



Newsletter n.1

VIPs VIBES The inclusion of visually impaired persons in the bakery sector

The **VIPsVIBES project** is an innovative initiative co-funded by the European Union, which aims to promote the inclusion of visually impaired persons (VIPs) in the bakery sector. In this newsletter, we will give you an overview of the project, the objectives we aim to achieve, the partners involved and the first expected results.



About the Project

The VIPsVIBES project aims to break down the barriers limiting the access of visually impaired people to the bakery sector, providing them with new specific skills and a new real opportunity in the labour market. In addition to training VIPs as bakery assistants, VIPsVIBES aims to empower mentors within the bakery sector to promote a more inclusive working environment and facilitate the integration of visually impaired people into bakery businesses.



Target Groups

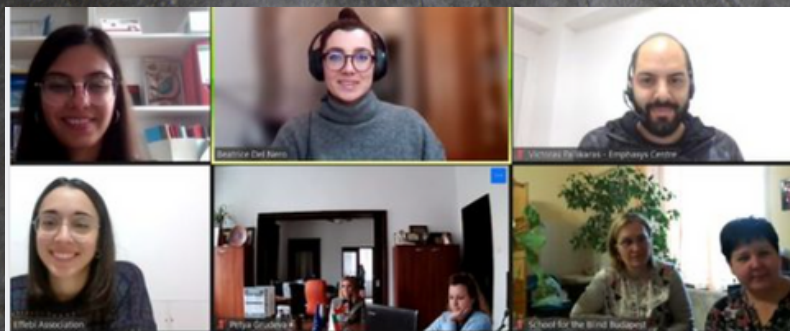
- **Visually impaired people**, who want to become bakery assistants.
- **Bakery specialists**, who want to become mentors for VIPs, providing tools and strategies to foster their concrete inclusion in their bakery companies

Project Objectives

VIPsVIBES sets ambitious goals to support the professional and social inclusion of visually impaired people in the bakery sector.

The project will develop:

- **A Methodological Manual:** a tool that will guide both visually impaired people and bakery mentors in acquiring the necessary skills to work in this sector and make companies more inclusive.
- **A Digital Toolkit:** a set of digital tools and resources designed to facilitate the accessibility and active participation of visually impaired people in the baking process.
- **A Training Course and Certification System:** VIPsVIBES will offer a training course and certification system to update the skills of both VIPs and workers in the bakery sector, promoting opportunities for professional growth for both groups.



Kick off meeting Online



On **5th and 6th December 2023**, the **Project KICK-OFF** meeting was held online, Partners met online to discuss the first operational steps and to define the roadmap for achieving the set goals.

The main topics discussed were the **presentation of the partners**, with a detailed description of their roles and competences, the **planning of activities**, including the definition of the **first training actions** and the development of the **Methodological Handbook for VIPs assistant and mentors** to support the integration of people with visual impairments, and the identification of the objectives and expected impacts, with the definition of success metrics and progress monitoring. The first few months will be crucial for the start-up of the training activities and the creation of the necessary teaching materials for the duration of the project.

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2nd Transnational Project Meeting



The **2nd transnational meeting** of the project took place at the ASSOC Association in **Baia Mare, Romania**.

During the meeting, the partners discussed the finalisation of the Methodological Handbook and the implementation of the Digital Toolkit, as well as aspects related to project dissemination, quality and monitoring. The ASSOC team also took the partners to visit housing units where people with special needs are looked after and supported.

The **partners met for the first time in person**, in a collaborative and positive atmosphere, confirming the commitment of all participants to work together for the success of the project.

The Consortium



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