

MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER



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Transnational Partner Meeting in
Barcelona, Spain

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As the Educate for Independence project continues to progress, project partners gathered once again in March in **El Prat de Llobregat, Spain**, hosted by ABD.

The meeting provided an important opportunity to discuss the ongoing progress of the project, exchange experiences from the pilot implementation phase, and plan the next steps for supporting young people with mild intellectual impairments towards greater autonomy and inclusion

Alongside the project discussions, partners participated in a rich and inspiring study visit across several community-based initiatives connected to the Local Educational Units (LEUs)

- **La Botiga**, a community-based food guarantee service
- **LEU in Sant Cosme garden**, a community meeting and environmental education space
- **UET in Cuina de Barri**, promoting community resilience and a healthy and sustainable diet,



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- **LEU in Cooperativa Agrícola**, supporting a cooperative of associated farming families in Barcelona's wholesale market,
- **LEU Forquilla Ecològica**, centred on educating for sustainability, and social values in school canteens,
- **The Rubricatus Foundation**, supporting people with intellectual disabilities through training, employment, and social participation programmes.

Current Status

The project pilots are currently continuing in Spain and Italy aiming to further strengthen the autonomy, life skills, social inclusion, and employability of NEETs.



Within the scope of the activity, ABD also recently released the 10th episode of its video podcast series “Por el mundo que queremos” (“For the World We Want”), dedicated to youth, disability, and access to employment. The episode highlights the barriers that young people with functional diversity continue to face when accessing the labour market and pursuing independent living, while promoting more inclusive, accessible, and supportive pathways towards autonomy and social participation. You can find the episode below.

YouTube

 The podcast is available in Spanish, but viewers can enable automatic subtitles and translation through YouTube settings.

Next steps

In the next phase of the project, partners will continue the pilot and scaling-up activities while closely evaluating the impact of the diffuse learning model on participants' autonomy and quality of life. The consortium will also develop case studies and a practical toolkit on social innovation and skills validation, which will be made freely available in multiple languages and accessible formats.

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