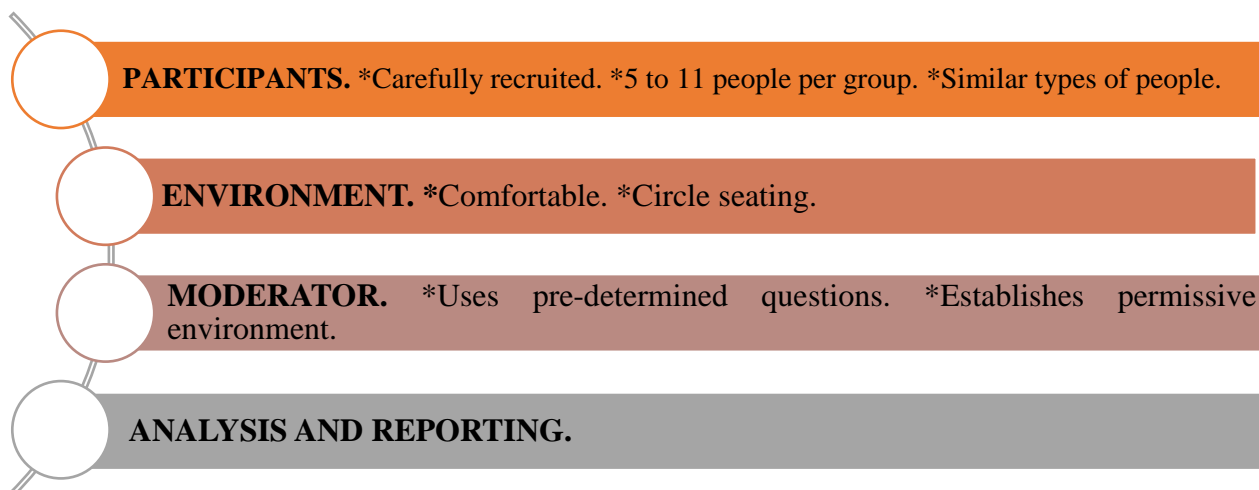


PROJECT “COMMUNICATION IS THE PATH TO INTEGRATION“ FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION REPORT

Introduction. *A focus group is a small-group discussion: participants feel free to talk openly and give honest opinions. It is used to learn more about opinions on a designated topic, and then to guide future action. Often, the focus group discussion method is defined as a purposefully structured discussion to gather participant’s insights into the research question in a neutral environment.*

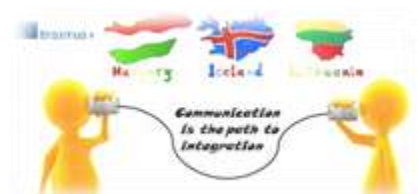
1. Preparation for the focus group:



Focus group discussion took place in 3 groups: 1 group – Jonava people with disabilities activity center (Lithuania), 2 group – Haefingarstodin Baejarhrauni (Iceland) and 3 group – Strázsa Tanya Közhasznú Szocial Szövetkezet (Hungary). In the discussion participated disabled people and staff of the organizations. The common similarity between these groups is communication difficulties and alternative means of communication are used. The discussion took place during the last meeting, in the 2021 on June 18.

2. Questions:

Opening
<p><i>What are some of your thoughts about what's going on now?</i></p> <p><i>Would you say you are satisfied with the current situation, with the way things are going on? (If so) What are you satisfied about? Why is that? (Or, What's going well...?)</i></p> <p><i>Are there things you are dissatisfied with, that you would like to see changed? (Or, What's not going well...?).</i></p>
Discussion
<p><i>It is important for you to communicate? Why?</i></p> <p><i>How about alternative communication methods. What do you think about that?</i></p> <p><i>What alternative communication method you try to use?</i></p> <p><i>What are the advantages and disadvantages of this method? Can you give an example? (Or, Do you agree with this...?)</i></p> <p><i>Does anyone else have some thoughts on that?</i></p>
Summary:
<p><i>Are there other recommendations that you have, or suggestions you would like to make?</i></p> <p><i>Are there other things you would like to say before we wind up?</i></p>



3. Analysis and reporting:

- During the focus group discussion participants noted that during the project they acquire and raised following competencies as: activities of planning, communication and cooperation with other, self-expression and self-realization, positive and communicate, be responsible to manage conflicts, organizing, new activities, installation, customization work competencies, self-sufficiency.
- Each participant of the project has improved their communication in native and foreign (English language) languages skills, communication and cooperation with other countries competencies, use of new methods of communication skill improvement, use of new technologies, the ability to exchange information and to customize the newly available information, initiate the implementation of the ideas included in other, monitor and evaluate. As well as increased motivation to work and to innovate in their work of excellence.
- Improving staff competencies with disabilities, it was created more job opportunities for the development of its own needs, opportunities and full participation not only in the process, but also in the community to learn the lessons from other countries. Stay at workers and people with disabilities were able to know each other better in an informal setting.

