



Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Date	31-10-2018	Location:	Santiago de Compostela
Name	ASPAS Association		
Legal Status	Non-Profit Association		
Contact Details	Responsible: Marcelo de la Cruz Luzón Email: aspas@asociacionaspas.org Phone no.: (034) 981 58 20 50 Website: http://www.asociacionaspas.org		

B. SHORT DESCRIPTION	
Objectives <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	ASPAS Association ¹ is an association of families that was concerned with the improvement of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The association attempts to provide the necessary support for the defence and improvement of the rights and the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities, and their families, considering all of them as generators of rights and duties. Its main objective and how they intend to help the disabled individuals is providing the integration of individuals with disabilities in society, to make them feel integrated and useful. In this way, the Association ASPAS provides training for the personal and professional development of these individuals.
Methodology <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	ASPAS Association is an association of families that was born to work for the improvement of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, facilitating the necessary support for the defence of their rights. The association attempts to provide the necessary support for the defence and improvement of the rights and the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities, and their families, considering all of them as generators of rights and duties. Its main objective and how they intend to help the disabled individuals is providing the integration of individuals with disabilities in society, to make them feel integrated and useful. In this way, the Association ASPAS provides training for a greater personal and professional development to these individuals. The ASPAS Association has two types of "Centres" to promote training, learning and integration of people with disabilities. There is, in one hand, the Occupational Centre which is composed of 5 workshops, on the other hand, there is the Special Employment Centre, also composed of 5 offices. In the course of this report, these two "Centres" will be explored in more detail.

C. MAIN FINDINGS	
Social Needs <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	The ASPAS Association intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for increase vocational, training and employment opportunities to people with disabilities; • Need to promote social inclusion, integration and disability awareness;

¹ Photograph 1 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – ASPAS Association

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to support the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and their families; • Need to encourage collaboration with other associations of similar purposes; • Need to raise awareness and appeal for social solidarity regarding individuals with disabilities; • Need to meet the needs that arise during the life stages of people with disabilities; • Need for courses, conferences and activities to facilitate the training and information of parents, guardians, volunteers and professionals related to intellectual disability. <p>It is observable that the main social need that this association wants to achieve is the inclusion, socialization and integration of individuals with disabilities in the society and in the labour market. However, it is also clear that this association intends to encourage greater collaboration with the civil society (private companies, other associations of the same area of activity, residents, social enterprises, local authorities, among others), as well as it intends to help and approach the families and caregivers of individuals with disabilities.</p>
<p>Social Innovative Practices (<i>identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs</i>)</p>	<p>In order to obtain the predetermined objectives that will meet the social needs mentioned, the ASPAS Association can be "divided" in three large groups of services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The ASPAS Association offers services to persons with intellectual disabilities with extensive and/or generalized support needs over 16 years and families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal care (grooming habits, clothing, food, physical maintenance and psychomotricity); • Social skills and daily life (communication, basic norms of coexistence, empathy, motor skills, conceptual and perceptive development); • Information and training to families through conferences or talks on issues related to the world of people with disabilities, in addition to providing a continuous counselling service. 2) Occupational Centre² aims to provide the necessary training for a greater personal and professional development of persons with intellectual disability, over 18 years. From a participatory methodology, individuals work their skills, abilities, creating soft and hard skills that will facilitate their social and work insertion. Currently, this centre is composed of 5 occupational workshops, where work training activities are carried out in order to foster fundamental values such as responsibility, respect, teamwork and fellowship. The 5 workshops are: Ceramics Workshop; Basketry Workshop; Workshop on Gardening and Horticulture; Cleaning and Cooking Workshop; Workshop on Auxiliary Services to Companies. 3) Special Employment Centre is for individuals with disabilities who "pass" Occupational Centre successfully. They have the opportunity to integrate this centre and then integrate the labour market. The main

² Photograph 2 - Partnership Visiting the Occupational Centre of ASPAS Association

	<p>purpose of this Centre is to provide an incentive to the individuals who are part of the occupational workshops (Occupational Centre) to see the Special Employment Centre as an objective to be achieved in their process of social and labour integration. From this Centre ASPAS Association bets on an own alternative of job promotion - <i>ASPAS Emprego S.L.</i> This Centre also works as a "ramp" so that the users can later be inserted labour in ordinary companies. The services provided by <i>ASPAS Emprego S.L.</i> are: Gardening; Fruticulture; Cultivation; Facility Maintenance; and Laundry.</p>
<p>Collaboration and Networks (<i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i>)</p>	<p>Its collaborative network has as agents, the Santiago de Compostela City Council, other Social Enterprises, the National Government, the Local Community, Employment and Training Service of the Federation of Associations (FADEMGA), Private companies and Other Associations.</p>

D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS	
<p>Challenges and Barriers (<i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...</i>)</p>	<p>The most mentioned barriers and weaknesses were first of all the lack of financing and the fact that it was mostly public funding, creating a dependence on state and national funds. The high level of national bureaucracy was also mentioned as a barrier to success. The work ethic of individuals with disabilities has also been described as a possible "barrier" - exploiting the work of these individuals for self-financing. Finally, another barrier and/or weakness is that the association did not have an impact assessment, in this way, it becomes more complicated to show indicators of success to obtain more funding.</p>

E. CONCLUSIONS	
<p>Key Concluding Lines</p>	<p>In conclusion, the ASPAS Association³ and their Projects, Centres and Activities, mentioned throughout the report, intends to "give" a better quality and perspective of life to people with disabilities, the solution is their integration, inclusion, socialization, training and qualification. The organization works with the community, organizations, enterprises and public administration to explore new and creative ways of addressing the issues that are important to people with disabilities. From a participative methodology of continuous learning (Occupational Centre and Special Employment Centre) it is possible to integrate these individuals into society, making them feel useful. There is constant support from the association of families and caregivers, as well as a concern to maintain the rights and quality of life of people with disabilities.</p>
<p>Other information considered relevant</p>	<p>Nothing relevant to add.</p>

³ Photograph 3 - Residences where people with disabilities can stay

Study Visit Photos



Figure 1 - Logo of the Social Innovation Project – ASPAS Association



Figure 2 - Partnership Visiting the ASPAS Association Occupational Centre



Figure 3 - Residences for accommodation of persons with disabilities of the ASPAS Association

Partner: Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

Author(s): Fábio Sampaio

Review: Hugo Pinto, Ana Filipa Sá and Atlantic Social Lab Partners