

Draft Project Outline



Project Name: TBA

Programme: INTERREG NWE

Project Summary:

Addressing the needs of people with intellectual challenges or disabilities is an important part of every modern, developed healthcare system. Creating the necessary balance of disparate services to address individuals needs, supports, as well as, considering the views of the person involved and their families or carers is a complicated process. Developing and then embedding best practices takes time and consideration. Within the INTERREG North-West region we have some of the most advanced healthcare systems in the world and some of the richest countries. Yet, the families, particularly of adolescents and young adults with an intellectual disability in many countries still feel that more needs to be done to meet their affected persons needs.. This project will address these issues, develop a cohesive programme both to upskill professionals working with the target groups but also work at an institutional level to develop and better embed best practice.

Parents Plus (<https://www.parentsplus.ie>) is an Irish non-profit that has worked with upskilling professionals in the healthcare system to better understand and work with people addressing disabilities for 25 years. Parents Plus has developed capacity-building programmes for social workers, doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. It wishes to take its learning and work with other public or private sector organisations working to improve the lives of people with an intellectual disability to create a project resulting in better outcomes for the individuals affected.

However, Parents Plus understands the cultural, institutional and social difficulties in transposing a project from one European region to another but believe that the frameworks it has developed can be used to create a trans-European solution that can be adapted within other EU countries. In principle, the project would have 2 main components:

1. Capacity Building of healthcare professionals working with individuals challenged by an intellectual challenge and their families or carers. Creating a better common understanding of the issues of concern across different branches of healthcare and across the different healthcare systems.
2. Embedding this best-practice system into the national or local healthcare systems to ensure better outcomes for service users and more responsive institutions. Identifying and addressing institutional challenges, internal to healthcare systems.

Within both the voice of those affected by intellectual challenges and their families and carers need to be heard and, thus, these project elements will be developed utilising design thinking; designing services from the end-user's perspective.

Prospective Project Partners

Parents Plus can provide the necessary expertise to lead on the development of the capacity-building element. Obviously:

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- National, regional or local healthcare providers and agencies are required across the INTERREG North-West region (Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Western Germany and Northern France).
- Other non-profits working with people challenged by an intellectual disability or their families or carers would have a role.
- We would also need a social innovation organisation with experience of developing public-services utilising design thinking.

It is likely that the total allowable costs will be in the €1.5 million range over 2 years. INTERREG will cover 60% of eligible costs with partners making up the 40% shortfall.

Timeline

The development of the project partnership would need to happen quickly. INTERREG NEW is utilising a 2-step application process and the first stage needs to be submitted by 15th June but this is a short document outlining the concept we wish to develop. If successful in the first stage we would then be asked to submit a full-scale application by 15th December.

Thus, the partner search process will commence before Easter 2022 and will be reviewed in mid-May. If partners are in place, we will then start work on drafting the project outline, details and budgets so we can write the short application by mid June.

If this has not been possible, then we will continue to work on the partner identification process for the next open call in November 2022.

Next steps

Parents Plus has already agreed to engage a consultant (Funding Master) to develop the project in collaboration with the partners. The next steps would include:

- Circulation of draft project outline to potential partners and trusted contacts to identify partners interested in developing this application.
- Bring partners together (virtually) to meet and bring project outline to completion.
- Liaise with National Contact Person in Ireland.
- Ensure partners are registered with EU.
- Please note that Funding Master applies a Project Fee of €1,250 ex VAT (23% where applicable) to each partner to develop and submit funding applications.

Interested parties can contact Ken Germaine PhD (<http://fundingmaster.eu>), ken@fundingmaster.eu in the first instance for further information, to answer any queries or to express their interest in the project.

6th April 2022