

ERGO WORK PROJECT

Aims:

The ERGO WORK Project aims to improve employment opportunities for disabled people, through better workplace ergonomics and better trained ergonomics experts who can specialize in their needs. The project aims to:

1. Improve Higher Education Institution - Business (HEI-B) cooperation (“Knowledge Triangle”),
2. Improve learning and teaching methods and content within Ergonomics for more competent, skilled students in the field (“New Skills for New Jobs”),
3. Support equal employment opportunities, universal design and a quality working environment for all employees, including persons with disabilities (“Social Cohesion”).

The Long Term Objective:

Aligned with the **Article 27 of UN Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the long term objective is to set the foundation for a systematic sustainable cooperation between Academia and Business and all other relevant stakeholders, in improved Ergonomics for persons with disabilities in order to foster Reasonable Accommodation at work.

The project will follow this objective with a valorisation and sustainability campaign addressing relevant system and policy making institutions on the European level and national levels to contribute to the adoption of more multidisciplinary Ergonomics curricula in European countries, as well as to contribute to an increased number of adapted work places.



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



ERGO WORK PROJECT ERGOonomic WORKplaces

“ERGO WORK – Joining academia and business for new opportunities in creating ERGOonomic WORK places” is a European project conducted under the Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus), seeking to improve the ergonomic design of jobs and workplaces for disabled people. It promotes Knowledge, Skills and “Social Cohesion” in order to create Reasonable Accommodation at work for all employees, including people with disabilities.

“Social Cohesion” is one of the 7 main Objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The labour market can significantly benefit from greater inclusion of disabled people. The multidisciplinary field of Ergonomics can help and support inclusion through improved design and adaptation of the workplace to cater for diverse needs.

Currently the teaching of Ergonomics and approaches to the inclusion of disabled people lack strong cooperation and knowledge exchange between students, academia, schools, Vocational Educational Training and Business. There is potential for stronger collaboration and more effective education in Ergonomics applied to the employment of people with disabilities.

ERGO WORK PROJECT ERGOonomic WORKplaces

Webpage:

www.ergo-work.eu

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ergowork.project

Twitter:

[@Ergo_Work](https://twitter.com/Ergo_Work)

LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com/groups/ERGO-WORK-](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/ERGO-WORK-8124849)

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MAIN AIMS OF THE PROJECT:

- Analysing existing Curricula in the field of Ergonomics and Universal Design in partnership countries;
- Analysing the employers' attitudes, interests and needs concerning employing and organising work places for people with disabilities;
- Updating the existing Curriculum in Ergonomics at two universities in Slovenia and Poland;
- Preparing Recommendations for Multidisciplinary Ergonomics Curricula;
- Forming 4 Multidisciplinary groups consisting of students, professors and company staff working together on concrete products, work programme design and work place design for disabled people;
- Implementing 2 Pilot projects in Slovenia for the development of new products and new work programmes resulting in new work places for people with disabilities (within 2 partner and 1 associated partner companies);
- Implementing at least 2 Pilot projects in Poland for re-organisation of existing work places in a human friendly, ergonomic way, adapted also to people with disabilities (within 2 partner and 2 non-partner companies);
- Carrying out an intensive dissemination and promotion campaign, especially amongst companies, in order to promote knowledge exchange in the field of Ergonomics and Universal design, HEI-B cooperation, students as future experts in the field, adapted work place design and employability of people with disabilities.

CHALLENGES:

A preliminary analysis carried out in the partnership countries showed the problems and needs related to ergonomics and people with disabilities.

During the ERGO WORK project's lifetime we will address those challenges in order to stimulate the creation of the most adequate places to work for all persons regardless of their impairment and special needs through the following steps:

- In-depth analysis in partner countries.
- Curriculum Ergonomics based on the In-depth Analysis.
- Setting the conditions for the Pilot Projects and implementation of Pilot Projects at companies.
- Promotion Campaign and Dissemination plan at local, regional, national and European level.
- Exploitation and Sustainability Plan after the project's life time, through ERGO WORK e-platform.

The reasons for undertaking this Project:

- **Lack of HEI-B cooperation** in Ergonomics in general and specifically for disabled people;
- **Lack of specific contents**, modules and approaches in addressing equal opportunities in work place design for disabled people in most Ergonomics Curricula plus **Lack of experts** with specific knowledge in Ergonomics for disabled people;
- **Lack of equal opportunities for disabled people** due to: lack of ergonomic work places responding to their special needs and lack of awareness amongst employers about the potential work efficiency of disabled people with adapted ergonomic work places.

Main targets groups of the Project:

- Students,
- Academia,
- People with disabilities,
- Businesses/Companies/Employers

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