



**A. General Information**

This application form consists of the following main sections:

- Context: this section asks for general information about the type of project proposal you want to submit;
- Participating organisation(s): this section asks for information about the applicant organisation and about other participating organisations involved as partners in the project;
- Description of the project: this section asks for information about the stages of the project which should include: preparation, implementation and follow-up;
- Budget: in this section you will be asked to give information about the amount of the EU grant you request;
- Project Summary: In this section you should describe in a compact way your project's rational, objectives and how you intend to achieve these.
- Check List/Data Protection Notice/Declaration of Honour: in these sections, the applicant organisation is made aware of important conditions linked to the submission of the grant request;
- Annexes: in this section, the applicant needs to attach additional documents that are mandatory for the completion of the application;
- Submission: in this section, the applicant will be able to confirm the information provided and to submit the form electronically.

For more information on how to fill in this application form, you can read the e-Forms Guideline.

**B. Context**

Programme	Erasmus+
Key Action	Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
Action	Strategic Partnerships
Which field is the most impacted?	Strategic Partnerships for adult education
Main objective of the project	Development of Innovation
Call	2017
Round	Round 1
Deadline for Submission (dd-mm-yyyy hh:nn:ss - Brussels, Belgium Time)	29-03-2017 12:00:00
Language used to fill in the form	English

**B.1. Project Identification**

Project Title	Echolocation for People with Visual Impairment
Project Acronym	EchoProVIP
Project Start Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	28-12-2017
Project Total Duration (Months)	24 months
Project End Date (dd-mm-yyyy)	27-12-2019
Applicant Organisation Full Legal Name (Latin characters)	FUNDACJA INSTYTUT ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO

Form hash code: BB2A29BD76C4C99E



This form has been submitted on: 2017-03-28 17:36:55. Status: OK (1410073).



Erasmus+

Application Form

Call: 2017

KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

KA204 - Strategic Partnerships for adult education

Form Version: 4.04

Form hash code



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## B.2. National Agency of the Applicant Organisation

Identification

PL01 (POLSKA)

For further details about the available Erasmus+ National Agencies, please consult the following page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact>

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**C. Priorities**

Please select the most relevant horizontal or sectoral priority according to the objectives of your project.

ADULT EDUCATION: Extending and developing educators' competences

Please select other relevant horizontal or sectoral priorities according to the objectives of your project.

ADULT EDUCATION: Increasing the demand and take-up through effective outreach, guidance and motivation strategies

HORIZONTAL: Social inclusion

Please comment on your choice of priorities.

The rehabilitating education and training of people with a visual impairment is well suitable for the life-long learning scheme, as it is an ongoing process throughout life and influences all its areas. It is provided as habilitation for children born with a serious vision impairment and as (re-)habilitation for persons, who are losing their sight, no matter their age.

Provision of teaching and training, including orientation and mobility skills, requires very highly specialised competences from instructors and professionals. The influence of well-designed and realised teaching and training for the relevant target groups, e.g. children, young, adult, elderly, MDVI, etc. is a fundamental issue in the whole further existence of people, who are blind and partially sighted. It is reflected in their educational choices, capabilities to undertake further education and employment opportunities. Maximum independence and good skills in a variety of techniques, enabling visually impaired persons to perform various tasks, are essential to their functioning in social, civil and economic life, that constitutes a full social inclusion.

However, in many European countries, obtaining new competences by orientation and mobility (O&M) instructors, reaching for a modern and innovative approach based on research and a pioneering training curricula, is almost impossible or at least extremely limited. The number of professionals specialised in basic rehabilitation of visually impaired people is limited and those working in the area of spatial orientation is even smaller. At the same time, the type of skills providing the highest level of independence to persons, who are blind and partially sighted, is quality orientation and mobility training. The purpose of learning O&M, also called spatial orientation, is to move independently, safely and confidently in the environment. It includes such skills as: gaining information using other senses than vision (hearing, smell, touch and proprioception), learning spatial concepts (especially in case of those born blind or early blinded), geographic directions, relationship between object positions, locating objects, searching for them, navigating in different environments, using public transportation, using various mobility devices like white cane, guide-dog, electronic navigation aids, etc.

Even the best cane techniques, use of various electronic navigation tools, simple listening to the surrounding sounds, etc. still does not give an exhaustive image of the environment. There are attempts to develop various technology based systems to assist this but still no reliable solution is found.

