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# ARTcoWORKers Newsletter

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for innovation and the exchange of  
good practices, KA227 Partnerships for  
Creativity**

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ARTcoWORKers



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Dear readers,

We are pleased to be able to present you the first "ARTcoWORKers" newsletter. "ARTcoWORKers" stands for "Arts and People with disabilities - cooperative digital working for inclusion during the pandemic". It is a project within the framework of the European Erasmus + special program for strategic partnerships in the creative industries to cope with the consequences of the pandemic.

In "ARTcoWORKers" two groups particularly affected by the pandemic work together, people with disabilities and artists, in our case from the field of the performing arts.

Many people with disabilities were stuck at home during the first waves of the pandemic, or worse, in particular in facilities run by people with disabilities, sometimes practically isolated and imprisoned for months, in violation of their rights to self-determination. This led to fears, depression and a step backwards into the times of care and external control.

Artists were practically handicapped from the exercise of their profession, and although they could enter their theatres, the audience could not. This in particular threatened independent artists and smaller theatres in their existence, so they too were threatened by fears and depression.

With "ARTcoWORKers" a method and a learning program is to be developed in which artists and people with disabilities jointly cope with these fears in an inclusive way and in an artistic way on their situation, the violations of rights and their wishes and hopes for the time during and raise awareness after the pandemic.

People with disabilities show the artists what inclusion and self-determination mean. On the other hand, artists show people with disabilities to use the performing arts to make themselves felt and to exert influence. In order to be able to work and represent on an equal level, we selected the art form of puppet and shadow theater in the project.

In the first newsletter we present the project and the project partners from 4 European countries working on the project.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Your ARTcoWORKer team

## WHY?

The Covid epidemic has been the most shocking worldwide affair of recent times for all, but we have learned a lot from it: most of all that the most important thing is the cooperation and joint forces.

There are certain groups of society who are affected much more severely by a crisis. They need help first of all.

## FOR WHOM?

This transnational project organises an exchange of experiences and a cooperative training of people with disabilities and the arts and cultural industry.

Our goal with all this is access to adult learning opportunities especially to digital learning, use arts and theatre play for self-representation for disabled people, better inform the public and decision-makers about the rights of people with disabilities, and new business and job opportunities in arts, culture and creative industry.

## WITH WHOM?

International partners are VSBI (GE), KOPF, HAND und FUSS (GE) People First Association (HU), SHADOWS AND CLOUDS (MK), Vitalped (NL).

In the partnership are cooperating together with inclusive adult learning experts for people with disabilities, self-representation organisation of people with disabilities, pedagogical and training experts, artists and theatre union as well as a specialist in creative and inclusive coworking and virtual topics. This variety of geographic, structural and business diversity makes the consortium very competent and strong.

## WHERE?

The project will take place in four countries from 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2023:  
Germany (Erfurt, Berlin), Hungary (Pécs), the Netherlands (Tiel), North Macedonia (Skopje)

Each partner has an impact on strengthening the relationship between the art industry and people with disabilities in their immediate environment and nationally.

## HOW?

We want to equip people with disabilities with the necessary instruments and skills to find creative and innovative solutions against the risk of exclusion and isolation. The cultural and creative industries were also affected by significant restrictions and lockdowns by unemployment and no incomes.

Therefore we saw a need for this transnational project, organizing an exchange of experiences of people with disabilities and the arts and cultural industry from different countries. On the other hand we find the manifold resources and creativity of the stakeholder groups, which shall be manifested through cooperative training in arts and culture, how to claim for equal rights and self determination, to overcome the restrictions of the pandemic and to cooperate in a fair manner to create new business, employment and incomes. Find partners from each country at the contact details provided.

## Expected Impact

- **The involved people with disabilities are empowered and skilled to use arts and theatre play for self-representation and getting equal rights during a pandemic but also in other situations of discrimination.**
- **People with disabilities will have better and equal access to adult learning opportunities especially to digital learning.**
- **The broader local, regional and national public and the political decision maker are better informed about the UN CRPD, the rights of people with disabilities in general and during pandemic and they have started to reduce the discrimination and segregation of people with disabilities in institutions and at home.**
- **The cooperation between adult training organisations and arts and culture businesses shall lead to reinforcement of creativity in non-formal and formal education. New skills and competences are created in both sectors.**
- **The involved arts, culture and creative industry will find new business and job opportunities together with people with disabilities.**
- **People with disabilities get a chance to work as artists and in the cultural sector.**

**The project will produce 4 core outcomes**

**The  
ARTcoWORKers  
Methodology**

**The ARTcoWORKers  
Curriculum and course  
for people with  
disabilities in the field of  
active citizenship and  
creative work**

**The ARTcoWORKers  
Performing arts  
6 shadow theater plays**

**The digital  
ARTcoWORKers  
Platform/Tool Box**

## Who are we?



Verein zur sozialen und beruflichen **INTEGRATION**

**VSBI** e.V.

The main applicant and project coordinator is the Verein zur sozialen und beruflichen Integration e.V., VSBI (Germany). VSBI was founded in 2005 to support people with disabilities in ensuring their self-determined life, inclusion, and participation in working life and society. To this end, VSBI offers counselling and support in accessing the personal budget and personal assistance. The VSBI is active at various locations in the federal states of Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt.

