

# NEWSLETTER

---

NUMBER 4

# TETRA-S

Enhancing transfer of transversal skills for social inclusion

OCTOBRE 2023

---

**TOWARDS THE CREATION OF POWERFUL LEARNING ENVIROMENTS,**



The city of Larnaca

## THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

---

### FOCUS ON TETRA-S 4TH TRANSNATIONAL MEETING

Larnaca Cyprus September 5 and 6, 2023, organizer: Eurocy Innovations, TETRA-S Cypriot partners

1. **'Where are we in the project?'** Editorial by Groep Ubuntu and Eurocy Innovations Ltd
2. **Study visit** to Saint Spiridonas AMEA School
3. **Interview** from Maria Psilolychnou by Eurocy Innovations Ltd
4. **Green actions** linked with the project and special school Saint Spiridonas
5. **ENSA and European News**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## 1. FOCUS ON TETRA-S FOURTH TRANSNATIONAL MEETING, LARNACA CYPRUS SEPTEMBER 5 AND 6, 2023

By Groep Ubuntu, Loes Van Cluysen and Eurocy Innovations Ltd, George Milis and Marianna Gregoriou

### **Welcome to the fourth edition of TETRA-S Project Newsletter!**

In this edition, we will highlight our progress, including an overview of our recent activities and accomplishments. This editorial will provide a comprehensive update on the current status of the project, highlighting key milestones and achievements in improving the competences of the adult educators in teaching people with a cognitive disability transversal skills.

### **Where are we in the project?**

Step into the vibrant world of our project updates!

The fourth TETRA-S transnational meeting **day one** kicked off with an electrifying burst of energy as our project team gathered to dive deep into the status of our project's results. With a warm round of applause, our esteemed project coordinator, Mr. *Johan Warnez*, lauded the outstanding work and top-notch deliveries of our partners.

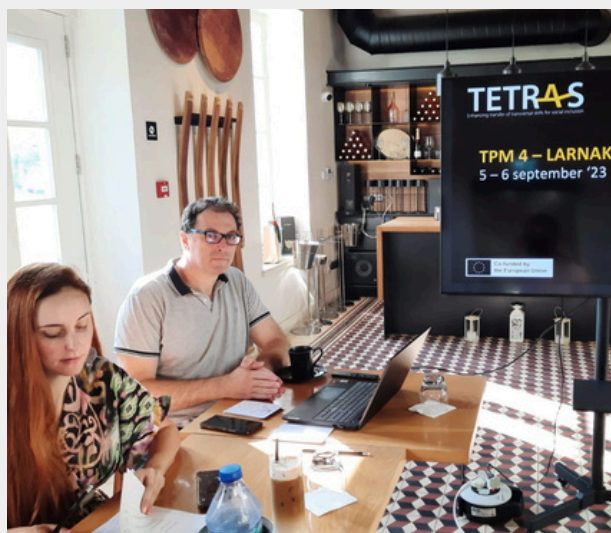
As we celebrated Mr. Warnez's excellent leadership on the brink of his retirement, it was a moment of heartfelt appreciation shared among all.

Our gaze shifted towards the horizon of our next Transnational Meeting, where a new Project

Coordinator from Groep Ubuntu is set to take the reins.

Anticipation hung in the air as partners eagerly presented their progress, igniting lively discussions on the development of our project's results. With deadlines and strategies unanimously agreed upon, the stage is set for our local teams to embark on the journey of translation to make the material of the MOOC available in English, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Portugues, Bulgarian.

Meanwhile, partner EUROCY takes the helm in crafting our e-Learning environment, paving the way for the creation of an accessible Learning Management System (LMS), where the TETRA-S Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) will be implemented, that promises to facilitate an enjoyable meaningful learning experience.





In the midst of all this productivity, the atmosphere remained warm and welcoming, fostering a sense of camaraderie that spilled over into our partners' dinner. Amidst tantalizing dishes, ideas flowed freely as participants brainstormed ways to optimize their contributions to the project.

**Day two** dawned with a focus on honing transversal skills and creating dynamic learning environments. Through riveting webinars and innovative apps, our partners delved into the art of empowering learners.

Partners had the chance to embark in a poignant visit to the **Saint Spiridonas AMEA School**—a beacon of hope for children facing mental and/or physical challenges. From tender beginnings preparing young minds for mainstream education to empowering older students with vocational training, the school embodies a commitment to fostering independence and social inclusion.

With each day filled with purpose and passion, our project journey continues to unfold, guided by a shared vision of excellence and inclusion. Stay tuned for more updates as we shape the future of education together!





## 2. STUDY VISIT TO SAINT SPIRIDONAS AMEA SCHOOL

### Innovation Services Offered!

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of services offered by the school, tailored to meet the diverse needs of its students.

From specialized education to a spectrum of therapeutic interventions – occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, and music therapy – the school embraces innovation at every turn.

