

Results from Work Package 3

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How should vocational guidance, vocational training and networking be designed to support the transition from sheltered employment to the general labour market? What people with intellectual disabilities expect from the workshops, inclusion experts and companies? What deductions can be made from this for an include³ method?

Work package 3 from the Include³ project, which is currently underway, answers these and other questions.

Activities have already taken place and can already be accessed online as a result:

- **Focus group report** (English): A focus group report illuminates the status quo and wishes of people with intellectual disabilities in workshops, inclusion experts and companies. The results relate to counselling, vocational training and the design of networks during the transition from sheltered employment to the general labour market. You can download the report online, if you click on the following link ([Focus groups – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](#))
- **Expert exchange in Belgium, Cyprus, Germany and Slovenia** (Community Engagement Events): We discussed the results of the focus group report and the derivations for an Include³ method in a feedback loop with committed people and experts in the field of inclusion. The agenda, short reports and results can be downloaded online ([Expert event in Belgium – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](#), [Expert event in Cyprus – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](#), [Expert event in Germany – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](#), [Expert event in Slovenia – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](#))
- **International partner meeting** in B-Eupen: We took the results from the focus groups and the specialist events to an international project meeting in Eupen, Belgium in April 2024. Here we also had the special opportunity to take a look at the protective workshop in Eupen. Pictures and a short summary of the meeting can be found here: [Partner meetings – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](#).

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Illustration 1: Partner meeting in Eupen in April 2024. The international Include³ project team receives its confirmations of participation.

Not all activities have been completed yet. We are still working on the following results:

- **Guidelines for the curriculum:** Work package 4 is intended to create a curriculum for people who are new to working in counselling for or in sheltered workshops as young professionals. As a basis, we derive guidelines in work package 3 that contain the principles and content of counselling, education and networking activities. This allows us to incorporate the experts' knowledge and feedback directly into the project. An explanatory video on the guidelines is already available online: [Guidelines for method development – Pathways towards Inclusion \(include3.eu\)](https://include3.eu).
- **Report on the Community Engagement Events:** We also summarize the results of the professional events in a report. The report is not yet available online. However, you can find a short summary on the next page.

Short summary of the report on the community engagement events:

As part of the Erasmus+ project "Include³", several community engagement events took place in Belgium, Cyprus, Germany and Slovenia between 23 February and 15 March 2024. The aim of these events was to highlight the latest project results on the transition of people with cognitive disabilities from sheltered employment to the general labour market and to collect valuable feedback from inclusion experts and other stakeholders.

- **Belgium: Presentation of the Include³ project and workshop**
The community engagement event in Eupen, Belgium, attracted various inclusion experts, employers and staff from special schools. A total of 13 people took part. The event included an introduction to the Include³ project, the presentation of previous project results and a workshop on inclusion in the primary labour market.

- **Zypern: Include³ Information day**
The event in Cyprus took place on 23 February 2024 at "The View Cafe" and attracted experts in inclusion, psychologists, occupational therapists, counsellors and members of the Self-Advocacy Group.
- **Germany: Include³ Information and Action Day with Workshop**
In Germany, the event took place on 27 February 2024 at the University of Applied Sciences of the Federal Employment Agency (HdBA). The Include³ project was intensively discussed with 27 participants, including experts in inclusion and representatives of the Diakoniewerkstätten Rhein-Neckar.
- **Slovenia: Information day and lively exchange**
The event in Slovenia on 15 March 2024 attracted 20 participants from the public and private sectors. OZARA d.o.o. presented the progress of the Include³ project and collected feedback on the further development of the curriculum.

Result:

The community engagement events in Belgium, Cyprus, Germany and Slovenia have shown that the needs and challenges of the transition from sheltered employment to the general labour market are diverse and require specific adjustments. The key findings from the events are:

- **Belgium:** Need to adapt the guidelines to national contexts and better prepare companies for employees with disabilities.
- **Cyprus:** Importance of networking and exchange of relevant actors for successful inclusion.
- **Germany:** Need for individual counselling, networks and coordinated educational content for the transition to the general labour market.
- **Slovenia:** strengthening rehabilitation services and promoting the independence of people with disabilities.

These results serve as valuable feedback for the further development of the guidelines and curriculum in the Include³ project to ensure an inclusive and sustainable integration of people with cognitive disabilities into the labour market.

The Include³ team would like to thank all participants for the successful exchange and looks forward to further cooperation to promote inclusion in Europe.

Project consortium

