

The NAATE project

non-formal learning activities for autistic teenagers



The NAATE project is now well underway and progress has been made over the past 9 months with two transnational partner meetings, staff training events, and the summer camp in the Canary Islands.

In April 2019, the 1st transnational project meeting took place in the Canary Islands where partners outlined the project roadmap and the work environment.

Three staff training events already took place thanks to NAATE:

- ✓ In May 2019, two Youth Workers from Spain spent one week in Cyprus to understand youth work practice with autistic teenagers;
- ✓ In June 2019, two Youth Workers from Cyprus spent one week in Spain to prepare the Summer Camp for teenagers;
- ✓ In July 2019, two Youth Workers from Cyprus spent three weeks in Spain to work together during the Teenagers Summer Camp.



In July 2019, the NAATE summer camp in the Canary Islands received a positive response from participants, organisers, and other parties. Feedback from the camp noted that the overwhelming majority of participants said that their confidence had increased and that they would like to come back to the next summer camp.

Further to this, participants mentioned that they all very much liked that they could socialise with people the same age and that the visit to the Cocodrilo park was their favourite activity by a large margin.

NAATE focuses on training youth workers so that they can better accommodate the support needs of youngsters on the autistic spectrum in non-formal activities. At the summer camp, NAATE delivered its pilot training for 6 youth workers from 2 organisations (from Spain to Cyprus), who can use their newly acquired competences to enhance their practice in non-formal learning. Notably, youth workers learned about the national framework of Cyprus and learned about the national framework of Spain (current laws in vigour concerning the inclusion of Autistic Teenagers).

In the three-week summer camp, autistic participants had to build confidence and their level of self-esteem in Week 1. Here, youth workers spent time in participants' homes, had interviews with the participants and their parents to present the programme and answer doubts and any questions.

Next, the summer camp's objective of Week 2 was for participants to observe the natural environment and interact with it. This is where presentation of the summer camp's overview and musical workshop took place. Other activities also included the 'walk on the beach', a day spent learning in an 'art class', then the 'sport activity at the Salobre Golf course'. In addition, a visit of the Canarian Garden and art class in the Canarian Garden followed. Lastly, a meeting at the headquarters of the NAATE coordinator Mi Hijo Y Yo Association for the presentation of the legal national frameworks from Cyprus and Spain.

In the final week, the objective was to have fun activities to promote socialisation between the participants. This meant that a visit of the Aquarium "Poema del Mar" took place in order for participants to learn about the ocean and marine fauna. After this, they visited the museum "Cueva Pintada" (this activity is within an archaeological and natural context, designed, through history and creative art, to bring participants closer to Canarian culture and tradition). The next day brought a visit with activities organised in the Science Museum "Elder" (these activities are to acquire scientific and technological understanding, promoting cognitive development). Lastly, a visit to the popular Cocodrilo Park followed by a day at Sioux City (recreation in a theatrical context, based on Western films, where participants could interact with the activity leaders).





Gathering good practices for learning activities for autistic teenagers from across Europe

On 19 October 2019, the 2nd transnational meeting was held in Limassol, Cyprus. Here, partners discussed the format of the book of good practice and the selection criteria for good practice. The meeting also discussed the successful 3 staff training events and how the coming months will be crucial for the effective dissemination of all of NAATE's activities.

Thanks to the efforts of the partners on the NAATE project, the book of good practice for non-formal learning activities for teenagers with autism is being put together and will be available in 2020, stay tuned! It will reference a range of good practices from across Europe that foster non-formal learning for autistic young people.





About the NAATE project



The NAATE project focuses on non-formal learning to support the training of youth workers and to develop the social skills of autistic teenagers. Beginning in February 2019 until November 2020, this 22 month project is funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme.

The NAATE partnership come from various backgrounds from three EU Member States – providing autism specific services or educational support for learners with additional support needs – and have a wide range of skills. The project coordinator, [Asociación Mi Hijo y Yo](#) from Spain work closely with all the other partners: [Autism-Europe](#) from Belgium the Center of Development and Support for Children and Teenagers – [AASP \(Autism Assessment Support Practice\)](#) from Cyprus.



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