



LEONARDO DA VINCI — TRANSFER OF INNOVATION



As the flagship European Funding programme in the field of education and training, the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. It is an umbrella programme integrating various educational and training initiatives. LLP is divided in four sectorial sub programmes and four so called 'transversal' programmes.

• Structure

The sectorial sub programmes focus on different stages of education and training and continuing previous programmes:

- Comenius for schools;
- Erasmus for higher education;
- Leonardo da Vinci for vocational education and training;
- Grundtvig for adult education.

Four key activities focus on:

- Policy cooperation and innovation;
- Languages;

- Information and communication technologies - ICT;
Dissemination and exploitation of results

The **Jean Monnet programme** also falls under the LLP umbrella, it stimulates teaching, reflection and debate on the European integration process at higher education institutions.

Eurydice is an institutional network for gathering, monitoring, processing and circulating reliable and readily comparable information on education systems and policies throughout Europe.

The **transversal programmes** aim to complement the sectorial sub programmes and to ensure that they achieve the best results possible. They aim to promote European cooperation in fields covering two or more of the sub-programmes. In addition they seek to promote quality and transparency of Member States' education and training systems.

Individual Grants and Scholarships

The Lifelong Learning Programme also offers financial support for individuals in all education sectors and at all education levels

• Budget

LLP has a budget of nearly €7 billion for the period 2007 to 2013

• Reference

The Decision establishing the Lifelong Learning Programme was published in the Official Journal of the European Union L327/45 on 24 November 2006.

• Management of the LLP Programme

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Agency Executive Agency (EACEA) is responsible for the management of certain parts of the Lifelong learning programme under supervision from its parent Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC).

Contents:

Lifelong Learning Programme	1
Leonardo Te.D Project	2
Partners	3
Use of Assistance and Therapy Dogs for Children with Autism	4

Disclaimer

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Leonardo TOI Te.D Project description



Rationale

The November 2009 "EU Employment Situation and Social Outlook Report states that the 'Health and Social Services' domain constitutes one of the most important sectors for the European economy. This is not only from the size of its share in economic output (5% and 13% of GDP) but also from the level of employment in the sector (about 20 million workers in 2007). In 2006 the sector accounted for value added of over €800 billion. However, value added in the sector differs enormously between the EU-15 and the new member states (NMS) - the NMS represent only 3% of the EU value added. In the EU social services the workforce amounts to roughly 30%. The share is very different across Member States. In partner countries the share is less than 20%, while in some old Member States, like Denmark, the share reaches nearly 45%. Some old Member States also have a relatively low share. In Belgium the share accounts for only 20%. Although major differences are present between countries with respect to the magnitude of long term growth in employment in the sector, all categories of countries have recorded employment growth over the last decade. There are a number of challenges facing health systems have to perform a difficult balancing act, firstly between increasing demands on health services and restricted supply, and secondly regarding the need to respond to the requirements of different elements of the po-

ulation (they have to face the challenge of adapting healthcare systems to an ageing population). Ageing populations, new therapeutic possibilities and rising expectations have made the provision of health care much more complex than in the past. The need to be cost effective and reduce hospitalization have become a priority. There is also a new emphasis on prevention rather than treatment. Health professionals must acquire a range of new skills. This project will help by providing trained people to support this new industry whilst helping those at disadvantage by providing training and where possible accreditation, leading to new jobs. The Veneto Regional law 3/2005 "indications on complementary therapies" recognizes pet therapy as a valid and effective treatment. The Ministry of Health in Vicenza has established the "National Center for Pet Therapy". In relation to the EU initiative "New skills in new jobs" the project aims at creating a new professional profile to support and help the pet therapy team: the therapy dog trainer.

Aims and Objective

Te.D is an innovative support and training programme which aids long term unemployed, to enter or re-enter the labour market in a new area of work. The specific objectives of the project will be to adapt it to 6 countries meeting the needs of the particular labour market context, VET system and needs of the target groups in each country. As a key part

of the successful development and mainstreaming in Italy Associazione NET will involve also the C.S.C (Behavioural Sciences center) of the University of Padua managing the animal side of the initiative. A second important aim is to reach accreditation in each country partner of the project. This is being undertaken through the UK Open College Network. Each partner will create a database of stakeholders and relevant contacts in its formative stage. The adaptation and pilot of the course will be supported by the Stakeholders 'Round Table' in each country which will advise on these stages and contribute to the evaluation processes. By targeting long term unemployed in each of the partner countries the project will further the Lisbon strategy of making the EU the most competitive knowledge based economy. It will contribute to social cohesion by supporting the acquisition of key competencies by a group at risk, enabling them to develop competence, confidence and skills and become a valued part of the community. Moreover the innovative domain which is pet therapy enables the Te.D project to meet the EE priority "New skills in new jobs" by creating a new professional profile in an important field.

