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Integrative Parent' s Autism Training 2020-1-EL01-KA204-079195

Minutes of the meeting

Kick off meeting, Athens January 28 & 29 2021

09.30 am – 14.30 pm Central European Time via google meet

On the 28th and 29th of January 2021, the IPAT project - Integrative Parents' Autism Training – was kicked off with a two-day online meeting. The Child and Adolescent's Center as project coordinator and its partners gathered together online for a kick-off meeting that was planned to happen in Athens. Due to the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the partnership met online and fruitfully worked together towards the achievement of the project objectives.

Thursday January 28 2021:

At the beginning of the meeting, greetings were addressed by:

- a. **Vivi Sidirofagi**, President of the Board, *Child and Adolescent's Center*.
- b. **Alexandra Syrogianni**, Member of the Board, *Greek Organization for the Protection of Autistic People. ΟΙ ΑΛΛΟΙ ΔΥΟ ΔΕΝ ΗΤΑΝ ΤΕΛΙΚΑ*
- c. **Erifili Kalogeropoulou**, President of the Board, *Association of Parents Guardians and Friends of People with Autism Larissa*.
- d. **Kübra ÇİNKİLİNÇ** of the *Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Woman and Family Branch Office Clinical*.

The first section of the meeting was devoted to the presentations and discussion on the policies and practices currently implemented in each project partner country. The first session proved to be very useful for comparing different approaches and triggering an open discussion on what are the strengths and weaknesses each country experiences and most of all, how they relate to the objectives of IPAT and can contribute to it.

Presentations were made as follows:

- e. **Greece** by **Alexandra Syrogianni** of the Greek Organization for the Protection of Autistic People.
- f. **Turkey** by **Kübra ÇINKILINÇ** of the *Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Woman and Family Branch Office Clinical*.
- g. **Italy** by **Martina Nucifora - Ambra Occhipinti** of the “*Società cooperativa sociale Controvento ONLUS*”:
- h. **Spain** by **Conchi Remírez** of the “*Asociacion de Padres de personas con Autismo – Burgos*”:

In the second session, partners discussed the methodology for the implementation of the focus groups that will allow organizations to identify the needs as expressed by the parents themselves, so as to develop the IPAT module and digital training tool accordingly. Leading by example, the project coordinator shared with all participants the approach and methodology used as well as the challenges encountered for the preparation and implementation of the focus group that had already been implemented in Greece with 5 parents of autistic people. Useful suggestions for the improvement of the data collection tool were formulated by the participants. Further, the draft report of the literature review was presented and discussed.

Friday January 29, 2021:

The first session of the second day of the kick-off meeting was devoted to the presentation of the methodology of work that each partner organization will put in place for achieving the objectives and producing the intellectual outputs (IOs) of the project. Namely, the IPAT partnership during the 33 months of the project will develop a needs assessment report (IO1), an integrated parents’ autism training module (IO2), an integrated parents’ autism self –training digital tool (IO3) and an evaluation report (IO4) describing the results of the IPAT experience.

The 2nd session refers to the Communication issues; webpage and communication plan, which were both presented by the respective partners in charge, namely Epioni and Controvento. Under the guidance of Controvento and EPIONI, the partners discussed on the communication and dissemination plan of the IPAT project, its tools and channels. A proper communication plan was put in place for maximizing the impact of the project beyond the partnership and ensure that the results and resources of the IPAT project will be available to the widest possible audience.

The 3rd session referred to monitoring the activities, as described in the project. The project Scientific coordinator presented an overview of what had already been implemented according to schedule and what was ahead in the coming months, as well as the respective tasks distributed among the partners. Partners agreed that the project was evolving according to schedule and committed for the timely and efficient organisation of the focus groups, for

developing their country specific results and report according to the guide adopted and for providing feedback to the literature review draft report. It was also agreed that the 2nd transnational meeting, initially planned in Gaziantep - Turkey, would also be held online at the end of April 2021, dates to be defined. The partners agreed that the 60% of the travel related fees for the 1st and 2nd meetings would be transferred to IO1, as it eventually proved to be more demanding in terms of time and investment than described in the budget. The coordinator will collect the respective requests and submit them to the national Agency for approval, according to the regulations valid as per the pandemic.

Last but not least, the online Kick-off Meeting was also the opportunity for partners to get to know more about the Child & Adolescent's Center. The coordinator offered a virtual tour of the Center's departments providing services to autistic individuals, based on interactive presentations: the Children and Adolescents' Department in Chios, by Eleftheria Binikou, Head of the Department, the Day Care Center for Adolescents with Autism in West Attika "Stin Avli tou Kosmou", by Yannis Brintzoulakis, Head of the Department and the Specialized Diagnostic and Rehabilitation center for people with ASD "Helianthos", by Katerina Mascha, Head of the Department.

At this point, the Kick off meeting was closed.