

T-GUIDE Newsletter



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T-GUIDE

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Welcome to T-GUIDE

This is the first Newsletter with up to date news about the T-GUIDE project, an exciting initiative of nine organisations supported by the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme, "Leonardo Da Vinci".

The initiative addresses two of today's major societal challenges in Europe: to increase opportunities in the job market and to increase social inclusion.

The aim is to produce an EU training model and Manual for training Tourist Guides in guiding people who have learning difficulties, or other intellectual impairments.

An internet-based awareness-training tool will be offered to tourist guides to help them adjust their guiding to the needs of this target group. Courseware will be tested by creating a trial tourist itinerary for intellectually disabled visitors and the project partners will develop a framework for training and skills assessment at EU level. This should result in a wider range of guided tours for visitors in European countries and lead to new job opportunities for tourist guides and for the tourism industry.





A view from Austria...

Lebenshilfe
Wege für Menschen

Living their motto, 'Live like everyone else, the T-Guide partner, **Lebenshilfe Graz und Umgebung - Voitsberg** has developed from a small parental self-help organisation of the 1960s to the largest provider of services for people with disabilities in the Austrian province

Supporting People

For many people with disabilities, the chance to lead a normal life has improved considerably over the past years. The times of protection, patronization, and hiding people with disabilities are past. Actual participation in many areas of social life is no longer a buzzword, but has become a reality. Supporting this change Lebenshilfe Graz offer a wide range of services to people who need personal assistance, support, and care – which can often help families as well. These include:

- **Advice Centre and Therapy**
- **Children and Family Departments:** Parents of Children with disabilities can find a comprehensive array of education services, assistance training and family support
- **Daytime Assistance:** Day centres help those who need a lot of assistance. Together, they organise their day – they cook, make trips, make music, exercise, work creatively, and much more.
- **Work:** Their workshops and studios give people with disabilities the space to conduct meaningful work, to learn new activities, and to discover hidden skills and talents.
- **Living in houses, apartments, training apartments and living assistance**
- **Leisure Activities, Sports & Education:** A wide range of leisure activities and educational programs are on offer. As well as having the opportunity to meet people, people have the chance to learning new things such as languages or the arts, computers, arts and computers and travelling like everyone else.
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The T-GuIDE Project

For over 10 years Lebenshilfe GUV has been actively participating in and developing EU projects either as a coordinator or a partner organisation. As a result they have helped produce many products, innovations and educational services for people with disabilities which have since been successfully implemented in a range of services that Lebenshilfe GUV offers.

When it comes to tourism for people with intellectual disabilities, they recognise there is a big problem with the lack of inclusion in tourist services provision for them.

The main aim of T-GuIDE is to initiate an EU-wide discussion on tourist guiding for people with intellectual disabilities and to build a common guide for training Tourist guides, in terms of common principles, methodologies and recommendations to work on social inclusion, skills implementation and new job opportunities.

The goal is for people with disabilities and learning disabilities to travel and have holidays like everyone else.

At the beginning of the project there were 10 very interesting Interviews with people with intellectual disabilities, Tourist Guides from Graz and Vienna

and Experts from the Social field in Austria. They spoke very clearly about what is needed to guide people with intellectual disabilities and learning disabilities.

Some of the key points to come from these discussions were:

- All experts agreed that awareness-raising was an important step in responding to the target group and its various needs
- By raising awareness, experts are better able to reduce prejudices and reservations about assisting people with disabilities or being their tourist guide
- Concise theoretical input with subsequent opportunities to practice with the target group would be important and desirable.
- The target group should be included in the training process, e.g., with tandem presentations.
- The tourist guides should also be trained in setting limits and should learn to deal with the fact that sometimes less can also be more.



- Scaling back on personal expectations while at the same time never treating people with intellectual disabilities like children, is critically important.

People with disabilities are interested in so many things. They want to be part of the everyday life and have a role in society. Inclusion means that people with intellectual disabilities can also participate in leisure, education and culture.

T-Guide is seen as an excellent project for the tourism sector and tourist guides to raise awareness on the needs of people with intellectual disabilities and to enable people with intellectual disabilities to enjoy being a tourist, either on their own or with friends and family.

In **T-Guide Newsletter no. 2** we will profile another T-Guide partner organisation.

To subscribe to this Newsletter and our e-Bulletins, please use the sign-up form here: <http://eepurl.com/INQ2L>

T-Guide Surveys

As part of the T-Guide project, we are asking for your help to learn more about the subject of **tourist guiding for people with intellectual disabilities or learning difficulties**.



We have prepared three surveys which are open during the period 4th January to 28 February 2014.

Please visit the surveys page of the T-Guide website at: www.t-guide.eu and select the Survey which suits you:










Survey links

- [Survey 1. For Tourism Providers](#)
- [Survey 2. For Visitors or Support Persons](#)
- [Survey 3. For Tourist Guides, Trainers and Trainees](#)

We would really appreciate your response and look forward to reading your points of view, whether you are a professional, a visitor or a manager or owner of a tourist venue. All answers are treated confidentially.



T-GuiDE Partners

Austria		LEBENSCHILFE-GUV www.lebenshilfe-guv.at
Belgium		European Network for Accessible Tourism asbl. www.accessibletourism.org
France		European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations www.feg-touristguides.org
Italy		ASIS - Consorzio Cooperative Sociali www.consorzioasis.eu
Latvia		The Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations www.sustento.lv
Poland		Społeczna Akademia Nauk w Łodzi www.swspiz.pl
Spain		Fundación Pública Andaluza El Legado Andalusí www.legadoandalusi.es
Spain		Instituto de Formación Integral, S.L.U. www.ifi.com.es
United Kingdom		Minster Development Centre Ltd. www.minsterdevelopmentcentre.co.uk