Here, education transcends the conventional, embracing methodologies like the renowned "**Sherborne Method**" alongside artistic expressions, hippotherapy, and pre-vocational training in fields like fashion design and crafts.

With a curriculum tailored to individual needs, each child is empowered to reach his full potential, guided by specific goals designed to unlock his brightest future.

But the school's commitment doesn't end within its walls.

It champions **inclusion** through a robust program aimed at seamlessly integrating children into mainstream school settings, fostering a sense of belonging among peers.

Every child is equipped with the tools he needs to thrive, ensuring he can navigate the wider world with confidence.

Beyond its borders, the school stands as a beacon of collaboration, lending its expertise to projects like "**Keep Me Safe**" – a vital initiative empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to protect themselves from harm.

Its involvement in numerous Erasmus+ and eTwinning Programs underscores its dedication to fostering global connections and driving positive change on a broader scale.



### 3. Interview from Maria Psilolychnou (PT, MBA, Master in Special Education) representative of the Saint Spiridonas Special School by Eurocy Innovations Ltd - Pt1

We are delighted to bring an insightful interview with a representative from the Saint Spiridonas Special School. Our conversation sheds light on the student population, the plans in place for their future, and the innovative support systems available for students with cognitive needs.

**Interviewer:** Thank you for taking the time to speak with us. Let's start with some questions about the student population at Saint Spiridonas Special School.

#### 1. How many students do you currently have in Saint Spiridonas Special School?

**Representative:** We currently have 124 students attending Saint Spiridonas Special School.

#### 2. How many of those students are above 16 years old?

**Representative:** Approximately 55 of our students are above 16 years old.

#### 3. What is the plan for those students who are finishing school at age 21?

**Representative:** The plan for students finishing school at age 21 varies depending on their individual skills and needs. Some may pursue pre-vocational training or vocational training placement. For those with more severe cases, arrangements are made for ongoing care as they may require assistance with daily activities. A small percentage may choose to stay at home. Additionally, there are facilities, often referred to as "little houses," that provide accommodation and support for students.

#### 4. Can you provide more information regarding the "little houses" scheme?

**Representative:** Over the past two years, we've seen an increasing number of students residing in "little houses." These facilities cater mainly to students whose families are unable to provide full-time care. Trained caregivers assist residents.

#### 5. What actions do you take to prepare students for work placement?

**Representative:** We work closely with the Technical School to provide pre-occupational preparation training. Each district typically has one or two institutions where students receive training in basic skills relevant to various work environments such as supermarkets and hair salons.

### 3. Interview from Maria Psilolychnou (PT, MBA, Master in Special Education) representative of the Saint Spiridonas Special School by Eurocy Innovations Ltd - Pt2

6. Are there any other actions taken to support students for vocational placement?

**Representative:** Yes, we recently implemented a three-month project in collaboration with the **Junior Achievement program**. This project focused on building students' skills in a café environment, including coffee preparation. While this program is valuable, it's important to note that further training and exposure to different work environments would enhance students' readiness for employment.

7. Do you believe that students can benefit from using technology during work placement training?

**Representative:** Absolutely. **Technology can greatly enhance the training experience for students with disabilities.** For example, touch screen systems can facilitate transactions for students who may have difficulty handling cash. This opens up opportunities for them to work as cashiers or in other roles where technology can bridge accessibility gaps.

Thank you so much for providing all the information and for taking the time to participate in this interview.





## 4.GREEN ACTIONS LINKED WITH THE PROJECT AND SPECIAL SCHOOL SAINT SPIRIDONAS

Following our insightful interview with a representative from Saint Spiridonas Special School, where we explored their student population and future plans, we now turn our attention to the inspiring projects led by the students themselves.

Join us on a journey of empowerment as the school champions student involvement in diverse projects, allowing them to take charge of their roles and shape their experiences. In a captivating presentation by Ms. *Maria Psilolychnou*, the spotlight shone on two **remarkable student-led initiatives**.

First, a cinematic experience unfolded as students took the reins, showcasing their beloved city of Larnaca through a captivating tourist guide film. But their talents didn't stop there. Indeed, a second project saw them spearheading a **transformative change within their community**.

By swapping plastic straws for durable metal alternatives, they not only raised awareness about environmental

sustainability but also earned Larnaca prestigious accolades for their efforts.

During our visit, the school's dynamic staff treated us to an array of engaging workshops, providing firsthand insight into their work with students. From immersive experiences to interactive activities, every participant was swept up in the excitement, eager to partake in the transformative journey.

Our project partners also convened to strategize ways to amplify the project's impact and plan future dissemination activities. With unanimous enthusiasm, tasks were assigned, and the meeting concluded with a memorable group photograph—a testament to our shared dedication to making a difference. Stay tuned as we delve deeper into these topics, highlighting the innovative initiatives and collaborative efforts driving the mission of Saint Spiridonas Special School forward.



