

Spicing Up
Vocational
Training



SUVOT

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CONTEXT

Mental illness remains to be accompanied by a social stigma so profound that the World Health Organisation and the World Psychiatric Association have identified this problem as a priority issue to be tackled. Surveys reveal a 3 to 5 times higher unemployment rate with mentally ill individuals as oppose to the remaining population, even though past research clearly indicates that the majority of people with serious mental disorders is able and willing to work.

SUVOT project arose from the need to end the social stigma attached to mental illness that makes difficult the incorporation of this target group in the labor market. Four institutions from Slovenia, Poland, Germany and Spain have identified this need and have joined forces to improve training and learning opportunities of people with disabilities and/ or mental illness, thus facilitating their possibilities to find a job.

OBJECTIVES

- Development of an innovative vocational training model, through the use of simulation methodologies and experiential learning, to provide the people with mental illness with personal and social skills needed to work in the cooking sector.

ACTIONS

- Design and production of a set of teaching materials for training in cooking skills, through the use of sociodrama, including a manual for trainers, a textbook for students and a DVD with practical examples.
- Training of trainers about the SUVOT curriculum and simulation methodology.
- Implementation of one year pilot courses for training of 30 people with mental illness in Spain, Germany and Slovenia.
- Creation and maintenance of a web platform, which includes information on training courses, didactic materials and cooking recipes.

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