VSBI is also involved in various European Erasmus+ strategic partnerships in the field of inclusion. In this way, the association aims to promote networking and cooperation in the field of inclusion at the European level as well as to strengthen the inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of society. Through the ARTcoWORKers project, VSBI aims to give people with disabilities access to the arts and cultural sector as cultural workers and to promote inclusion in this field.

 <https://vsbi.eu/>

 [info@vsbi-online.de](mailto:info@vsbi-online.de)

 <https://www.facebook.com/vsbi.merseburg/>



People First HU, Hungarian Central Association for Social Acceptance - shortly People First Association Pécs - helps and supports the independent living and self-advocacy of disabled people in every level, like living alone, qualification, job, free time, lobby, tourism. Accessibility is the origination of all our activities, both physically and in minds. It is essential for us to promote social inclusion through various sensitizer activities.

Our target group is primarily the representation of people with disabilities, but in accessibility we have a very broad target group in partnership: the elderly, families with young children, temporary injured people, even people with suitcases.

The association's membership consists of disabled people as well as their helpers and professionals. We don't make a difference between man and man, for us is the People First! Our association operates as a first and currently single Hungarian member of an international network in Pécs.

In April 2018 the association was completely renewed, new management, new targets, much more active work. We have local and international projects in theme sensitizing, barrier-free tourism, accessibility, equal opportunities, inclusion.

The association has recently turned a strong attention to artistic solutions, which is an excellent chance for disabled people to their self-expression. The ARTcoWORKers project gives us the opportunity to engage art even more in our field of activity.

Our ARTcoWORKers team involved in the project is also made up of members who already have considerable experience in this field. They are themselves artists, theatre directors, actors, drama teachers, art therapists, cultural organizers. Some are disabled, others are active helpers.

 <http://www.peoplefirst.hu/>

 [info@peoplefirst.hu](mailto:info@peoplefirst.hu)

 <https://www.facebook.com/PeopleFirstHun/>

IKOPF, HAND + FUSS (KHuF) actively campaigns for everyone who is different to be accepted in and valued by society, as well as to enable to them to actively contribute – inclusion. In other words, for people both with or without a disability or handicap to understand, respect and support one another. Education is a key success-factor for the concept of inclusion. This is why KHuF focuses their efforts on the development and implementation of integration and further education projects in their pursuit of inclusion, specifically targeting disabled and handicapped people. These goals will be achieved through:

- The development of special education and learning concepts as well as specific learning and teaching materials for disabled and handicapped people;
- The implementation of courses;
- The promotion and support of intellectual and professional exchanges as well as the collaboration between all those, both people and organisations, involved and interested in education of disabled people (those directly affected, associations, sponsors and social welfare institutions, i.a.);
- The development, realization and evaluation of further education and qualification measures to ensure the better integration of people with disabilities and handicaps into the world of work;
- The informative work about possibilities to integrate disabled and handicapped people into the world of work.

KHuF sees great potential to enable equal participation for everyone through the use of new media. Various apps, learning platforms and software have been developed as a result of our projects.T-related skills.

 <https://kopfhandundfuss.de>

 [info@kopfhandundfuss.de](mailto:info@kopfhandundfuss.de)

 <https://www.facebook.com/KOPFHANDundFUSS>



Vitalped is a Netherlands based educational organization established by Ivet Mityók-Pálfalvi. The aim of the organization is to provide and support joyful learning for all age groups. It offers services in the field of education and pedagogy for children as well as adults, especially parents and teachers. It is built on a complex approach and provides offline and online consultations, individual and group sessions, conferences. These activities cover teaching of learning and teaching methods, competencies development, curriculum development and parenting tips. The therapeutic movement session Vitalped gives assist children with learning difficulties, but also supports the child development with cognitive tasks. Apart from that, Ivet the owner of the organization is a trained teacher and teaches Hungarian to children and adults. Furthermore she has experience in tender writing and created several online and offline learning platforms.

Vitalped strives to help disadvantaged children and children with learning disabilities through collecting donations for them. The organization strongly believes in volunteer work and involved in various organizations. Vitalped is constantly seeking innovative opportunities and collaborations.



<https://www.vitalped.com/>



[vitalped.edu@gmail.com](mailto:vitalped.edu@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/vitalped2018/>



Shadows and Clouds is a shadow theater based in Skopje, North Macedonia and has been pioneering with shadows for more than 15 years. Our work is mainly focused on the following aspects, promotion of shadow theater as an art form and its high cultural value, and use of shadow theater as a non-conventional creative and unique education tool on social topics.

We run an independent theater venue at the heart of Debar maalo, that works as a cultural center with a 25 people audience. We've had the pleasure to host a variety of cultural events - book promotions, jam sessions, monodramas, pantomime, puppeteer shows, workshops, dance, photo exhibitions, pop up stores, and have offered our space to independent cultural workers through residency programs.

One of our dearest projects is "The Little Cloud's Dream" International Shadow Theater Festival for children with its 9th edition this year, being the only shadow theater festival in South-east Europe.

The Shadows and Clouds team consists of actors, directors, musicians, storytellers, educators, visual artists, photographers and anything in between! We have always had the need to fill in the gaps by providing creative services to ad together with people in need.

Art truly changes the world, one shadow theater performance at a time!



<http://www.shadowsandclouds.org/>



[shadowsandclouds.theater@gmail.com](mailto:shadowsandclouds.theater@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/senkioblaci/>



