Project introduction

**Pathways towards Inclusion –
Transitions from Sheltered Employment for People with Intellectual Disabilities into the
Regular Labour Market: Identification, Dissemination and Implementation of Good Practice
in Europe**

To support compliance with the EU and UN inclusion goals, in 2021 the European Parliament formulated a call for more research in the field of sheltered workshops. Include³ responds to this call and will develop resources and a curriculum in an inclusive and co-productive research process to create individualized pathways for people with intellectual disabilities from targeted vocational training and general education towards sustainable employment and dignified work. Based on a curriculum for the Include³ method, vocational counsellors working in or for sheltered workshops will conduct seminars with people with intellectual disabilities, employers, and the vocational education specialists.

By piloting and evaluating the seminars, it will be ensured that the method can be sustainably established in various European countries. Include³ will thus lead to the development of a process to align sheltered vocational training with the individual needs, abilities and aspirations of people with intellectual disabilities and with labour market opportunities. Curriculum and resources available through a fully accessible web portal will ensure the applicability and dissemination of this process so that sheltered vocational workshops can better contribute to the goal of labour market inclusion. The goal is to personalize vocational training to achieve close adaptation to the needs of the labour market.

The project is co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ funding program for a period of three years (01/09/2022- 31/08/2025). University of Applied Labour Studies of the Federal Employment Agency (HdBA) is the project leading organisation. Partners are the Service and Disability Company Ozara (Maribor, Slovenia), Synthesis Center for Research and Education, (Nicosia, Cyprus), the VHS Educational Institute VoG (Eupen, Belgium) and eMundus (Kaunas, Lithuania). For more information, visit https://include3.eu/.

HdBA – the University of Applied Labour Studies, as the national institution responsible for the education of specialists to work in the Federal Employment Agency, has a particular expertise on questions of vocational education and training (VET) and counselling with regards to such questions. This includes the education and training of counsellors working in the specialist departments for supporting people with disabilities who are, among other things, responsible for assigning clients into the VET section of sheltered workshops. HdBA has a specialised chair for inclusion studies and focused resources on this area over recent years.

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OZARA service and disability company d.o.o. is one of the national key service providers in the field of vocational rehabilitation and social inclusion. Enjoying indisputable status of professional authority in the field of training, employment of persons with disabilities, social inclusion, vocational and employment rehabilitation in Slovenia, OZARA d.o.o. brings crucial resources to the consortium by transferring its knowledge regarding the needs identified in the scope of project proposal. It has around 150 potential end users, and tens of professional workers and mentors, supporting these disadvantaged groups.

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The VHS Bildungsinstitut (Adult Education Centre) is the educational service of the Christian Labour Movement (CAB) in East Belgium, in the German speaking Community. The CAB is the largest social movement in Belgium. The VHS is engaged mainly in social-political learning activities, such as trainings for project coordinators for cultural and social projects, and in the ACADEMY 50+ in training for elderly people in different subjects such as politic sciences, sociology, philosophy, history, cognitive stimulation, etc. After 2015, the VHS coordinated the integration pathway in East Belgium with language classes (German) on different levels and civic lessons for all people coming to the German speaking Community. The VHS is also involved in trainings for unemployed persons in application techniques, and integration into the labour market. These are also topics that are discussed in several Erasmus+ projects.

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SYNTHESIS Center for Research and Education Ltd is a pioneering organisation which initiates and implements projects of positive social impact, with a focus on social inclusion and accessibility of services and products for everyone. SYNTHESIS is one of the leading institutions in Cyprus in the fields of social entrepreneurship and social innovation. It founded and manages HUB NICOSIA, an educational centre and a community of organisations with cultural, environmental and social aims. SYNTHESIS main target groups are people from the marginalised/ disadvantaged / vulnerable parts of the society, such as youth, adults and the aging population, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, people with physical and mental disabilities.

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VšJ "eMundus" has a broad expertise in the development of various ICT applications. The mission of eMundus is to actively promote the development of the knowledge society by developing services related to educational activities, information technology, innovation and practical applications in education and social activities, ecology, healthy lifestyles and harmonious education in order to ensure quality cooperation.

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