For some time already, a pioneering approach - the application of human echolocation skills in the O&M training of blind people - is getting more and more attention and expertise. Echolocation is not a completely new term for rehabilitation specialists and visually impaired people themselves, but so far it has not been properly implemented and valued as part of the O&M education and training. However, there are some significant attempts in the world to promote the development of such skills by providing the training to blind people. Various sources shows, that it brings really good results. The most famous example is the work of the American organisation, World Access for the Blind, by its founder and president, Daniel Kish, a blind O&M instructor himself, who masters the echolocation skills and was a pioneer in training other blind people in that ability. He and his colleagues travels all around the world to present, how it works, how to train echolocation skills and to give training to visually impaired people as well as O&M instructors. A few centres for the blind in the Netherlands, Denmark and United Kingdom have been inspired to initiate the exploration of this field. Some of them have started the implementation of echolocation theory and practise in their O&M education and training. It is however still only taught on a basic level and it is not commonly implemented, so there is a lot to be done in those countries as well. Echolocation is, in most European countries, including these partner countries except Denmark, rarely mentioned during education of O&M specialists and even when it is, it is just given as a brief information without any real influence on the O&M training curricula. That is why this proposal aims at the transfer of knowledge from Denmark to Poland, Latvia and Lithuania and a mutual development of a training curricula, methods, techniques and a compendium on how to train visually impaired people in

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echolocation for the benefit of rehabilitation and education centres in Europe. It will provide O&M specialists with very relevant and high quality modern competences to train people with blindness new skills in order to enhance their possibilities for independence and inclusion.

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**D. Participating organisation(s)**

**D.1. Applicant Organisation**

PIC	991240091
Full legal name (National Language)	
Full legal name (Latin characters)	FUNDACJA INSTYTUT ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO
Acronym	FIRR
National ID (if applicable)	0000170802/356746471
Department (if applicable)	
Address	ULICA JOZEFA WYBICKIEGO 3 A
Country	Poland
P.O. Box	
Post Code	31-261
CEDEX	
City	KRAKOW
Website	www.firr.org.pl
Email	biuro@firr.org.pl
Telephone 1	+48126298514
Fax	+48126298515

**D.1.1. Profile**

Type of Organisation	Foundation
Is your organisation a public body?	No
Is your organisation a non-profit?	Yes

**D.1.2. Background and Experience**

Please briefly present your organisation/group (e.g. its type, scope of work, areas of activity and if applicable, approximate number of paid/unpaid staff, learners and members of the group).

Institute for Regional Development Foundation (pl: Fundacja Instytut Rozwoju Regionalnego) – FIRR, is Polish NGO working for benefit of people with disabilities, with special consideration of people with visual impairments. For many years we have provided basic training for blind and partially sighted people based in two FIRR locations – Krakow and Warsaw with activities offered to people in whole country. Those rehabilitation activities include orientation and mobility, daily living skills, computer skills, educational and employment orientation, etc. We organise a variety of other trainings, including foreign language classes, social





and communication skills, etc. We also realise various projects related to increasing of employment opportunities for people with disabilities by guidance, coaching, finding internships on the open labour market, supporting them in starting their own business, and many others. Very important areas of our activities are also: accessibility, especially digital accessibility, assistive technologies, advocacy for rights of people with disabilities, particularly from point of view of UN Convention on rights of people with disabilities. We are strongly involved in the implementation of new approaches, innovative solutions and modern technologies in the education, rehabilitation and all other areas of people with disabilities lives. We participate also in various research and development projects aiming to improve situation and functioning of that group of society.

FIRR Has proactive role and facilitates various discussions on disability issues with disability movement as well as with government institutions representatives and in consequence has submitted several proposals for legislation amendments to national authorities that have received positive feedback from various stake holders.

FIRR is also involved in transnational co-operation. That activity leads to adaptation of innovative models and procedures increasing the level of engagement, awareness and attitude of employers in relation to people with disabilities. It also facilitates the comparison of legislation, institutional and structural solutions implemented in more advanced countries.

Our team consists of about 40 staff members and more than 100 associate staff, includes people with great experience in: disability field, rehabilitation, coaching, social policy, advocacy, public relations, law, computer science and programming, accessibility, assistive technologies, modern technologies and other experts.

We are striving for our aims often in cooperation with other organisations, special and mainstream schools, universities, companies, central and local public authorities, other institutions that might have influence on opportunities for people with special needs. FIRR has been managing and participating in plenty of national and international projects in the area of disability. Our international experiences include: LLP (Leonardo Da Vinci, Grundtvig, Erasmus Sport), Erasmus+, 7thFP, H2020, US State Department Grants, EFS, etc.

What are the activities and experience of your organisation in the areas relevant for this project? What are the skills and/or expertise of key persons involved in this project?

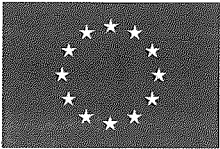
FIRR has long experience in realisation of actions aiming at supplying new competences to professionals. We work with those who are teachers and trainers as well as provide curricula and materials on obtaining new qualifications for various types of staff. Our experiences include a set of training programmes and materials for example on service provision for clients with various dysfunctions for tourism, accommodation and catering sector we have realised in two strategic partnerships, Leonardo da Vinci Programme as their manager. We were partners in many other LLP projects and actions.

