



**ACTIVATE**



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# ACTIVATE

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## What is the project about?

The ACTIVATE project aims to empower autistic youth, promote acceptance, and enhance autism advocacy through digital initiatives, training, and collaboration. The project aims to create to following initiatives:

1. Autistic Advocacy School for autistic youth
2. Autistic Advocacy School Facilitators Training (ToT)
3. Stakeholder Engagement Workshops with Autistic Youth
4. Digital Advocacy Campaigns
5. EU Autistic CoP (Community of Practice) for youth
6. Awareness Webinars
7. Final Conference

## What are the objectives of the project?

1. Empower autistic youths to self-advocate and improve access to opportunities
2. Support youth workers in elevating support for the autistic community
3. Amplify stakeholder acceptance and engagement
4. Foster autism awareness and understanding within the wider community.

## How will the project be implemented?

ACTIVATE will implement:

1. An Autism Acceptance Month Campaign, hosting #AskAnAutistic Live Q&A Sessions
2. Launching the #MyAutismJourney Personal Stories Campaign,
3. A European Community of Practice for autistic youth and evaluating digital advocacy impact.

These activities aim to promote autism acceptance, empower autistic youth, advance EU efforts and foster understanding within society.

## What we aim to achieve from this project?

ACTIVATE results will increase autism acceptance, empower autistic youth, improve youth work in the autistic community at the regional, national and European levels and increase empathy within society. We will also establish the European Community of Practice for youth and facilitate knowledge exchange among key stakeholders. Other outcomes include strengthened digital advocacy efforts and engagement with key stakeholders in the autism community.

## Who are the project partners?

### Directorate for Disability Issues (DDI) Malta

[Home - inkluzjoni \(gov.mt\)](https://www.gov.mt/inkluzjoni)

The DDI is Malta's national focal point in terms of Article 33(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and hosts the UNCRPD National Coordination Mechanism set up in terms of said Article. Additionally, DDI has within its remit ENGAGE, Malta's civil society participation mechanism, created in terms of Article 4(3) of the UNCRPD. DDI's main functions are to develop policy and legislation for the Maltese disability sector, and to oversee the overall implementation and coordination of Government's sectoral policies and strategies.

### IMPACTSCI, UNIPessoal, LDA

[IMPACTsci | Metodologias de Educação Inclusiva para Jovens e Adultos](#)

IMPACTsci, founded in 2022 by a neurodivergent woman, operates as a cutting-edge start-up that specializes in the conceptualization, development, and application of bespoke educational and competence-building digital tools. Through a scientific lens, IMPACTsci bridges the gap between educational theory and practical application, ensuring learners' engagement and meaningful skill acquisition.

## Associação Portuguesa Voz Do Autista (APVA) – Portugal

### [Voz do Autista – Voz do Autista](#)

Associação Portuguesa Voz do Autista is a Portuguese not-for-profit autistic self-advocacy organisation. APVA's main mission is to promote the acceptance and inclusion of autistic people in their communities and to be a platform to give voice to autistic people in Portugal, through projects that promote the support and inclusion of autistic people in their communities at a regional and at a national level. The main strategic objectives of APVA are to develop information, acceptance and advocacy in autism, partnerships to improve community support, mental health and well-being support, and inclusion and accessibility to employment and education for autistic people. In terms of awareness, acceptance, and advocacy, APVA develops training, webinars, and workshops to promote awareness and acceptance of autism, participatory research with universities and political participation and advocacy at the national and European level of autistic people.

## KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN

### [KU Leuven](#)

KU Leuven has been a centre of learning for nearly six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest university and, founded in 1425, one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of international Master's programmes, all supported by high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research. KU Leuven is also member of Coimbra Group and Venice International University. KU Leuven has a strong record of securing funding from the most competitive research funds and was named Europe's most innovative university four years in a row by Reuters (2016-2019)

## Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) Malta

### [Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability - CRPD](#)

The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) is Malta's appointed Independent Mechanism of the UNCRPD to protect, promote and monitor the implementation of the Convention. CRPD Malta has a vast experience in implementation EU co-financed projects. It has led as well as partnered in various projects including projects funded by Erasmus+. CRPD is committed to rendering Maltese society an inclusive one, in a way that persons with disability reach their full potential in all aspects of life, enjoying a high quality of life thanks to equal opportunities. In fulfilling this mission, CRPD works in order to eliminate any form of direct or indirect social discrimination against persons with disability and their families. CRPD employs 42 individuals working in its office in Malta and in Gozo, most of whom are persons with disability themselves.

## European Council of Autistic People (EUCAP)

### [Homepage - EUCAP](#)

The EUCAP is an umbrella organisation founded in 2019 to connect European organisations where autistic people are in the majority in decision-making bodies. EUCAP promotes connections and collaboration between autistic people and their organisations across the language, cultural and political boundaries of Europe, contributing to the identification of shared priorities in advocacy. Since its founding, EUCAP has grown steadily, to 24 member organisations in 16 countries in 2023, reflecting the ongoing interest in and need for autistic-led advocacy, as well as the need to bring this to the European level. EUCAP activities include collecting information about the views of its members, analysing and processing such information into materials to be used in advocacy at the national and European levels, educating members and the general public by conducting webinars, engaging in public discourse at conferences and events, issuing public statements and resolutions, networking with other European organisations, and lobbying. EUCAP carries out surveys both as individual activities run by volunteers and as part of its broader projects.