

Supported Education for people with psychiatric disabilities

Consortium: Hanze University Groningen (NL) ; Ledovec, Plzen (CZ) ; AEIPS, Lisbon (PT) ; Student Welfare organization of Bergen SiB & NAV, Bergen (NO) 

What is the ImpulSE project?

The main aim of the ImpulSE project (October 2013-December 2015) was the development of a toolkit for Supported Education services for students with psychiatric disabilities. The toolkit is aimed at students counselors, trainers, teachers and tutors, mental health professionals, and local authority officials involved in policymaking concerning people with psychiatric disabilities. The toolkit is based upon needs- and resources assessments in the partner countries, as well as good practices from these (see Newsletter from January 2015). A second aim was the establishment of a European Network of Supported Education (ENSEd), starting with a first International Conference on Supported Education.



The Supported Education Toolkit

Section 1 Introduction to the Toolkit

- Myths, facts and figures
- Background of SEd: mission, principles and target group
- Barriers and facilitators in choosing, getting and keeping a higher education

Section 2 Choose-Get-Keep Interventions

- Impuls career guidance course
- Functional assessment tools
- Resource assessment tools
- Disclosing a psychiatric disability in the educational setting
- Peer Support Group

Section 3 Implementation manual

- Involvement of stakeholders
- Needs and resource assessment
- Communication plan
- Staff training
- Sustainability

What has been done in the last year?

After completing the needs and resources assessments in the first year, we have developed the actual Supported Education tools in the second year. The partners worked on their own tools, giving feedback to the other partners. Also the advisory board and panels of experts and students with psychiatric disabilities, were consulted. Furthermore, the partners wrote an implementation manual to help professionals who want to implement a Supported Education Program in their organization. Also, the European Network on Supported Education was established, and the 1st European conference on Supported Education was organized in the Netherlands.

1st European conference on Supported Education

On November 16 and 17 the concluding conference took place at the Martini Plaza, in Groningen, the Netherlands. More than 160 students, clients, family members, teachers, researchers and mental health professionals from 17 different countries attended this conference. The Supported Education Toolkit was presented to the audience, and in 11 keynotes; 28 workshops and 27 posters the topic of Supported Education was addressed. After the conference, we had our final project meeting where we finalized the toolkit.



Bergen, Norway, May 2015

In May 2015 we had a project meeting in Bergen, Norway, where we discussed the concept tools with the Advisory Board and started working on the implementation manual. Besides, our partner from Bergen organized an exchange meeting with students with psychiatric disabilities.



More information

- The toolkit is (in several languages) freely available on our website www.supportededucation.eu
- Interested in becoming a member of ENSEd? Visit www.supportededucation.eu or join our LinkedIn group 'Supported Education'
- ✉ J.Hofstra@pl.hanze.nl