FIRR has also developed and conducted various trainings increasing competences in disability issues, especially related to people with visual impairments, for other groups of audience e.g. academic teachers, public administration, staff of commercial companies (banks, tourism entities, police, etc.).

From almost the very beginning of its establishment, FIRR has provided complex actions aiming at full access and equal opportunities for people with visual impairment to all areas of life – education, rehabilitation, vocational orientation and employment, to social, cultural, civil and politic life. Orientation and mobility trainings for adults from this group are among main tools to achieve the highest possible level of independence and self-management. We have realised the trainings in two locations: Cracow and Warsaw but our activities are available nationally. For last four years e.g. our activities in that area addressed more than 400 adult people with visual disability who received more than 20.000 hours of support.

We have cooperated with professionals working in the area of services for blind and partially sighted people as well as with academics who are involved in the education of typhlopedagogists in Poland including orientation and mobility or daily living skills instructors, vision therapists, etc.) in increase of their competences, promotion of newest achievements of science, implementation of good practices from other countries, enhancing modern approach.

We have initiated discussion in Poland on echolocation in rehabilitation of VIPs by various actions, including presentations on specialised conferences (recent one in 2016 Warsaw, Academy of Special Pedagogy, the leading university preparing professionals in education and rehabilitation of blind and partially sighted) where the publication on that topic prepared by our staff will be included (in edition now). We also are involved in activities realised by the social company established by FIRR which in cooperation with large technical entity has started work on special mobile application which is to work on the echoes recording method to include in



the application and become a tool in increasing ability to hear and identify echoes through gaming. This project has just started and there is not reliable evidence how it will work in practice and how accurate and useful the outcome will be but if successful it might serve as valuable ICT based tool supporting OM instructors in echolocation training. It might bring added value and synergy to our proposal.

Key persons:

- Anna Rozborska- disability awareness expert, manager of international projects within Life-long Learning Programme and Horizon 2020. Blind person herself. After sight loss went thorough various intensive orientation and mobility trainings, including non-standard six months training run by blind instructors within National Federation of the Blind rehabilitation centre in Minneapolis, US. Her experience in the field include, apart from engagement in the elaboration of publication on echolocation, also providing some classes with special education faculty students.

- Piotr Witek – expert in accessibility and assistive technologies, He is our leading staff person working in the project that aims to prepare mobile application to record and present echoes and is to train its recognition through gaming. He is blind traveller. He was presenting echolocation topic on the conference in 2016 and is the leading author of the article on echolocation in post-conference publication. He is engaged in creation of innovative curricula for some universities on disability accessibility issues as well as lecturer of some of them. He provides testing of various devices and applications to assess their accessibility for people with visual impairment and publishes articles on that topic.

- Mariola Łygas –master in Special Pedagogy (specialisation: Typhlopedagogy, spatial orientation and rehabilitation of vision; Rehabilitation of people with multiple disabilities). She is involved in regular work with visually impaired clients - Instructor of spatial orientation, daily living activities and Braille. She is also involved in activities related to other projects (including research and development) related to Spatial orientation assessment of blind individuals. Also specialist in raised-relief maps.

Have you participated in a European Union granted project in the 3 years preceding this application?

Yes

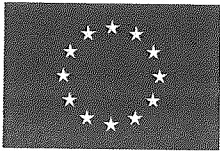
Please indicate:

EU Programme	Year	Project Identification or Contract Number	Applicant/Beneficiary Name
Leonardo da Vinci	2013	2013-IE1-LEO05-06094	National Council for the Blind of Ireland
Leonardo da Vinci	2013	2013-1-TR1-LEO05-47548	Denizli Valiligi
7FP	2013	611621	IIT Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia
Horizon2020	2015	643636	University of Iceland
Erasmus+	2015	2015-1-PL01-KA204-016600	Foundation Institute for Regional Development
Erasmus+	2015	015-2988/001-001	Local Government of Kekava Municipality
Erasmus+	2015	2016-2-HU02-KA205-001831	EBC* Licensing Oktatasi es Fejleszto Intezet Korlatolt Feelossegu Tarsasag

D.1.3. Legal Representative

Title Mr

Gender Male



First Name	Aleksander
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If the address is different from the one of the organisation, please tick this box

**D.1.4. Contact Person**

Title	Ms
Gender	Female
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Family Name	Rozborska
Department	
Position	Disability expert and project manager
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Telephone 1	+48 663 883 334

If the address is different from the one of the organisation, please tick this box





