

Empowerment of youth with Intellectual Disabilities through Educational and training curricula for Acquiring employment Skills

Background

Internationally and in Ireland youths with ID have low rates of employment. The current educational context for youths in Ireland is based in Special Schools with few opportunities for individuals to transition to competitive employment.

Research Mission

Develop evidence based transition program that provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths make the successful transition from school to productive adult employment.

Methodology

The research will use mixed methods that will incorporate a Participatory Research Approach with Qualitative/Quantitative Research Methods.

Work Program

Establish partnerships with educational providers and employers in the community. With the support of stakeholders design an employment preparation curriculum and a work placement curriculum. Curricula will incorporate ICT-AT to support the learning of participants.

The employment transition program will have two components:

1. Delivery of the employment preparation curriculum
2. Individualized work-placement which will be supported by a work placement curriculum

Foreseen Outcomes

- Integrating employment preparation curriculum in special schools
- Introduce and support employers in employing youths with ID
- Empowering youths with ID to find competitive employment
- Mapping of customizable ICT-AT with educational and employment purposes

Expected Impacts

- Improve employability for youths with ID
- Help services providers expand their community services
- Support potential employers/employees
- Develop a technology learning environment for youths with ID
- Change mindset that individuals with ID can achieve competitive employment

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