

## EQUIL - 3<sup>o</sup> Newsletter



### EQUIL Equality in Learning

EQUIL, a project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme: Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership for Adult Education, promotes the inclusion of people with mental health issues in the labour market. During the two years of the project, partners have been developing four training modules for practitioners working in the mental health field which aim to increase their skills in supporting people with mental health issues into work.

## What has been done to date in EQUIL?



In each partner country, practitioners have been trained to use the exercises contained with the four modules, around Employment Support Models (Beliefs and Values); Skills and Experiences for Employment Practitioners, how to work with employers effectively; and the Co-production toolkit, all of which together make up the EQUIL. The practitioners then went on to pilot them with people affected by mental health issues. The aim of the piloting phase is to get feedbacks from practitioners on their efficacy and, where necessary, modify the modules according to practitioners' and users' needs and experiences.

The piloting phase has involved:

- **25 practitioners** with increased knowledge and awareness on values and beliefs needed to be able to support people with mental health issues back into the labour market
- **250 people affected by mental health issues**, supported by practitioners on how to enter or return to the labour market
- **18 employers**, supported and encouraged by practitioners to recruit people who may have experienced mental health issues, or to feel more confident to do so in the future
- **10 practitioners** have experimented the Co-production methodology by involving other relevant actors in the development of a service, product or project

Each partner country has implemented the Pilot, adapting it to its so local context within social care and employment. The Northern European Partner found it easier to implement in a working context. The Italian and Spanish Partners have found it more challenging due to cultural view of mental health and a lack of employment support. These aspects will be analysed more deeply in the **Positional Analysis and Sustainability Report** and presented in the next EQUIL Newsletter.

## What are practitioners saying about EQUIL



The majority of practitioners feel that they have increased their ability to support people affected by mental health issues in creating support networks developing or maintaining their hopes and dreams for their future working life.

They feel that the training modules will support them in challenging their beliefs and values and how important it is to be aware of prejudices that might influence their daily work.

## **Final Seminar and Meeting in Spain**



On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, representatives from each partner organisations will meet in Valladolid (Spain) for the final seminar and meeting of the project.

The final seminar will mark the official European launch of the EQUIL methodology and will include workshops on the different activities developed as part of the 4 Training Modules. International and local participants will actively participate, exchange experiences in the field of Mental Health and learn about EQUIL methodology.

After the piloting phase in each partner country and the final seminar, partners will adapt the content of the Training modules on the basis of the feedback received and spread the EQUIL methodology in their countries among any interested actor.

## What's next?

- **Positional Analysis and Sustainability Report** with a picture of the strategic context in which employment services for people with mental health issues can be developed.
- **Local EQUIL Seminar in each partner country**, where the EQUIL methodology is presented to relevant actors in the local communities and will aim to disseminate EQUIL results and outputs to other organisations providing support to people with mental health and relevant stakeholders.
- **Publication of the 4 Training Modules with EQUIL Methodology** developed thanks to the active involvement of citizens with mental health issue, practitioners and employers during the project lifetime (through interviews, focus groups and the piloting phase).

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## Partners

- [Merseyside Expanding Horizons](#) (UK)

- [Acción Laboral](#) (Spain)
- [CESIE](#) (Italy)
- [Mersey Care NHS Trust](#) (UK)
- [Mht Consult](#) (Denmark)
- [Zorgvragersorganisatie GGZ Midden Holland](#) (Netherlands)

## For further information

- [www.equilcoproduction.eu](http://www.equilcoproduction.eu)
- [www.facebook.com/equil.eu](https://www.facebook.com/equil.eu)



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