

Newsletter 2: 4StuDi Partners Share Research Progress in Lisbon



The <u>4Studi</u> consortium gathered in-person at the University of Lisbon on April 18th, 2023 to share stellar progress and achievements of the study.

In particular, researchers discussed the development of learning scenarios for teachers and students to provide effective social support for students with learning disorders, students with visual impairments, students with hearing impairments, and those with motor impairments attending mainstream schools. The content of the educational material is the result of the "4StuDi - School Social Support for Students with Disabilities" Project, leaded by the UOM (University of Macedonia, Greece), in collaboration with UniCA (University of Cagliari, Italy) and ULisboa (Instituto de Educação da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal).

The educational scenarios were produced based on rigorous research user studies. The base of the scenarios come from the voice and perspective of students with disabilities. The consortium conducted interviews with students with disabilities to hear about scenarios in which they have felt unsupported by peers, understand what types of social support they desired, and identify common settings of discomfort. Students shared personal experiences and anecdotes which informed content creation.

Additionally, the consortium conducted research with over 600 students without disabilities and 200 educators to gain a greater understanding of what knowledge they already had and what skill deficits remained. These two sets of focus groups together created a holistic picture of what settings, feedback, and lessons needed to be included in the game.

The educational scenarios are meant to improve the quality of life at school of students with disabilities in two ways: by allowing them to receive positive support from their peers and their teachers and by promoting attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, skills, and effective behaviors to support inclusion, both in teachers and students. The scenarios facilitate active citizenship, a sense of belonging, and friendly relationships between students.

To close the meeting, Ioannis Lefkos presented the website of the 4Studi project and the educational game. Consortium members played the first version of the educational game and offered insights for its improvement.

We look forward to approaching the conclusion of our project after three years of hard work!

- 4StuDi - School Social Support for Students with Disabilities Consortium

4StuDi

Project co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union



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