

SEEKING EUROPEAN PARTNERS

European exchanges on the detection, diagnosis, management approach, treatment and awareness of autism

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

Key action 2 - Strategic partnership in adult education

Exchange of good practices

2019-2021 (24 months)

Presentation of the project leader and partners

Gironde Departmental Council (coordinator) is a French local authority responsible for various public service missions for 1,505,517 inhabitants, in particular health and social action (child protection, public health, integration, the fight against insecurity and exclusion, social development and the autonomy of the elderly and disabled); secondary schools (building, maintenance and catering); culture (departmental library and archives); the development of rural areas, fire safety and environmental protection. As the leading competent authority in social action within its geographical area, Gironde Departmental Council devotes 52% of its budget, i.e. €585 million, to individual solidarity. Among its 6,500 agents, around 600 social workers and 300 healthcare professionals assist an ever-growing population. They work in local structures (9 local centres for solidarity and 36 departmental centres for solidarity and inclusion). For several years now, Gironde Departmental Council has been committed to supporting its social workers and healthcare professionals in the renewal and diversification of means to reach and assist the populations they come into contact with. To this end, it draws on traditional training and practice analysis actions, in addition to an exploration of the operating methods of similar professionals in other countries. In this respect, Gironde Departmental Council is engaged in various European projects, including the ERASMUS+ programme in particular.

The MDPH or Maison Départementale des Personnes Handicapées [Departmental Centre for Disabled Persons] is a public interest group created in 2005 and is present in every French department. It is presided over by the Departmental Council and also consists of State services and non-profit organisations for disabled persons. Its mission is to assess the needs of people and provide means to compensate for the impacts of a disability on their lives. In addition to this, it raises awareness of disability among the general public.

Project context

In order to build a global coordinated disability policy for the department, Gironde Departmental Council is steering the '**Territoire 100% inclusif**' ('**100% Inclusive Territory**') scheme launched by the French government. It aims to improve the participation and coordination of all stakeholders involved in the life of a disabled person (schools, businesses, leisure facilities, etc.) in order to fight against exclusion. As the leading body for social action, Gironde Departmental Council is steering this project to create a policy for disabled persons in the department which will be:

- Co-steered with users, based on their experience, expertise and assessment
- Via a seamless, transversal working method
- A lever to boost the partnership between stakeholders in the social-medical sectors and those in the mainstream
- Aimed at ensuring equal access conditions to the mainstream environment across the Gironde department.

In the framework of this disability policy, Gironde Departmental Council is seeking to advance, exchange and renew its practices relative to autism.

The organisations for parents of autistic children draw attention to shortcomings and are lobbying public authorities to build facilities and services adapted to these disorders.

In the Gironde department, a considerable number of local parents' groups are calling on local public authorities. In this framework, the MDPH provides opportunities to meet, listen, discuss and offer solutions.

These meetings have led to the establishment of a steering committee (COPIL) composed of various institutions involved in autism, parents' groups and facility managers. Each member of the Steering Committee provides its brand of expertise. Each form of expertise holds the same value. This is an innovative approach to co-operation and co-building between institutions and non-profit organisations. The work of this Steering Committee consists in implementing awareness actions around the issue of autism.

In the framework of the 'Territoire 100% Inclusif' ('100% Inclusive Territory) project and based on the realisation that French public policy on the detection of autism is lagging behind, Gironde Departmental Council is seeking to develop a European project for exchanging good practices related to autism and focused on:

- Detection
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Awareness

Aims of the project

The main aims of the project are to:

- **Exchange experience and good practices on methods to detect, treat and raise awareness of autism** with European partners using different approaches and exploring the following questions:
 - o What methods to detect, diagnose, treat and raise awareness of autism are currently in use?
 - o What is the role of families, non-profit groups, the educational community and social workers, etc.?
 - o What are the perceptions and social inclusion issues that concern people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and how are they dealt with?
 - o What practices exist for early detection and diagnosis of ASDs?
 - o What methods exist to support families and assist children with ASD (inclusive education, etc.)?
- **Collect methods, ideas, tools and materials** in order to build an action plan for the Gironde Departmental Autism Steering Committee for the next three years.
- **Publicize the Gironde department's experience in this area** (working methods, local actions, peer support developed by parent groups and their implication in the training of educational assistants, etc.)
- **Include parents, children, healthcare professionals and the educational community as much as possible in actions to detect, diagnose, treat and raise awareness of the issue.**

A large part of the project will also focus on the exchange of good practices around raising awareness of autism. The purpose of the programme is to make each and every citizen feel concerned by disability and more particularly the issues linked to autism. That these issues should not be taboo, that each individual can welcome an ASD sufferer into their personal and professional environment without fear and with appropriate behaviour.

This is thus a question of perception; perception of the Individual, and of the Difference which must become familiar. In this respect, the European project could further shape practices in the framework of living together.

These aims are areas of work that can be developed in consultation with interested European partners.

ERASMUS+ co-funding

This project is to be built in response to the 2019 call for project under the European programme 'ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 - strategic partnership in the exchange of good practice', which closes on **21 March 2019**.

Terms and execution of the project

If selected by the ERASMUS+ agency, the project will be executed from September 2019 to September 2021. It will consist in organising field trips corresponding to discussion and/or training sessions on good practices in the detection, diagnosis, treatment and awareness of autism among partner countries of the project.

Profile of European partners sought

Gironde Departmental Council (France), project leader, is seeking 1 to 2 European partners wishing to be involved in this innovative project. Partner structures sought are:

- Local authorities,
- Parents' groups and professional organisations,
- Foundations,
- etc.

Interested partners will be able to contribute to the drafting of the application to the ERASMUS+ programme which will be submitted by Gironde Departmental Council.

Contacts

If you would like to participate, or have any queries:

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**RESPONSE REQUESTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE
11 MARCH 2019**