Start Date: September 2023

Status: Active

Beneficiaries: Disabled and non-disabled artists, including individuals with mobility impairments, neurodivergent individuals, blind and deaf participants, professionals in the performing arts sector, audience members, accessibility experts and cultural organizations

Funded by: Greek Ministry of Culture, additional funding from European cultural networks and grants

Contacts:

Marilena Koukouli m.koukouli@liminal.eu

<https://liminal.eu/?lang=en>

The Sinergastiria (Co-Workshops) initiative, developed by liminal, is an innovative cultural program based in Athens, Greece, that promotes inclusivity in the arts by integrating disabled and non-disabled artists in collaborative creative processes. Launched in September 2023, the project emerged from liminal's long-standing experience in accessibility and inclusive education in the arts. It aims to enhance cultural participation, foster co-creation, and develop innovative accessibility services within artistic productions. The initiative is funded by the Greek Ministry of Culture and is deeply rooted in the principles of equal access to cultural goods and the active involvement of disabled individuals in decision-making processes within the arts.

At its core, Sinergastiria consists of two main artistic workshops: theatre and dance, where disabled and non-disabled artists engage in collective creation while applying the Creative Accessibility Methodology (CAM). This methodology ensures that disabled



individuals are not just end-users of accessibility services but also active contributors in the development and execution of artistic productions. To ensure accessibility at all stages, the initiative includes quality check groups made up of individuals with disabilities, who provide guidance on accessibility measures for cultural events. These groups serve as accessibility advisors, influencing the design of both artistic content and its audience experience.

One of the major strengths of Sinergastiria is its role in inclusive community development. By ensuring that disabled individuals take on leadership roles in artistic decision-making, the project breaks down traditional barriers between artists and accessibility service users. The public performances and discussions that accompany each artistic creation allow for a broader community dialogue on accessibility in the arts. The initiative also fosters meaningful interactions between disabled and non-disabled participants, dismantling stereotypes and promoting a more integrated cultural landscape. The project's impact extends beyond the direct participants, as it also engages audiences with disabilities, increasing their participation in cultural events and expanding the scope of inclusive audience development. The Sinergastiria model is highly replicable in other countries and cultural contexts. By integrating disabled individuals not only as participants but as decision-makers and creative leaders, the initiative provides a groundbreaking framework for inclusive cultural participation.

Call for Good practises - Online survey questions

The practices are focused on community development and inclusive living. Informal practices, pilot and non-funded can be included.

Name of the practice:

Website (if exists):

Country/ Region/ Town:

Contact person name and email (ICALL consortium may contact to know more)

1. Can you describe your practice? Please be as specific and descriptive as possible.
tick box: education, employment, independent living, social support, other?
2. What is the objective of the practice?
3. What are the target groups? (if exists)
4. When did this practice first started?
5. Why was this practice developed? (i.e. what were the motives, need-analysis to start this practice?)

6. How many people in total have been supported through this practice?
7. How does it address inclusive community development? Why is it considered innovative in inclusive communities? Please give specific elements/examples of formal/informal practices.
8. How is this practice evaluated by the participants (or any other involved parties, organizations or means)?
9. Can this practice be replicated in other contexts (in other countries/ regions/ municipalities)? If yes, please explain what resources would be needed.
10. What have been the challenges faced during the implementation of this practice?
11. How is this practice funded?
12. How does it ensure its sustainability?