



OUR PROJECT

OUR EXPECTED RESULTS

OUR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

OUR PROJECT

EpilepsyPOWER project is co-funded by the European Commission within the Erasmus Plus funding programme and actively driven by partner organisations in Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Ireland and France, as introduced in our first newsletter. The EpilepsyPOWER project represents a unique opportunity for the Partners to join their experiences and efforts to significantly address and improve the workplace inclusion chances of people affected by one of the most prevalent neurological disorders, i.e., epilepsy. Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disease that affects 0.4-1 per 100 people worldwide. The number of adolescents, students, and working-age adults with active epilepsy in Europe is estimated in 3 million of people. Epilepsy is characterized by recurrent seizures, which are brief episodes of cognitive impairment or involuntary movements of a part of the body or the entire body and are sometimes accompanied by loss of consciousness and control of bladder.

Half of the People with Epilepsy report feeling stigmatized, have a salary equal to the half of those of healthy people and often have greater difficulty keeping their jobs. Consequently, they have higher rates of unemployment or underemployment. In addition, People with Epilepsy often have great difficulty keeping their jobs. Half of working People with Epilepsy do not disclose their condition to potential employers when applying for jobs. Many employers refuse





to hire workers with epilepsy because they mistakenly believe that they are more susceptible to work-related injuries and absenteeism from work. Job restrictions imposed on People with Epilepsy are mostly unfair and based on prejudices and stereotypes. These factors could be successfully overcome by improving the education of staff involved in the higher education institutions (HEI) and in the job market.

The ambitious objectives of the project aim to reduce the stigmatization of people with epilepsy. The deliverables of the project will be adapted for use by people with epilepsy (PwE), HEI's staff and end-users (professors, university staff, placement officers, students, etc) entrepreneurs/managers employees, recruiters, HR experts and recruitment agencies. This consortium will assure its work is of a high level and in line with international research standards. Contents will be available in 5 languages and disseminated throughout the partner countries. In particular, the project objectives are:

For PwE: training on how to approach the job market; medical advice linked to identifying a suitable work environment by evaluating individual medical risk; reducing the risk of epilepsy exacerbation at work and improve their interactions with co-workers; training on how to interact during a job interview and increasing self-esteem; focusing on researching support services for PwE.

For HEI's staff and end-users (as defined above): increasing the knowledge and awareness of epilepsy and needs of PwE's in the work environment; improving learning curricula and services for PwE on epilepsy in HEIs; promoting epilepsy awareness in the organizations; better supporting inclusion in workplace by fostering positive approaches on disabilities; creating new specific learning tools through lectures, tutorials, case oriented events, interactive group works, students' journals, and interviews; promoting a safe job environment for PwE; changing the organizational culture; promoting new joint research activities and knowledge sharing between HEIs.

During its lifecycle EpilepsyPOWER project will deliver the following results:

- PR01: Operational framework and learning methodology;
- PR02: Integrated online platform for digital integrated learning, multilevel cooperation and resources sharing;
- PR03: Collaborative labs for best practices;
- PR04: Learning contents and classroom guidelines;
- PR05: Assessment online tool and epilepsy label.

Updates on our results and activities can be found in the next four newsletters uploaded on our project website, and also through our Facebook and Instagram social channels.

Co-funded by the European Union

Help us shape inclusion systems for people with epilepsy in education and employment

EpilepsyPOWER is a new European project which aims to ensure people with epilepsy are not marginalized in education or employment. The project team will develop tools and training for businesses and academic institutions, to support them in the creation and implementation of inclusion systems for people with epilepsy. To help shape the development of these tools, the project team has created two short surveys. The survey results will help identify knowledge, attitudes and practices related to epilepsy in the workplace. This will enable the team to create targeted solutions that bring about a cultural and attitudinal shift in the inclusion of people with epilepsy at work and in education. The questionnaires are available in 6 languages: English, French, Italian, German and Bulgarian. You can access the surveys here: <https://epilepsypower-project.eu/en/surveys>. The first questionnaire is aimed at people with epilepsy. The second survey is targeted at representatives of higher education institutions. Please take the survey, or help us to spread the word through your communities. The surveys are anonymous and confidential. The deadline for responses is January 25th, 2023. For more on the EpilepsyPOWER project, visit: [English epilepsypower-project.eu](https://epilepsypower-project.eu).

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DELIVERABLES TO DATE

During the implementation of the Operational framework and learning methodology and the Surveys which every partner had the task to spread in their country we create an analytical report to spread through your communities <https://epilepsypower-project.eu/pic/pages/2022-08/773/embed/files/EpilepsyPOWER%20-%20Final%20Report%20EN.pdf>





NEXT STEPS

PR02 - Integrated online platform for digital integrated learning, multilevel cooperation and resources sharing - The aim is to design, implement and customize an innovative and integrated web platform with an attractive design and multilanguage. An effective portal integrating the website and e-learning platform will be adopted and customized for the project consortium needs. The online open-access platform will be in English, but it will be translated also to the native language of each project Partner. Partners will identify the best open solutions for content management, communication, learning, knowledge sharing and participation, integrating them in a unique easy to use online solution. The EpilepsyPOWER website will be user-friendly and easy to navigate. No registration will be required to access or download the products. Another advantage of the open website will be that educational bodies, learners, decision makers and the general public will be able to access and make use of open-access educational resources, irrespective of their location or affiliation with any particular institution involved in these kinds of projects and which will guarantee exploitation of the results well beyond the project lifetime. This will be further facilitated by the fact that the learning products published on the website will be available in 5 languages (EN, IT, DE, FR, BG).

PR04 - Learning contents and classroom guidelines - The main aim of this project result is to ensure a successful intersectoral and national-level transmission/dissemination via a cross-cultural approach. The contents will be developed taking into account the results of the preceding PR01 “Operational framework and learning methodology” and the ongoing PR03 “Collaborative labs for best practices”, and will be used to finalise the system functionality, initial content adaptation monitoring of engagement/participation in our activities. Inclusion is fundamental to create real opportunities for People with Epilepsy. All the learning products developed during the EpilepsyPOWER project will be freely available online for everyone to use. This will be further facilitated by the fact that the 14 modules will be published online in 5 languages (EN, IT, DE, FR, BG).

Activities

- 2nd Project meeting in Grenoble, France 15-16.05.2023
- Designing and first implementation of the online platform for digitally integrated learning, multilevel cooperation and resources sharing;
- Surveys filling in each partners’ country and promotion of the PR01 report to collect feedbacks;
- Implementation of the multilanguage website <https://epilepsypower-project.eu> and its promotion at national level.

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