**D.2. Partner Organisation**

PIC	942686935
Full legal name (National Language)	IBOS
Full legal name (Latin characters)	Instituttet for Blinde og Svagsynede, IBOS
Acronym	IBOS
National ID (if applicable)	55134510
Department (if applicable)	
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Country	Denmark
P.O. Box	
Post Code	2900
CEDEX	
City	Hellerup
Website	www.ibos.dk
Email	
Telephone 1	+4539452545
Fax	+4539452525

**D.2.1. Profile**

Type of Organisation	School/Institute/Educational centre – Vocational Training (secondary level)
Is the partner organisation a public body?	Yes
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	Yes

**D.2.2. Background and Experience**

Please briefly present the partner organisation/group (e.g. its type, scope of work, areas of activity and if applicable, approximate number of paid/unpaid staff, learners and members of the group).

The Institute for Blind and Partially Sighted, IBOS, is a non-profit, public knowledge and rehabilitation center under the Copenhagen Municipality, with a national scope. Our target groups are young (14 yrs+) and adults with a severe vision impairment living in Denmark.

IBOS offers:  
- Special assessment and counselling (by ICT counsellors, occupational therapists, (neuro-)psychologists, neuro optometrist, study counsellors, labour market counsellors and mentors, family counsellor, acute crisis team for hospitals, architect) plus an assistive



technology exhibition, tactile production, etc.

- Educations (3 yrs Special Youth Education for young people with multiple disabilities, incl. visual impairment (MDVI), VET educations and preparation (marketing, masseur, music, weaving, etc.) and rehabilitation courses for persons with acquired blindness (ADL, O&M, ICT, braille, etc.), Dynamic Neuro Vision training of persons with brain damage related sight problems, etc.
- Living quarters (permanent and temporary), Sheltered workshops and Daytime activities for adult MDVIs.
- Labour market service (outgoing service to adjust work places and council employers, create pratique opportunities, etc.)
- Research, documentation, development, conference and communication.
- Five sight related Special Pedagogical Diploma Modules (10 ECTS) in cooperation with the University of South Denmark (Assessment; Activity in daily living (ADL); Orientation & Mobility (O&M); Learning, rehabilitation and development and Aquired brain damage).
- Short courses for relatives to and professionals working with visually impaired persons (VIP) and
- Social workers, Info, Adm. and service, etc.

IBOS employ appr. 116 staff members (appr. 25 professions)  
 Appr. 200 VIP students a year and 1000 special counsels a year.  
 IBOS has an indoor Swimming Hall, Gym, outdoor parks, etc.

IBOS is part of national (DTHS, etc.), Nordic (NOVIR.net) and international networks (ICEVI.org, ENVITER.eu, etc.) where we will be happy to discuss and disseminate the results from this project. IBOS also arrange sight professional days in Denmark in cooperation with regional communication centres, where such results will be welcomed.

IBOS has managed and participated in several European LLP projects (Leonardo, Grundtvig and Youth), but the last three years, we have only had national projects.

What are the activities and experience of the partner organisation in the areas relevant for this project? What are the skills and/or expertise of key persons involved in this project?

IBOS has been engaged in developmental work within Mobility and Orientation publishing guidebooks and apps. With inspiration from pioneer Daniel Kish, USA and colleagues from Royal Dutch Visiom, we have been developing echolocation as a method for spatial orientation, now introduced as part of the O&M education. A research project has been conducted with the research and adventure centre "Fjord and Bælt" where natural scientist researching the animal use of echolocation and our then manager of PD Educations, master in special education, teacher and O&M expert Ms. Lone Dyekjær explored, how this knowledge could be transferred to human use.

The latest development project is a very big sculpture square with bows, paths, light and sound in front of the institute, designed for orientation and mobility training purposes, incorporating echolocation.

Lone Dyekjær has since changed position to become a sight consultant in our partner organisation for this project, the Communications Centre for the Greater Copenhagen Region, but still teaches echolocation, etc. to IBOS PD students in O&M.

Ms. Gitte T. Haldbæk is an experienced occupational therapist and O&M instructor at IBOS, specialised in sight related problems and acquired brain damage, Neuro Vision Techolocatio assessment and training and participates in a resarch project with a hospital on its effect, etc. She now manages the PD educations, among other the PD in O&M. She will be assisting Lone Dyekjær.

Ms. Dorthe Marie Degn, development and project consultant at IBOS. Master in Project Management. Former European projects at IBOS: KnowProVip, Gat4proVIP, ICFproVIP, Play and Game, MDVI and J.O.B.S MDVI.

Has the partner organisation participated in a European Union granted project in the 3 years preceding this application?

No

**D.2.3. Legal Representative**

Title Ms

Gender Female



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**D.2.4. Contact Person**

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If the address is different from the one of the organisation, please tick this box