The work plan is as follows:

1. Project management - Wisamar Germany;
2. Dissemination and valorisation - Co.N.E.Ct (Belgium);
3. Research related to the adaptation of the Te.D learning package in each partner country - A.H.E. (PL);
4. Adaptation and translation of the Te.D learning package for each partner's country - Associazione NET (Italy);
5. Piloting the learning package in each country - Fundaci3n Bocalan (ES);
6. Evaluation and review of the Te.D learning package - Growing Rural Enterprise (UK).

Project partners at kick-off meeting in UK





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Curiosities...



Dogs are used to perform many tasks in the care and treatment of people. They assist the blind, help autistic children and demented elderly. There's a study where they even stimulate (ou cheer up) depressed people. Dog owners have health benefits from the presence of their dogs. They have to bring their pets out to the street in different

weather conditions. This benefits the cardiovascular and the immune system. Indeed, statistically, dog owners rarely get a heart attack or stroke.

Specially trained working dogs help blind, deaf or wheelchair-bounded people to their everyday lives. The animals put in the treatment of patients with dementia represent a major benefit.

The contact with a therapy dog is often easier than interacting with people. The mere presence of animals improves their mood. Even aggressive or sealed, patients are again accessible to supervisors.

source: www.focus.de



Use of Assistance and Therapy Dogs for Children with Autism

Background

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are characterized by deficits in social reciprocity and communication, and by unusually restricted, repetitive behaviors. Intervention strategies based on the exploitation of the emotional aspects of human–dog relationships hold the potential to overcome the difficulty of subjects with ASD to relate and interact effectively with others, targeting core symptoms of this disorder.

Methods

This review summarizes the results of six published studies on the effects of brief interactions with dogs and the effects of introducing dogs in families with a child diagnosed with ASD, with an emphasis on social behaviors and language use. Furthermore, the possible mechanisms responsible for the beneficial effects observed are discussed.

Conclusions

Although the studies described here are encouraging, further research with better designs and using larger samples is needed to strengthen translation of such interventions to the clinic. In addition, potential applications of analyzing child–dog interactions are highlighted to screen for early signs of the disorder.

Bocalan Fundation

The Bocalan Fundation is a non-profit entity which dedicates itself to integration of autistics towards the promotion of contact with animals, delivering assistant dogs to the families. To an autistic child, the world is often filled with loud distractions, bright lights, disorienting stimuli, and uncontrollable nervous impulses. These days, more and more autistic children are facing this challenging world with a loving, specially trained companion by their side: their therapy dog. This type of therapy is a complementary intervention, not an alternative one. It is very important to consider that the more interventions the child has (IAA, physical therapy, neuropsychology...), the better the results may be. It is not a distinct form of intervention, because dogs are used as a versatile and reinforcing mean. The main goal is to raise the patient's active participation in the therapeutic process, in order to develop diction, social abilities, calculation, discrimination, anxiety levels and learning of new adaptive behaviors. Autistic children are the most benefited by this therapy. Fundación Bocalán works with dogs because they are a very multisensorial stimulus, they smell in a specific way, they are warm, they have different hair textures, they are alive and promote espontaneous behaviours. They are highly trainable so that they can capture children's attention. Different

therapeutic targets can be worked, such as verbal and non-verbal imitation, impulse control, emotional expression, reducing anxiety levels, discrimination tasks, generalization tasks, social skills, reducing stereotypes.

The therapeutic targets that have been worked were:

- reducing stereotypes
- reducing anxiety levels (he showed defiance behaviours, screaming, and lying on the floor)
- improving words pronunciation
- tolerate the reinforcement delay
- hitting his brother when his mother interacts with him

The child showed significant changes in his behaviour and the process includes a matching with a service dog for children with autism.

This article has been written by SIFU group, whose aim is to include disabled people in the occupational area and society.



SOME DATA

- 1 IN 110 CHILDREN SHOW ASD (AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER)
- 10% OF AUTISTS FIND A FULL TIME JOB
- 15% SHOW A HIGH LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES