

Newsletter

#6, September 2015



Project no.: 539892-LLP-1-2013-1-SI-ERASMUS-EKA
Grant Agreement no.: 2013-3750/001-001
Programme: Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus

*Joining academia and business for new opportunities in
creating ERGOnomic WORK places*

A Word from the Editors

P9 - Association of Psychology INFAD

P10 - European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities - EASPD

Dear Readers, welcome to the 6th ERGO WORK e-newsletter!

After nearly two years of hard work, with regret we announce the end of the ERGO WORK project on September 30th. We appreciate the continued effort and dedication from all ERGO WORK partners in every stage of the work plan; a performance summarised now in this last newsletter where you can find an overview of the results accomplished by the project and its sustainability in the long run.

An in-depth analysis of stakeholders needs, the design of new curriculum material, tested in several pilot projects in companies, and finally the development of a document with recommendations to System and Policy Makers, are the main activities that have been carried out effectively and disseminated through conferences, workshops, meetings, media release as well as on the project e-platform.

But before the project finishes, there are still some important tasks to undertake, focused principally on the dissemination and exploitation of the project outcomes. In particular, we would like to

highlight the ERGO WORK Final International Conference: "Ergonomics – opportunity for new human jobs", to be held in Siedlce (Poland) on September 16th, where participants from different levels and sectors will join to discuss and put ideas together in order to promote the use of ergonomic principles in the labour market. We take this opportunity to invite you to this event.

Finally, we say goodbye with the firm conviction that ERGO WORK project has made and will contribute to make a significant impact on the field of ergonomics design focused on the needs of people with disabilities.

Wishing you an interesting read!

Dr Florencio Vicente
President of INFAD

Mr. Luk Zelderloo
EASPD Secretary General

ERGO WORK results and outcomes

Throughout the two years period of the project, the planned results and outcomes have been carried out according to the work plan and established work packages. It is our pleasure to hereby present the main results achieved during the lifetime of the project:

In-depth Analysis in partner countries (Work Package 2).

After making an overview of the preliminary analysis, the project made an in-depth insight into:

- The current position in each of the partner countries in relation to the teaching of ergonomics for workplace design for people with disabilities.
- The needs of stakeholders.

Led by Coventry University (P7), the research was carried out through an online survey in all 6 partner countries (Slovenia, Poland, UK, Italy, Spain, and Belgium) and an in-depth analysis of curricula containing Ergonomics content. The outcomes can be found in the report:

Report on the In-depth Analysis

[D10 - Report on the In-depth Analysis](#)

Curriculum Ergonomics & Supplementary Modules (Work Package 3).

Following the completion of the stakeholder survey and an in-depth analysis, ERGO WORK developed new curriculum material. This was focused specifically on building relevant expertise in workplace design ranging from logistical solutions for dealing with accessibility problems, to the design of a suitable environment, tools and equipment for an efficient work performance. Whereas the Curriculum supplementary module description (together with extensive teaching materials and exercises) is for now limited to use within partner universities, some of the work carried out by project partners can be found here:

List of topics on Ergonomics for seminars, Master's and PhD thesis

[D16 - List of topics on Ergonomics](#)

Recommendations for Multidisciplinary Curriculum Ergonomics

[D17 - Recommendations for Multidisciplinary Curriculum Ergonomics](#)

Pilot Projects (Work Package 5).

Once the new curriculum material was developed, and after setting the conditions for the piloting of the Project (Work Package 4), the new material was tested in real business environments through six pilot projects implemented in Slovenia (2) and Poland (4), involving students, researchers, employees and persons with disabilities from project partners as well as associated companies (Multidisciplinary Groups).

The pilot projects have gathered different activities like introductory workshops (training for each multidisciplinary group), the development of a new product and work program design (Slovenia), the re-design of existing workplaces (Poland), reports and presentations and a self-evaluation made by participants (using SWOT analysis).

Presentations related to Pilot Projects are available on SlideShare: [Ergo Work/SlideShare](#)

Promotion Campaign and Dissemination plan (Work Package 6).

Except for the final International Conference to be held on the 16th September, all the planned activities in order to reach the wider EU target audience have been achieved. This has been done through promotion of the project in plenty of meetings and events, the design and use of several promotion materials (available in 5 languages), the creation of a network of target audience (with more than 12.000 contacts) and media releases in all partner countries (including press, TV and radio shows and social media). Some of the main results of the dissemination plan can be found here:

Web-page (available in 3 languages)

[D35 - www.ergo-work.eu](#)

E-newsletters (available in 6 languages)

[D38 - E-newsletters](#)

Exploitation and Sustainability Plan (Work Package 7).

In recent months, and after the approval of the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan, two deliverables have been carried out in order to contribute to the long term sustainability of the project:

- E-platform has been established within the web-page to act as a resource for HEI, B and other interested stakeholders, aiming at exchange of knowledge, ideas and report on project results.

E-platform (available in 3 languages)

[D42 - E-platform](#)

- Led by EASPD (P10), Recommendations to System and Policy Makers have been produced with the aim of presenting the outcomes of the project: In-depth analysis, Supplementary Modules and Multidisciplinary Curriculum, including the experiences collected during the project as well.

