

# Spain, Barcelona / Museum, a place for all

AUDIE  
NCES  
UROPE  
NETWORK

## Summary of project intent

*Museum, a place for all* a long term program involving adults with cerebral palsy, learning difficulties and mental disorders in the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya.

Museum, a place for all is a program for museum non-users or for all those people who can't visit it on their own, it has the commitment and collaborates with other cultural, educational and social institutions in widening the access of people to culture.

### DIFFICULTIES MET

- ▶ Architectonic barriers
- ▶ Difficulties in how to evaluate the impact over the participants during and at the end of the program
- ▶ Sometimes we have had the feeling that the processes overcome the everyday life of the institution



### RESULTS

Since the year 2000 we are in contact with different institutions and collectives who work with adults with learning difficulties and mental disorders. With the years the typology and number of institutions has been grown since now which are 30 different organizations taking part in the program, 2.239 people.

- Participation into cultural life
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Networking between institutions and social professionals
- And diversifies the visitors of the museum

#### Qualitative benefits

Taking part in cultural and creative activities brings **social benefits** because it promotes social and communitarian development, it increases social abilities and reduces isolation therefore favours a more positive perception of their reality.

It also encourages **personal benefits** because it promotes the interest for the arts and cultural events, it has effect on the expression and creativity of each person, develops confidence and self-esteem and promotes autonomy and personal abilities.

In terms of **educational benefits** the programme increases cognitive and sensorial abilities, encourages the solution of problems in a creative way and increases specific knowledge and promotes the development of new ideas.

Not less important are benefits the program contributes to social educators giving them new resources and new strategies that can be applied to their everyday work.

And finally, in terms of **economic benefits** we can say that the program creates a network between institutions and professionals, increases and diversifies the visitors of the museum and attracts new financial resources.

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## Subproject, How does a museum beat?

The specific project **HOW DOES A MUSEUM BEAT?** Discovers the inner life of the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya and the work carried out by those people responsible for it.

The main objective was to encourage interaction and personal contact between the Museu Nacional employees and people living with a mental disorder to promote social cohesion and a sense of belonging to the community.

*"To foster artistic and expressive aspects but especially the development of relational autonomy"*

## RESULTS

### People living with mental illness

- ▶ Have learned about a social and cultural reality different to theirs
- ▶ Have established new human relations
- ▶ Have acquired artistic and museological knowledge
- ▶ Have been able to express themselves through art

### Learnings by people working in the museum:

- ▶ Have learned about the reality (difficulties and qualities) of people living with a mental disorder
- ▶ Have changed the stereotyped image of mental disorders
- ▶ Have overcome the stigma that people with mental disorder experience
- ▶ Have collaborated in increasing the museum's commitment to society

## FUTURE / TIPS

After 12 years working with different collectives we would like to share with you these four issues:

- ▶ How to develop policies to allow people with any kind of disability to fully participate in cultural life, not just as consumers but also as producers of culture
- ▶ How to transfer what we have learnt about accessibility policies by working with these people to the general public
- ▶ How can we guarantee the continuity of this type of programmes and ensure that they do not depend only on the capacity of a Department neither on the generosity of a sponsor
- ▶ All in all we aim for universal accessibility to deeply change museum policies as well as making the museum workers take responsibility for it