



ENHANCING COMMUNICATION: RESEARCH TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ICT RESOURCES AND TOOLS



Background

EC + is a project aiming to improve the interaction of professionals with people suffering severe mental retardation and development of resources and special ICT tools. It is a 27 months project coordinated by the University of Malaga under the Erasmus Plus program of the European Union (2015) within the KA2 action, Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good practices and Strategic Alliances for Higher Education. Previous studies show the need to facilitate communication to avoid exclusion and improve the working conditions of professionals.

- Creating an open access educational portal hosting total communication and multimodal communication resources.
- Training courses and workshops for implementation of project's resources (ECTS). Academic year 2016-2017.
- Implementation of resources in institutions to test their validity and reliability (2017).
- International Conference (December 2017) at the University of Malaga.

Goals

The project's main goals are the following:

- The development of an educational website with information on diseases and provision of communication tools through technologies and mobile applications that improve communication with people who are at high risk of exclusion due to serious intellectual disability.
- The provision of training to students from various disciplines (Health Sciences, Education, Psychology, Speech Therapy and Interpreting Studies) whose future profession can be closely related to the specialized communication with disabled people.

Main Activities

- Providing scientific information resources on rare diseases.

Training courses

The four institutions of the consortium will offer online and streaming courses for students and professionals using the educational materials within the educational portal. These courses will be publicized from September 2016 onwards.

International conference

Title: I International Conference on new insights for total communication, interpreting and multimodality within healthcare and disability settings

Date and place: 12-14 December 2017, University of Malaga (Spain).

Theme: augmentative and alternative communication, rare diseases and pathologies that affect language and communication, total communication, healthcare interpreting, community interpreting and multimodality, disability and multimodality, communication and equality and sign language.

Confirmed plenary speakers: Dr. Stephen Calculator (University of New Hampshire, USA), Dr. Claudia V. Angelelli (Heriot-Watt University, UK), Dr. Elisabeth Gabau (Parc Taulí Hospital).



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