



UPSKILLING PRESERVICE TEACHERS TO SUPPORT YOUNG CHILDREN
WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER THROUGH DIGITAL SOCIAL STORIES

Project number 2024-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000246304

NEWSLETTER

Empowering Future Teachers, Embracing Every Child



EARLY-ASD Project Kick-Off
Meeting

Initial Achievements in
Curriculum Development



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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that the EARLY-ASD project has officially started. The Kick-Off Meeting held in Warsaw on December 5-6, 2024, marked the beginning of our collaboration to enhance future teachers' skills in supporting children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by developing innovative digital social stories and training modules.

Our Erasmus+ project, "Upskilling Preservice Teachers to Support Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder through Digital Social Stories," aims to equip teachers with practical digital tools and evidence-based training.

<https://www.earlyasd.eu>



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PROJECT PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST



UNIVERSITY OF COMPLUTENSE



ÇANAKKALE ONSEKİZ MART UNIVERSITY



AKADEMIA PEDAGOGIKI SPECJALNEJ IM. MARII GRZEGORZEWSKIEJ



MELLIS EĞİTİM TEKNOLOJİ TİCARET LIMITED ŞİRKETİ

Together, we are collaborating to create effective educational tools and teacher training programs to improve social and emotional development support for children with ASD.



Kick-Off Meeting in Warsaw



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Funding

The project is funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Programme (Grant number: 2024-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000246304), with a budget of €250,000, coordinated by the National Agency PL01 - Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji.



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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR...



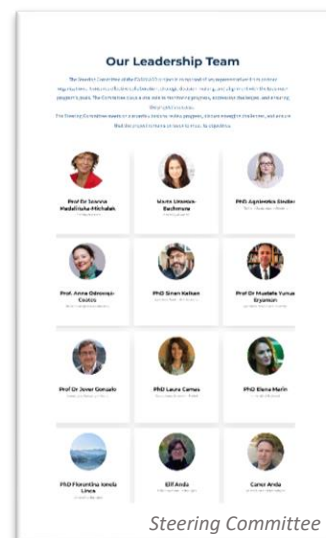
Kick-Off Meeting in Warsaw

Held the First Project Meeting (TMP1)

The Kick-Off Meeting took place in Warsaw on December 5-6, 2024, successfully bringing partners together to enhance cooperation, clarify roles, and set a strong foundation for the project.

Established the Steering Committee

A dedicated Steering Committee was formed to oversee project management, facilitate decision-making, and ensure smooth coordination among partners through monthly online meetings.



Detailed Work Plan for Curriculum Development

We developed a comprehensive work plan for curriculum development, including a precise Gantt chart that outlines timelines, milestones, and partner responsibilities. This ensures transparent and coordinated progress.

Literature Reviews

Four national literature reviews were completed in Poland, Romania, Spain, and Turkey, examining existing research on the use of digital social stories in early ASD intervention. Additionally, a synthesis report based on the country reports and a European-level synthesis report were created to identify common trends and gaps.



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Teacher Surveys

We successfully conducted online surveys with 326 preschool and special education teachers across partner countries, exceeding our initial target of 200 respondents. The surveys gathered vital data on current knowledge, usage, and perceptions of digital social stories in classrooms.

HE Course Development Kick-Off

Each partner institution has started preparing thematic modules for the Higher Education (HE) course. These modules cover core topics such as digital storytelling techniques, ASD characteristics, intervention strategies, and practical case studies. The course will be developed in English and translated into partner languages (Polish, Romanian, Spanish, Turkish).

External Evaluation

The project evaluation framework is underway. Evaluation forms have been drafted, and expert reviewers are being engaged to ensure quality assurance throughout the project lifecycle.

Next Steps

We will continue analyzing survey data, finalize the literature reviews, and advance the development of course content in the coming months. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming research activities, training module creation, and evaluation progress.

For more information, please visit our project website and follow us on social media!

Thank you for your continued support as we work to enhance early education for children with ASD through innovative digital tools.

Best regards,

The EARLY-ASD Team



<https://www.earlyasd.eu>

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