

**COME TO OUR ARTERY PLATFORM**  
**you will discover new techniques of art, education, therapy**  
**and communication to enhance social skills**

The combination of three main concepts – ART, EDUCATION and THERAPY – gave birth to the ARTERY project<sup>1</sup>. The project involved five European countries - Poland, Slovakia, Italy, Finland and Spain - and was funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme (2007-2013) of the European Commission.

With a scholarship from the National Agency of Germany for the Lifelong Learning Programme GRUNDTVIG<sup>2</sup>, I took part in September 2012 in the "ARTERY WORKSHOP: ART-EDUCATION-THERAPY. Social skills for vulnerable groups"<sup>3</sup>, held in Perugia (Italy) by the non-profit association Key & Key Communications.

What I mostly enjoyed about the workshop, which was overall interesting and stimulating, was the informal atmosphere and the spontaneous approach. Participants and teaching team were involved together in the activities, and direct interventions and suggestions were welcomed and appreciated. Instead of frontal ,academic' lectures, we mainly worked through collaborative and cooperating learning (circle time, team work and work in couple) and tutoring.



Example of an activity at the ARTERY workshop.

The proposed activities were also very interactive and practical (warming up activities, dramatization, creation of objects, painting, etc.).

The aim of the ARTERY project was the creation of an open, virtual learning environment, called ARTERY platform ([www.arteryproject.eu](http://www.arteryproject.eu)), designed for educators, artists and therapists working with socially vulnerable groups, as for instance disabled people, migrants, homeless, people with mental problems, and so on. The ARTERY platform is essentially a virtual portal, a designed space storing information about good practices, exercises and learning programs, developed and tested by professionals

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<sup>1</sup> Grundtvig Multilateral Project ARTERY, Art – Education –Therapy.

Reference number: 510260-LLP-1-2010-1-PL-GRUNDTVIG-GMP, (<http://www.arteryproject.eu>).

<sup>2</sup>"The Grundtvig programme focuses on the teaching and study needs of learners taking adult education and 'alternative' education courses, as well as the organisations delivering these services. It aims to help develop the adult education sector, as well as enable more people to undertake learning experiences, notably in other European countries. Launched in 2000, Grundtvig aims to provide adults with more ways to improve their knowledge and skills, facilitate their personal development and boost their employment prospects. It also helps to tackle problems associated with Europe's ageing" by European Commission, ([http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/grundtvig\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/grundtvig_en.htm)).

<sup>3</sup>Reference number: IT-2012-796-001.

working with disadvantaged adults. The platform enables the interaction among experts operating in and outside Europe, who can watch and upload videos, photos and texts, in order to present their work. The ARTERY platform's motto is indeed "SHARING": sharing inspiration, opinions, knowledge and experience. The official language is English, but also other languages can be used.

Being a special need educator myself, I am well aware of the fact that working in the social and educational field is often very challenging. Educators, artists and therapists are constantly required to test and improve new learning mechanisms and artistic methods, in order to meet the needs of every single, unique person. Although we are asked to be creative, it might happen sometimes that we run out of original ideas. Sharing opinions and being inspired by our colleagues becomes therefore a necessity. On the ARTERY platform we can get fresh inspiration and we can see how trainers work worldwide.

The ARTERY platform represents a sort of Lifelong Learning: on the one hand, it is designed for professionals who are already working with disadvantaged people and it is conceived as an instrument of professional updating; on the other hand, the uploaded exercises are designed just for adults and they show the importance of the Lifelong Learning for socially vulnerable adults. With the aid of appropriate professional support, socially vulnerable persons are capable of acquiring those social competences and skills indispensable for inclusion and for achieving a social role.

You may visit [www.arteryproject.eu](http://www.arteryproject.eu) to join the ARTERY platform. The material present on the platform is available to anyone. Just log in to become a 'spectator' and access movies and texts. If you want to actively participate instead - to take part in discussions and forums, give feedback on particular didactic material and edit yours as well - register as 'user' and open your account. It is very easy and you get a confirmation e-mail within the following 24 hours. The use of visual material (photos, videos) is very welcome.



To know more:

© ARTERY Project Partners, *Social skills training Manual – Art- Education- Therapy + DVD*, (2012), Bielsko-Biała, The Bielsko Artistic Association Grodzki Theatre  
[Translation in: Polish, Slovak, Italian, Finnish, Spanish]  
(<http://www.arteryproject.eu/piblications.html>).

*Artery Project Presentation in Italian by Gabriella B. Klein* (Video on  
<http://www.keyandkey.it/Artery-Video.htm>).

*Artery Workshop in Perugia* (Video on <http://www.keyandkey.it/Artery-Video.htm>).