

Using virtual reality to help young people with Autism

H&F hosts Virtual Reality and Autism Conference with European Partners

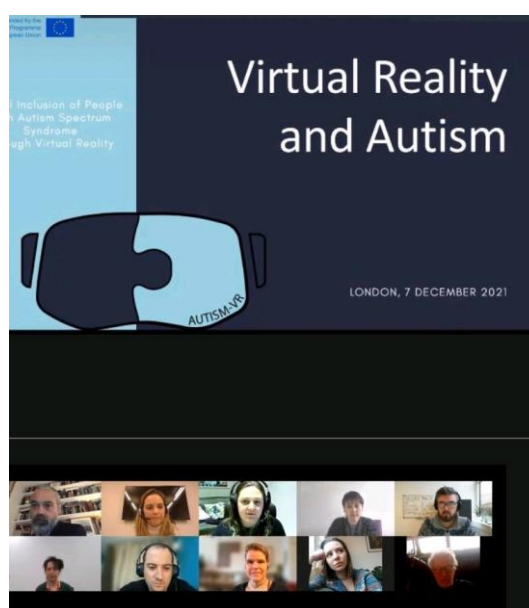
The Virtual Reality and Autism project is a partnership between France, Cyprus, Germany, Denmark and the UK. The conference presented an opportunity for H&F to showcase the outcomes of the project and gather educators' perspectives.

The Virtual Reality and Autism Project:

Virtual Reality for Autists (VRAA) is an innovative programme to help young people with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) aged 15 to 25 to navigate real world situations via the virtual world. <https://autism-vr.eu>

The project objective is to enhance the social competencies of these young people and increase social inclusion and employability, helping to improve work related learning skills and expand employment options. Whilst also fostering social integration and employment opportunities for the target group through VR technology.

The aim is to disseminate the VR equipment to schools and organisations in the borough.



Conference Overview:

- The VR headsets help to train and enhance the social skills of young people with ASC and allows them to prepare and manage anxiety in varying situations. Click to see the test VR scenario: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BTBs_MspF_4UOe7_716MzrmnPBcxMHhT/view?usp=sharing
- A manual has been produced with guidelines for potential employers of young people with ASC. The guide promotes diversity & inclusion by offering guidance and insights into the most common issues that neurodiverse candidates and employees face.
- Turtle Key Arts run a 'Key Club' at Lyric, Hammersmith, which is aimed at young people with ASC. See this link to see them in action: <https://vimeo.com/117191839>

Key Speakers:

Ib Jespersgaard – Project Lead from VIFIN, Denmark

Katrin Echtermeyer – Project Partner from WISAMAR, Germany

Irene Kamba – Project Partner from SYNTHESIS, Cyprus

Nicolas Condom – Project Partner from PISTES SOLIDAIRES, France

Tom Lloyd - Educational Psychologist from H&F

Kelly Colding-Bray – Producer from Turtle Key Arts

Comments from Attendees:

(We) ‘Would love our young people at *Action on Disability* to get involved also. We work with young disabled people aged 11-25 many of whom are on the Autism Spectrum. It sounds like an amazing project’.

Jan Parnell, Director of Education, wrote ‘Thank you for a really inspiring conference. I really enjoyed hearing about the various project developments from our EU partners & our own work in H&F. It would be great to see how we can support you in the next steps & sharing with our wider education community’

Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children’s Services wrote ‘A very interesting conference and constructive collaboration’.

If you would like to find out more, please contact:
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