

## ICTrain Project and accessibility for Deaf and Blind People

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## Abstract

There are several reasons on the European level why the consortium of 27 experts from Slovenia, Greece, Italy and Austria with excellent knowledge and experience in education and training of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Partially Sighted (4 target groups) have decided to propose a project named ICTrain, Information and Communication Training:

There are several reasons on the European level why the consortium of 27 experts from Slovenia, Greece, Italy and Austria with excellent knowledge and experience in education and training of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Partially Sighted (4 target groups) have decided to propose a project named ICTrain, Information and Communication Training:

- the target groups do not have an equal access to (ICT-based) education and training, applications in ICT are not user-friendly;
- the existing teaching methods, teaching materials, and approaches do not keep pace with the
  technological changes sweeping through our society and the ICT are not sufficiently present in
  Europe's education and training systems that have to be adapted to these changes (progress
  report adopted by the European Commission in 2008);
- ICT-based education and training are not accessible for every European citizen depending on their socio-economic background.

In order to provide Innovation in learning through ICT on the European level the consortium is developing an innovative ICT-based training in design ceramics for at least 70 Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Partially Sighted learners. Moreover, the innovation will be accessible for every European citizen. Experts are exploiting the Innovation in 6 pilot trainings and initiate a Project Promotion Campaign including dissemination of the results on local, regional, national and European level through a network to the European Platform for Rehabilitation, to all relevant European institutions concerning education and training of people with special needs, policy makers and other stakeholders with the purpose of transferring the results into mainstream practice and promoting anti-discrimination and awareness-raising activities, social inclusion, ICT-based learning for all, EU-policies, and LLP.

The long-term objective is setting the foundation for (in)formal status of the innovative ICT as one of the key ICT tools for education and training of people with special needs.