

About DEAP project

DEAP – Nurturing Personal Development and Empowerment of Young People with Visual Impairment through Arts Education is an international initiative co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme. The project supports the personal growth, self-expression, and social inclusion of visually impaired youth through innovative, arts-based education. By engaging participants in disciplines such as ceramics, dance, and theatre, DEAP fosters emotional awareness, creativity, and active participation. The project is implemented by a consortium of organizations from six European countries, working together to create accessible and empowering learning environments.

The DEAP project is coordinated by **I.E.R.F.O.P. ONLUS** (Italy) and brings together a strong international consortium of organizations with experience in inclusive education, youth empowerment, and the arts.

Project Partners

Fundacja Rozwoju Aktywności Międzynarodowej i Edukacyjnej **FRAME** – Poland

PRISM Impresa Sociale S.R.L. – Italy

RESET LTD – Cyprus

Spolek PELICAN, z.s. – Czech Republic

SENSUS – Sweden

Together, we work to develop innovative, accessible, and creative learning opportunities for young people with visual impairments across Europe.

1st Transnational Project Meeting in Palermo

On February 5–6, DEAP project partners gathered in sunny Palermo for the first transnational meeting. Over two productive days, the consortium shaped a detailed action plan for the upcoming months, focusing on launching local kick-off events and preparing the first international training for educators.

During the meeting, partners also discussed the development of the **Transnational Need Analysis Report**, which will provide a comparative overview of national contexts, challenges, and good practices in supporting visually impaired youth through arts education.





Transnational Need Analysis Report

This consolidated report presents the key findings from research conducted across all DEAP partner countries (Italy, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Sweden, and Poland) on the challenges faced by young people with visual impairments in education, employment, and cultural participation.

Based on desk research, surveys, and interviews with young people, youth workers, and stakeholders, the report highlights shared issues such as limited accessibility, underfunded support systems, and social stigma. At the same time, it showcases inspiring examples of how **arts-based programs** can promote empowerment, self-expression, and inclusion.

The information gathered formed the basis for the development of the **Transnational Capacity Building Programme**, ensuring that DEAP activities directly respond to the real needs and opportunities identified across Europe.

Project launch in partner countries

Between April and June 2025, the DEAP project was officially launched across all partner countries through a series of inspiring national events that brought together educators, youth workers, artists, and community members committed to inclusive, arts-based education.

In **Poland**, the FRAME Foundation hosted a dynamic kick-off at the School for the Visually Impaired in Łódź. The event combined workshops on inclusive education, a hands-on ceramic session, and an exhibition of artworks from the previous C.A.R.E. project, fostering strong intergenerational cooperation.

In **Cyprus**, RESET introduced DEAP during a community gathering at the Saint Barnabas School for the Blind in Nicosia. Participants included students, families, teachers, and local artists, all engaging in dialogue about the project's goals and future possibilities.

In **the Czech Republic**, PELICAN held a professional launch event in Brno with representatives from Masaryk University, Tyfloservis Brno, and youth education institutions. The meeting featured a DEAP project presentation, insights from the ceramics pilot workshop in Italy, and a discussion on inclusive educational practices.



Project launch in partner countries

In **Sweden**, SENSUS co-hosted an origami workshop for visually impaired young adults together with the youth association US. The session introduced DEAP's mission through a tactile, hands-on activity that encouraged creativity, skill-building, and inclusion.

In **Italy**, I.E.R.F.O.P. ONLUS organized a formal project launch on June 24 in Cagliari. They presented the DEAP project and highlighted the transformative role of art therapy in supporting personal development, sensory awareness, and emotional well-being. The event also showcased the first DEAP international training focused on tactile ceramics, emphasizing the importance of adapting artistic tools and methods to diverse sensory needs.

Each of these events marked an important step in building local engagement, sharing best practices, and creating inclusive spaces where young people with visual impairments can grow, express themselves, and connect through the arts.



1st Transnational Training Course: Sculpting Potential in Cagliari

From **5 to 10 May 2025**, the city of Cagliari in Sardinia hosted the **first international training course** of the DEAP project under the title *Sculpting Potential*. Organized by project coordinator I.E.R.F.O.P. ONLUS, the course focused on **tactile ceramics as a tool for inclusive education and personal development**.

2nd Transnational Training Course “Harmony in Motion” in Brno

The training gathered participants from all partner countries—educators, youth workers, dance instructors, and facilitators—who explored methods of using contact improvisation, rhythm, guided movement, and somatic awareness to foster confidence, body autonomy, and creative freedom in mixed-ability groups.



Key elements of the training included:

- Inclusive warm-up and group-building techniques for movement sessions
- Adapting choreography and improvisation to multisensory perception
- Discussions on emotional literacy, trust-building, and communication through non-verbal cues
- Exchange of best practices between trainers from different artistic and educational backgrounds

Participants emphasized how dance and movement create safe, non-judgmental environments where visually impaired youth can connect with themselves and others—beyond language and sight.

Next steps

As the DEAP project moves into its next phase, preparations are underway for two important upcoming events.

In **September 2025**, project partners will gather in **Stockholm** for the **second Transnational Project Meeting**, hosted by SENSUS. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of the two completed international trainings, evaluate local activities, and finalize plans for the next stages of the project.

Shortly after, from **November 3 to 8, 2025**, the DEAP team will reunite in **Łódź, Poland** for the **third and final international training course**, focusing on **inclusive theatre**. This training—coordinated by FRAME Foundation and hosted in collaboration with the School for the Visually Impaired in Łódź—will explore techniques in embodied storytelling, vocal expression, and accessible performance-making, completing the artistic trilogy of ceramics, dance, and theatre.

Stay tuned as DEAP continues to grow and bring inclusive, creative education to life across Europe!

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