

Supported Employment Model for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Place, Train, Maintain

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Supported Employment Model for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Place, Train, Maintain
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Preface

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This book is the outcome of the project titled with “*Job Coaching: Place, Train, Maintain for People with Intellectual Disabilities (ID)*” created by the project partners from Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, Greece (*Greek Group*), Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego Jozefa Pilsudskiego w Warszawie, Poland (*Polish Group*), The Down Turkey Association, İstanbul (*Down’s Syndrom Group*) with the Yeditepe University Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Department (*Yeditepe Group*). The principle goal of this book is to present the information about the status of the partner countries in offering facilities and opportunities for the people with ID, not only regarding to education but also in relation to the inclusive employment and social life style. In this context, we aimed to offer the general frame of the approaches of the governmental bodies, schools and families on supported employment for the people with ID in Turkey, Greece and Poland. We hope, this may be the first step for improving the supported employment for people with ID in these countries.

Hopefully, the colleagues from other countries may prefer to contribute to this unfortunately neglected area and accept this book as a model for sharing and delivering the knowledge and experiences in supported employment best practices.

We also believe that, the other important aspect of this book is the collaborative work of the academicians and the young researchers for the real-time case studies under the concept of supported employment: *Place, Train, and Maintain*.

For the sustainability of any project, of course, the printed materials as well as webpages are very important. And this book is one of the examples of these aspects. However, the other important and much more productive outcome of a project as far as the university education is concerned is the training of young people. We provided this by offering elective courses for our students in the partner Universities. You may find the course curriculums in the webpages of the each partner University. The suggestions for the universities interested to follow the same route as well as the explanations of the students enrolled to these courses, their opinions on their gains, and expectations can be found in the web page of the project.

Let us give a brief history of this collaborative and voluntary work performed by the project members and their students.

We, as Yeditepe Group started to work on supported employment for people with ID in 2012. Our colleagues, Mr. & Mrs. BİLİR have pointed out the need of supported employment of youngsters with ID who already had vocational training in their schools but not able to find a job or perform the requirements of the vocations they have trained in the actual job environments, and also not able to stay in their jobs for longer periods as their peers, in Turkey. We were also very much impressed with the enthusiasm and excitement of Ms. Elmas IŞIK and Ms. Gülnaz TALOĞLU, the two Specialists in Psychological Counseling and Guidance who adhered the concept of supported employment years ago, and worked as job coaches on voluntary basis for at least their ten students that some of them are still working since 2007.

We were quite interested of all, and the Rectorship, especially, Prof. Dr. Nedret Kuran BURÇOĞLU the Vice-Rector in 2012 found this idea noteworthy and supported us to perform a workshop to learn about the details of this issue: Supported Employment for People with ID. The Director of Disabilities and Elderly of the Ministry of Family Affairs and Social Politics in 2012, Dr. Aylin ÇİFTÇİ was also very much interested with the idea realizing the needs of Turkey regarding to this issue.

Therefore, we as Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences and the Consultation and Coordination Office for the Students with Disabilities of Yeditepe University organized the first workshop in March 1st-2nd, 2013, which was supported financially by BİLİR Family and Yeditepe University. Mr. Christopher (Christy) LYNCH from KARE (Promotion of Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities), Ireland kindly accepted to work with us as instructor and independent external expert during the workshop, and Mr. Luk ZELDERLOO from EASPD (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) supported the workshop as an independent external expert. The participants of the workshop were from the Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Health Sciences of Hacettepe University, Association of Pediatric Physiotherapists, Turkey, The Down Turkey Association, Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Family and Social Politics in addition to the Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation and from the Consultation and Coordination Office for Students with Disabilities of Yeditepe University.

Our second step was to prepare the Erasmus Plus project, titled with Supported Employment Model for People with Intellectual Disabilities (ID): Place, Train, Maintain (2014-1-TR01-KA204-013427) which was accepted in January 2015. The project was designed as a strategic partnership for adult education with the key action of KA2 – Cooperation and Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices. We appreciated to work with our partners from Greece and Poland as well as with our Turkish partner The Down Turkey Association. Last but not the least, our supportive partner RIBEM of the BİLİR's and their teams. Though this book aims to cover the information achieved through the project in relation to supported employment concept in three partner countries as Turkey, Poland and Greece, the readers may find the photo album of the project activities in the e-book published in the address of www.jobcoachingtr.com.

We appreciated very much the keen and sincere care of Prof. Dr. Sina ERCAN, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine who signed the project as the Acting Rector just before we submitted it. We would also like to thank to Prof. Dr. Bayram YILMAZ, the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine for his trust to us.

We would also like to send our gratitude to Ms. Ayşe ÖKTEN and Ms. Gamze KEMERLİ from International Office of Yeditepe University for supporting us during the initial preparations. Especially, we would like to thank to Ms. ÖKTEN in guiding us to structure a sound and logical framework of the project that we believe strengthen us during the evaluation period. And we still have the taste of the cake we had in the International Office that we had just after the announcement of the granted projects by the Turkish National Agency.

We would especially like to thank to our partner university members on behalf of Prof. Dr. Panagiotis TSAKLIS and Prof. Dr. Bartosz MOLIK and their team for their pertinence to fulfill the requirements of this project, not only regarding to the academic and social actions as transnational meetings and on-line gatherings, but also regarding to the timing and punctually required completing this transnational book. We also appreciated immensely our Turkish partner the The Down Turkey Association offering us their facilities to be able to prepare some of the case studies presented in this book. Though they were not our partner, Sıdıka Doğruöz Special Education & Vocational School (Sıdıka DOĞRUÖZ Özel Eğitim İş Uygulama Okulu) was very much Interested to support us to perform our case studies for their students (graduates) under the cooperation of their families. Thus, we would like to present our gratitude for their sincere encouragements. We would also like to thank to Ms. Elmas IŞIK and Ms. Gülnaz TALOĞLU who are in our knowledge, the first volunteer job coaches of Turkey.

We would also like send our appreciations to the Office for Research Projects of the Yeditepe University and the Turkish National Agency of who guided us to have the project to reach to this end.

Last but not the least, we would like to send our appreciations to the Dean Prof. Dr. Serdar ÖZTEZCAN, the previous Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Nedret Kuran BURÇOĞLU and the previous Rector Prof. Dr. Nurcan BAC and our Rector Prof. Dr. Canan Aykut BİNGÖL, who all supported this project starting from its beginning.

Though we had the grant to fulfill the requirements of this project according to its framework, we were fully supported by the Yeditepe University in this regard. Therefore, finally we would like to thank to the Executive Committee of the University and Mr. Bedrettin DALAN, The Honory President.

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