Fourth Transnational Meeting Larnaca, 05-06/09/2023: Study Visit

## 5. ENSA AND EUROPEAN NEWS

### ENSA News: General Assembly of the ENSA Network in Brussels 22-25 January 2024



The next ENSA General Assembly will be held from the 22nd to the 25th of January in the premises of the Odisee University of Applied Sciences and Veneto Region Brussels Office. A specific session will be dedicated to the working group on disability with a focus on a **presentation of the TETRA-S Project by Groep Ubuntu, Loes Van Cluysen.**

In addition, persons with disabilities will be invited for testimonies thanks to the collaboration with IVASS Valencia.

The following authorities will collaborate in the coordination and organisation:

- the City of Rotterdam
- IVASS Valencia
- the Veneto Region
- the Council of Europe: General Assembly of INGOs
- ENSEL Network on Social Emotional Learning
- the Odisee University of Applied Sciences

### EU News: The TETRA-S project objectives on line with the implementation the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Flash on **EU call**: Capacity building and awareness raising on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights - Programme Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

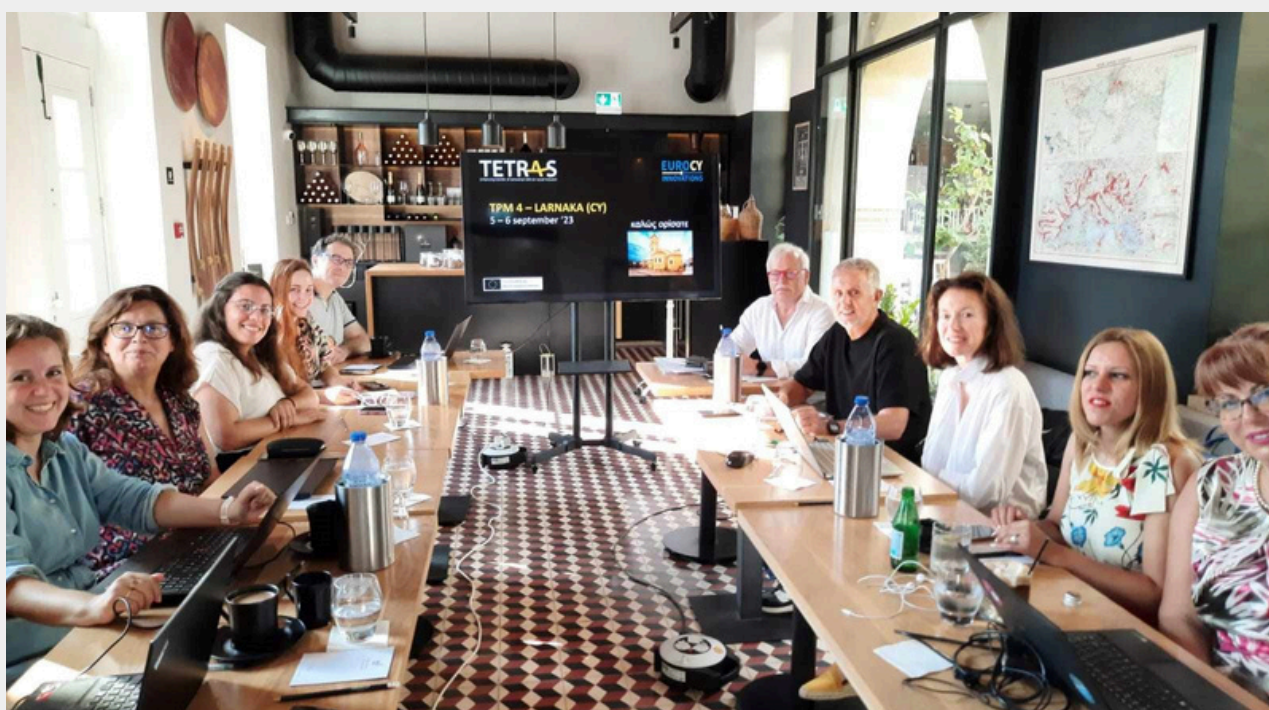
Projects under this priority are intended to raise the fundamental rights knowledge of relevant actors. Building on the central role of civil society organisations and human rights defenders, funded projects could involve national, regional and local authorities as partners (co-applicants), with the aim of supporting joint capacity building and awareness raising efforts.



# INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Visit our website at: <https://tetras.ensa-network.eu/>

## LARNACA GREETINGS FROM THE TETRA-S PARTNERSHIP



**Acknowledgements** and gratitude to Groep Ubuntu:  
Johan Warnez, Loes Van Cluysen and Werner Verbruggen

Editor ENSA team, Veneto Region's Brussels Office, Elena Curtopassi, Valentina Srbuljevic

The European Commission's support for the production of this flyer does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