Recommendations to System and Policy Makers (available in 5 languages)

[D43 - Recommendation to S&P Makers](#)

How to sustain the project outcomes?

The long-term objective of the project, aligned with the Article 27 of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, is to set the foundation for a systematic sustainable cooperation between Academia and Business and all other relevant stakeholders in Ergonomics for persons with disabilities in order to foster reasonable accommodation at work. To reach this goal an exploitation and sustainability plan was developed by P10-EASPD at the start of 2015, and presented in Salamanca during the 3rd partner meeting.

It is clear that the consortium will maintain the dissemination and multiplication of the project outcomes after its completion. The partnership is examining different ways of governance to sustain the project outcomes after the lifetime of the project. There's a commitment that all partners will continue to participate in the maintaining of the website and the other project outcomes. An appointed group will be mainly in charge of sustaining the administrative part of the website on a voluntary base. One of the partners will be in charge of following-up the E-platform when it will be integrated/put on another (specialised) website, and a follow-up team in the post-project period will carry on the administrative tasks of the website (e-platform) and networking. Final decisions on these issues will be made during the final project meeting in Siedlce.

To ensure sustainable development of improving Ergonomics on the level of HEI and companies, and to improve the impact and efforts of the project, especially towards political and economic decision makers, recommendations for system and policy making institutions were developed by P10-EASPD, which include proposals for long term cooperation between Academia and Business. These recommendations were based on the findings of studies conducted as part of project, namely the deliverables "Recommendations for Multidisciplinary Curriculum Ergonomics" (Summary of these recommendations may be found in Annex I) and "Report on In-depth Analysis," this paper provides a list of recommendations to system and policy makers on improving workplace ergonomics for people with disabilities. In addition, the document takes into account in-depth discussions with experts from the Standing Committees on Employment of the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD). This deliverable aims to provide a contribution to the future development and innovation of the open labour market in the partner countries of the ERGO WORK project and throughout the European Union. In the debate about disability, quality of life should always be at the core of every decision regardless of the field.

As a support to the disseminating of the recommendations and all other project deliverables, EASPD developed an additional paper "Communication of D4 policy Recommendations to System and Policy Makers", to support the partners in their dissemination and networking efforts. This communication strategy is developed as a guideline for all project partners, particularly the partners from Slovenia and Poland, to facilitate the communication of the policy recommendations.

Activity Reports

On the 9th of May, the final version of the ERGO WORK Recommendation for System and Policy Makers was discussed in-depth with the members and experts of the Standing Committees on Employment of the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD). Final comments were given after which the Committee approved the Recommendations as a valid instrument to promote the project outcomes and goals.

On the 8th of June 2015, a Seminar for entrepreneurs on "Creating ergonomic workplaces – ERGO WORK" took place in Mościbrody Mansion, Poland. The seminar was organized by the Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences, the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce as part of the ERGO WORK Project. The ERGO WORK Project Partners from Poland, students of Multidisciplinary Groups and invited guests from other companies took part in the seminar. During the Seminar the results of pilot projects implemented in four companies in Poland and the latest information relating to ergonomic workplace design were presented and discussed.

On the 27th of June 2015 in Porto, Portugal during END 2015, the International Conference on Education and New Developments, Marzena Wójcik-Augustyniak, PhD gave a speech on "Creating Inclusive Workplaces for Persons with Disabilities as an Integral Element of Diversity Management" in which the ERGO WORK Project was presented. More information about the conference: www.end-educationconference.org

Upcoming events

INVITATION TO THE FINAL PROJECT CONFERENCE

Dear Colleagues,

The ERGO WORK Project Team and the Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences, University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce cordially invite you to participate in the International Scientific Conference on

“Ergonomics – opportunity for new human jobs”

which is organized within the ERGO WORK Project funded by European Union
Attendance is free of charge

Date: **September 16, 2015**

Venue: the Main Library of **the University of Natural Sciences and Humanities in Siedlce**
9, Ks. Jerzy Popiełuszki Street

More information – www.ergo-work.eu

Looking forward to welcoming you in Siedlce, Poland!
Please forward the invitation to those colleagues, who would be interested in the topic of conference!

International Office:

Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences
17/19, Żytnia Street, 08-110 Siedlce (Poland)
Secretariat of the Conference:
Marzena Wójcik-Augustyniak
phone: +48 604 253 198
e-mail: marwojaug@tlen.pl

EASPD International Conference "Inclusive teaching programmes: Let's develop it together!" Salzburg, Austria, 22-23 October 2015

The Recommendations for System and Policy Makers, together with the other project deliverables, will be officially presented by EASPD on 22-23 October in Salzburg to the EASPD members during the Standing Committee on Employment and during the General Assembly of EASPD.

Radio Maribor, Slovenia will again host representatives of OZARA d.o.o., coordinator of ERGO WORK project, in a daily radio show. Follow the news on the date at <http://www.rtvsllo.si/radiomaribor/>.

*This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
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For Other languages see:
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/publ/graphics/agencies/use-translation.pdf