

# PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

Welcome to our UP WORK project newsletter. We began this exciting journey with a Kick-off Meeting in December 2023 in Novara, Italy.

We are pleased to share our recent accomplishments, introduce you to our valued partners, and outline our plans for the future. Join us in continuing to create an inclusive environment.

## About the project

Our mission is to promote social inclusion and diversity in education and training, focusing on improving the competencies of trainers and tutors supporting education of mentally vulnerable individuals (special needs learners), including those with physical disabilities, mental conditions, individuals suffering from depression, and the long-term unemployment stress.



We adopt a learner-centered approach, tailoring our programs to meet the unique learning needs of each participant. Our holistic and flexible model is designed to adapt to the current market requirements, particularly in hospitality, catering and event management sectors. To ensure that every skill and competency gained is recognized, we use micro-credentials throughout our training programme.



## Meet Our Partners

The success of the UP WORK project is made possible through the dedication and expertise of our incredible partners. Each partner brings unique strengths and perspectives, contributing to our shared mission of promoting social inclusion and diversity in education and training.



**FO-Aarhus (Denmark):** Committed to adult education since 1973, offering non-formal courses for the Aarhus community.



**CSCI (Italy):** Consorzio Scuola Comunità Impresa is a regional training agency set up in 1999 in Novara. Its aim is to establish connections and ongoing relations between school, public administration, and corporate world.



**GUREAK (Spain):** Grupo Gureak was founded in San Sebastian in 1975. Gureak offers job opportunities promoting social and labor inclusion of people with disabilities, designing and developing individualized itineraries adapted to their needs and objectives.



**STELLA VIRIUM (Poland):** Established in 2013 in Krakow to promote lifelong learning, job inclusion and diversity. Since then, it has impacted over 800 people and collaborated with 600 volunteers, often in collaboration with business partners.



**OLOKLIROSI (Greece):** It is located in Heraklion. This centre offers educational and vocational training services to unemployed people, people from vulnerable social groups, and employees on contemporary subjects that address the needs of the labor market.

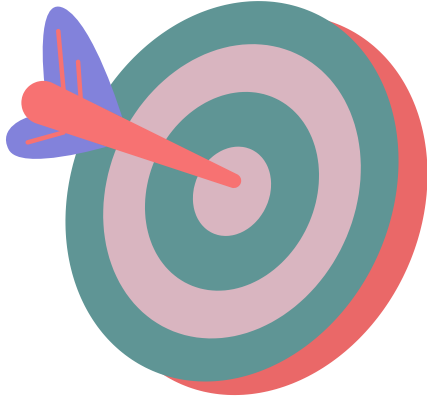


**SORO TORI:** It was founded in 2006 and is headquartered in Villa San Sebastiano Nuova. The organization specializes in adult education, developing educational materials, and organizing training courses and study visits. It operates in remote mountain areas, focusing on integration and inclusion issues.



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## Goals of the project



### **Promote Social Inclusion and Diversity**

creating an inclusive environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

### **Develop Comprehensive Training Models**

to be adaptable and relevant to the needs of today's job market.

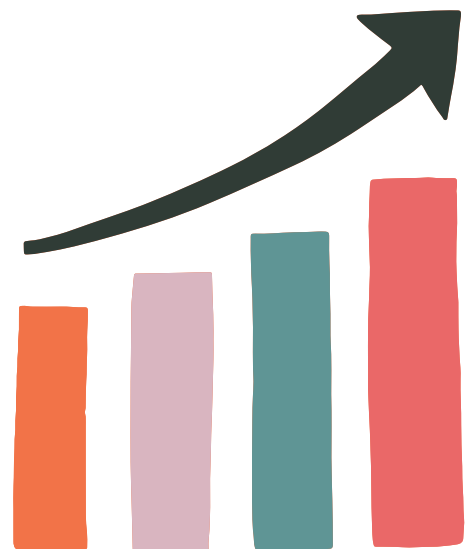
### **Recognize Competencies**

using micro-credential system to acknowledge the skills acquired by our learners.

## Recent achievements

Extensive research on best practices was conducted in 5 countries, followed by the organization of several focus groups involving 33 students with special needs and 31 industry faculty and operators.

These initiatives have significantly improved our understanding of the essential skills needed to successfully perform in the hospitality, catering and event management sectors.



## What's Next?

1. **Digital Curriculum for VET Professionals (Vocational Education and Training):** We are developing comprehensive training paths tailored for learners with special needs.
2. **Learning Platform:** Our upcoming website will serve as a hub for all project-related resources and learning materials.
3. **Micro-Credential System:** This system will help recognize and validate the competencies of learners in the event and hospitality sectors.
4. **Communication Campaign:** We're gearing up to launch a campaign aimed at engaging employers and promoting workplace diversity.



## Stay connected!

We will keep you updated with our progress and upcoming milestones. Stay tuned for more exciting news from the UP WORK project!



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