



We trained formal and non-formal education professionals to become 'resource(s) persons for sensory disorders' March 2022

About the *Open up* project

The *Open up* project aims at engaging formal and non-formal education professionals in the inclusion of young people with sensory disorders. It focuses on **developing the capacity of professionals working in mainstream schools and youth organisations** to ensure quality inclusive education for children and teenagers with visual and hearing impairments. To achieve this, the *Open up* project partners are co-developing, testing and evaluating 4 innovative tools tailored to this target group:

- An **accessibility guide** including practical information to better host young people with sensory disorders in your premises and engage them in educational activities
- A 3-days face-to-face **training programme** to become a 'resource(s) person' who has gained practical knowledge and interpersonal skills that can be applied and shared in any educational work environment
- An **e-learning platform** about inclusive education and sensory disorders
- A **joint statement** aiming at formulating recommendations for policy makers in the field of education to improve the quality of inclusive education in Europe

The resource(s) persons' profile

The *Open up* project aspires to **develop and promote the 'resource(s) person' profile** who supports young people with sensory disorders, both in formal and non-formal education settings. This hybrid role is easily accessible to any teacher or youth worker who wants to contribute to improve access to education for children and teenagers with sensory disorders.

A resource(s) person as defined by the *Open up* partners is any formal or non-formal education professional working in a mainstream school or youth organisation who has gained a set of knowledge or attitudes that he/she is able to share with his/her colleagues to ensure quality inclusive education for young people with sensory disorders.

This new role differs from the special education teachers who oversee the education and training of pupils and students with physical, emotional, mental, and learning disabilities. A 'resource(s) person', specifically supports children and teenagers with sensory disorders, both in formal and non-formal settings. This is a role that any teacher or youth worker who wants to improve the quality of inclusive education can take.

What is new?

The *Open up* training event in Zagreb, 22-24 February 2022

The *Open up* training event took place in Zagreb, Croatia from the 22nd to the 24th of February. It was hosted by the Croatian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HSGN). The partners finally managed to organize this type of transnational activity despite of the pandemic and COVID safety measures that still differ from one country to another: it was a blended face-to-face and online training for those who could not make the trip. In total, 16 trainees with various backgrounds, incl. teachers, social workers and a librarian coming from Croatia, France, Spain and Cyprus learnt about inclusive education in general. They gained knowledge and acquired practical tools to better support young people with visual or hearing impairments.

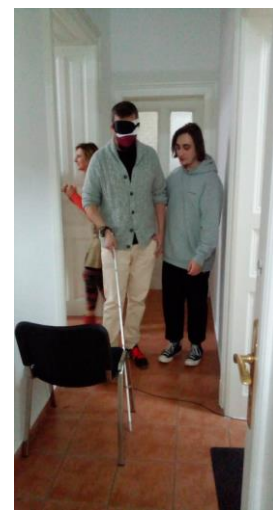
This training consisted of 6 modules co-designed by the *Open up* partners since early 2021 and they were tested for the very first time for this occasion. It was a rich and intense training that our trainers delivered in 3 days, in English, to an intercultural audience. It was an exciting and challenging experience for all of us. It was also interesting to share work experiences between professionals with different working cultures and approaches of inclusive education. This was also an opportunity for our participants to develop their own network and to learn about the project's outputs so they can start to use them in their home country.

Our 6 following modules were all balanced between regular instructor-led sessions, workshops, practical activities and group reflection:

- Introduction to inclusive education
- Identification & evaluation of educational needs
- Educational and social interventions
- Supporting structures
- Communication & data transmitting
- Inclusive education awareness & engagement

As it was the first time that this training was live-tested, our 16 trainees completed online surveys in order to collect their feedback, so the *Open up* partners can adjust the training materials accordingly.

Once its final version will be validated by all the partners, this training will be translated from English into 4 other languages incl. Croatian, French, Spanish and Greek. All these contents will be free of rights and downloadable from the *Open up* website so they can be delivered to a larger number of European learners.



The *Open up* partners

- [La Vie Active](#), France [(Coord.)]
- [Ouvrir Les Yeux](#), France
- [Hrvatski savez gluhih i nagluhih \(HSGN\)](#), Croatia
- [INNOVADE LI LTD.](#), Cyprus
- [Innovation Training Center \(ITC\)](#), Spain
- [Asociación de Personas con Discapacidad Verdiblanca](#), Spain

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