



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



2nd Transnational Partners' Meeting in Nicosia

The TUA (The Unexpected Artrepreneur) project continues to make strides towards empowering young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Down Syndrome (DS) through art and entrepreneurship education. The 2nd Transnational Partners' Meeting (TPM), held in Nicosia, Cyprus on February 1st, 2024, marked an important moment in our journey as we advanced the project's objectives and discussed key progress points. Although mental health initiatives are increasingly common across the European Union, young people with ASD/DS often struggle to fully participate in society after leaving school. This is often due to challenges in **communication** and **social interaction**. **For those with Down Syndrome (DS)**, difficulties may include challenges with understanding speech, staying focused in learning activities, or processing information at the same pace as their peers. **For those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**, common challenges include maintaining eye contact, carrying on a conversation, or interpreting social cues, which can sometimes be perceived as disinterest. These difficulties can make it hard for young people with ASD/DS to express themselves, engage socially, and take part in broader societal activities. **TUA** is working to address these issues head-on by creating a specialized **curriculum** that supports youth with ASD/DS and helps **teachers, caregivers, youth workers**, and other professionals develop the skills they need to work effectively with these groups.

Key Outcomes from the 2nd TPM



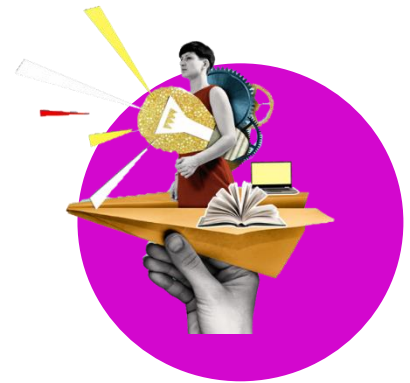
During the meeting in Cyprus, the TUA project partners gathered to assess the progress of our pilot curriculum implementations, which were developed as part of Work Package 2 (WP2). Each partner presented updates on the current state of their pilot programs, which focus on applying the curriculum in real-world settings.

As the pilots progress, it was agreed that each partner will produce national reports outlining the key findings, challenges, and successes of their work. These reports will then feed into a comprehensive transnational report, which will include a finalized version of the curriculum and key insights from all participating countries.

Developing the E-Learning Platform and Digital Tools

One of the highlights of the meeting was the continued development of the interactive e-learning platform. This platform will include two key components: A Learning Resource Repository designed specifically for professionals working with young people with ASD/DS.

The 'Express Yourself' Platform, a digital space where youth of this target group can share their ideas, showcase their artwork, and engage in virtual exhibitions. This platform will play a crucial role in fostering communication, social participation, and awareness-raising within their communities.



These tools are designed to improve the ways in which professionals support youth with mental disabilities, while also empowering young people to express themselves and engage with the world around them in creative ways.



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As the TUA project progresses, we'll keep you informed about our achievements, milestones, and future activities.