

The partner organisations Arkhe (Toledo, Spain), Odtiz (Slovenia) and Views International (Belgium) began working on the creation of the “The Big Thing” project in November 2022, since the need to train trainers with diverse abilities for non formal education activities had been detected.

The idea of this project arises because the most important training of trainers in Europe, organized for more than 20 years by SALTO, in collaboration with the national agencies, has trained more than 500 European trainers in these years, however, to date only two people with diverse abilities have participated in it: a blind Italian participant, in 2015/16 and, in the previous 2022/23 edition, a wheelchair user.

The general objective of this project is to achieve effective inclusion of people with diverse abilities in the field of youth work and non-formal education at the European level, especially within the framework of the Erasmus+ programs and the cycle training of the European Solidarity Corps.

During the year 2024, national trainings will be carried out, taking into account that there will be 7 participants for each organisation and that Arkhe will work training deaf young people, directly at Spanish Sign Language; Views International will train young people who are blind or visually impaired; and ODTIZ will work with young wheelchair users. Each of these trainings will have a total duration of 16 days, which will be distributed according to the needs and availability of the participants in each country.

In addition, two transnational training sessions will be held, one in Spain and the other in Slovenia, in which all the participants from each country will be brought together, a total of 21 people, in which they will have all the necessary support: Sign Language interpreters, assistants for blind people, and the support required by wheelchair users. Each of the transnational training courses will last 5 days (plus two traveling days).