



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

WU SLALOM
Sliding beyond limits



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Press Release

Wheelchair Slalom Sport:

Is an Erasmus Sport Project that pretend increasing participation but also understanding how practicing Wheelchair slalom can contribute to social inclusion and participation. This knowledge is important in order to close the gap between social inclusion of those with and without disabilities. Hence, W-Slalom introduces the innovation of gathering in a collaborative platform both sporting organizations working with final users and a research institute in charge of collecting evidence based on the W-Slalom social impact in the target group.

Objective:

The overall objective of W-Slalom is to increase the social inclusion of children with motor disabilities, age 6 to 18, by promoting the wheelchair slalom sport as a way of enhancing their physical abilities and psychological benefits.

W-Slalom is a relatively new sport that has been designed particularly for people with motor disability, wheelchair users. The participation of people with disabilities in sports and recreational activities like Wheelchair Slalom (W-Slalom) promotes inclusion, optimizes physical functioning and enhances their overall well-being.

W-Slalom seeks to contribute towards the overall goal of diminishing that barrier by offering access to a sport that is inclusive for all children and adolescents with motor disabilities, users of manual and electric wheelchairs.

Participants:

The participants for W-Slalom should be a wheel chair users or people with physical disabilities, disorders of coordination and muscular strength of a persistent but non-invariant nature, or someone who has difficulties to maintain a normal position and hinder the execution of controlled and / or coordinated movements.

W-Slalom project:

During the first year of the project W-Slalom partners worked to achieve the following basic targets from the project.

See below the results from the different working packages:

Tasks Achieved:

| Tasks | Description | #Sessions | #Assistance |
|--|---|-----------|-------------|
| Identification and assessment of key target groups | Identification and assessment of key target groups, in order to analyze and assess their needs. | 11 | 260 |
| Awareness raising sessions with key stakeholder groups | Search explain the project, and have a feedback about it. Know by the first-hand Slalom progress. | 16 | 800 |
| Development of training module for training of trainers in Wheelchair slalom | This consist on training teachers and physiotherapists in schools and sport organizations, who work with children with motor disabilities. Training of Trainers is a combination of theoretical lessons and practical activities with participative components. | 16 | 260 |

Intellectual outputs, tools and resources:

| Tasks | Description |
|--|--|
| <p>Intellectual Output nº1: Handbook Editing, digitalization and translation of training module in local languages</p> | <p>The handbook is the Intellectual Output nº1 and is the guide or teaching book for the trainers of W-Slalom to give lessons</p> <p>The training module was adapted and translated from Spanish to 5 other languages (Catalan, Spanish, English, Croatian, German and Portuguese).</p> <p>You can find the handbook in this link: https://bit.ly/2DbBOW4</p> |
| <p>Harmonization of Wheelchair slalom rules across PPs countries and adaptation to children</p> | <p>This is the intellectual output nº2 and contain the normative adapted for the initiation of the boys.</p> <p>FECPC closely worked with CPISRA in standardizing and translating the Wheelchair slalom regulations into English from Spanish.</p> |
| <p>Design of research tools</p> | <p>This activity is the intellectual output nº3 and define the way through which the social impact of the W-Slalom Programme according to the main types of individual and community social impacts of sport</p> |
| <p>Training of the Federations in Croatia and Austria on Wheelchair slalom by FECPC</p> | <p>FECPC conducted a 3 day Training of Trainers for the Croatian and Austrian Federations, this is because the partner's project are relativity new implementing this sport.</p> <p>In Austria we achieve 36 assistance and 28 in Croatia.</p> |

CPISRA World Games and 1st W-Slalom International Conference

In August of 2018, FECPC organized the World Games at the High Performance Centre -CAR of Sant Cugat, in Barcelona, under the umbrella of CPISRA. This event of international character and immense importance in the world of adapted sports counted with the presence of athletes and sports organizations from around the world, European policy makers, NGOs etc.

In total, five children from each W-Slalom beneficiary countries (PT, HR and AT) traveled to Sant Cugat and participated in the exchange programme in the framework of the 1-st Wheelchair slalom International Conference (in the framework of the CPISRA World Games) organized jointly with FECPC. Besides being present in a unique platform for communication and dissemination of the W-Slalom, these children also participated in an open competition of Wheelchair slalom.

The 15 children with motor disabilities, came from Austria, Croatia and Portugal and the FECPC mobilized 35 Spain children.

Making use of the global character of this event, the PPs organized the 1^o Wheelchair slalom International Conference, as a unique platform for the promotion of this sport and for dissemination of results of the W-Slalom project. The objectives of this Conference was:

- Present best practices in terms of social inclusion through sports practice.
- Present the main findings of the W-Slalom project to that date.
- Networking to identify new Federations and organizations willing to adopt W-Slalom.

Partners Project:

- *Erasmus+:*
The EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.
- *Catalan Federation of Sports for People with Cerebral Palsy (FECPC):*
The FECPC is a private non-profit organisation whose goal is to promote and develop sports addressed for people with cerebral palsy and disabilities that impair motor function.
- *National Sport Association for Cerebral Palsy (PCAND):*
The mission of PCAND is the coordination of all sports activity concerning Cerebral Palsy at national level and ensuring its representation at national or international level.
- *Croatian Paralympic Committee (HPO):*
The HPO organizes, regulates and implements a system of sports competitions for disabled athletes, cooperating with government bodies, and performs other tasks set by a valid Sports Act.
- *Austrian Sports Federation of the Disabled (ÖBSV):*
ÖBSV focuses on sport and recreation for people with cerebral palsy.
- *Institute for Social Research (IRS):*
Research, evaluation, monitoring, technical assistance and consultancy and training addressed to national and EU public administrations, to private and public institutions.

Contact:

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You can also check more about W-Slalom on the official website or track through the social networks:

- www.wslalom.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WSlalom/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WSlalom>