



Together at the crossroads of life

Our professionals are by your side whenever you need support with your mental or physical well-being.



EURODIACONIA FUNDING NETWORK MEETING 2025

24 September, Brussels, Belgium

Session 1 - Lessons learnt and good practice: Erasmus+

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Our story

Genuine encounters with people and connecting help with those who need it are at the core of our activities – and have been **since 1896** when the Oulu Deaconess Institute Foundation was established to train professionals in the field and to serve the sick, the poor and others in need of help.

Our roots lie deep in diaconal work, which can be seen today especially in the help we provide to the most vulnerable groups of people and in our volunteer work. Everything we do is based on the “love thy neighbour” principle, which guides our way of interacting with people, helping them and standing by their side.

We work ambitiously to **promote life management, well-being and health. We walk alongside people at the crossroads of life**, celebrating the small and big achievements in their life. Our services and know-how are based on multidisciplinary expertise and reliable knowledge.

Everyone has the right to a good life – that is why we do this work.



Together at the Crossroads of Life

Vision

We are doing well
here in the north, even in
challenging times.

Strategy

1. Strong northern
diaconal work
2. Together for
the good of people
3. Effective solutions
for well-being
4. Building
good work
5. Taking
responsibility
for tomorrow

Values

Humane
Fair
Effective
Pioneering

88
employees

339
volunteers

25
on going
projects

17%
self-financing
contribution in
research and
development
activities

49 424
encounters



Oulu Deaconess Institute Foundation

**ODL Department of Sports
and Exercise Medicine**

**ODL
Together**

**ODL
Property Services**

ODL Together

ODL Together offers social empowerment services to support people in a vulnerable position. The support of our multidisciplinary team of experts enables a more meaningful life and improved functional capacity as well as safe first steps towards employment. We develop sustainable, data-driven solutions to social challenges.

The priorities of our development activities are:

- ✓ Preventing social exclusion
- ✓ Strengthening inclusion, functional capacity and well-being
- ✓ Strengthening employment, working capacity and study skills
- ✓ Promoting integration and trauma rehabilitation
- ✓ Developing community and volunteer activities



Erasmus+ Pathways to Inclusion

Erasmus+ Pathways to Inclusion

Coordinator:

Oulu Deaconess Institute Foundation sr. (ODL)

Partner:

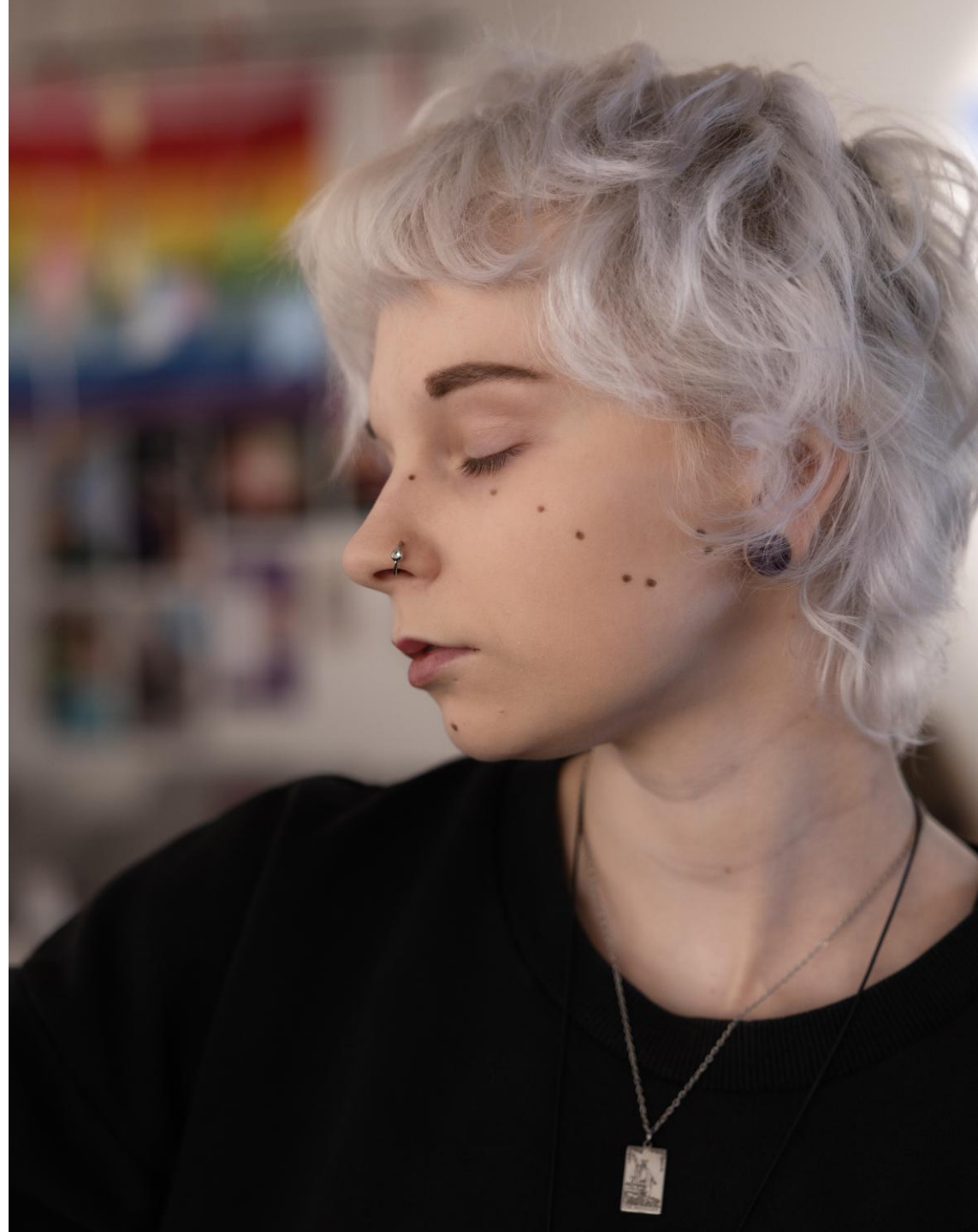
ASOCIACION EVANGELICA NUEVA VIDA

is a state-wide, private non-profit organisation that promotes fully the development of human rights of all people, especially, those that find themselves in vulnerable situations. For more than 25 years, Nueva Vida has served people deprived of freedom, women in situation of prostitution, migrants under asylum and international protection and people experiencing homelessness

Project time: 1.10.2025 – 30.6.2027, 21months

Budget: 66 856€

Funding: 90% Finnish National Agency for education (project lump sum 60 000€), 6% ODL, 4% Nueva Vida



Erasmus+ Pathways to Inclusion

OBJECTIVES

- **Enhance social support and welfare among at-risk youth, enabling them to engage more strongly with society. Develop long-term strategies.**
 - Collect and implement best practices for low-threshold encounter work and stabilizing interventions for at-risk youth.
 - Improve the knowledge and skills of professionals and volunteers, enhancing the quality of special youth work.
 - Advocacy work to reduce exclusion and negative stigma.
- **Strengthen partner organizations' capacity and opportunities for international collaboration.**
 - Establish long-term cooperation between ODL and Nueva Vida.
 - Foster new international partnerships to encourage the development of innovative solutions.

PRIORITIES

H: Inclusion and diversity

Y: Increasing quality, innovation and recognition of youth work

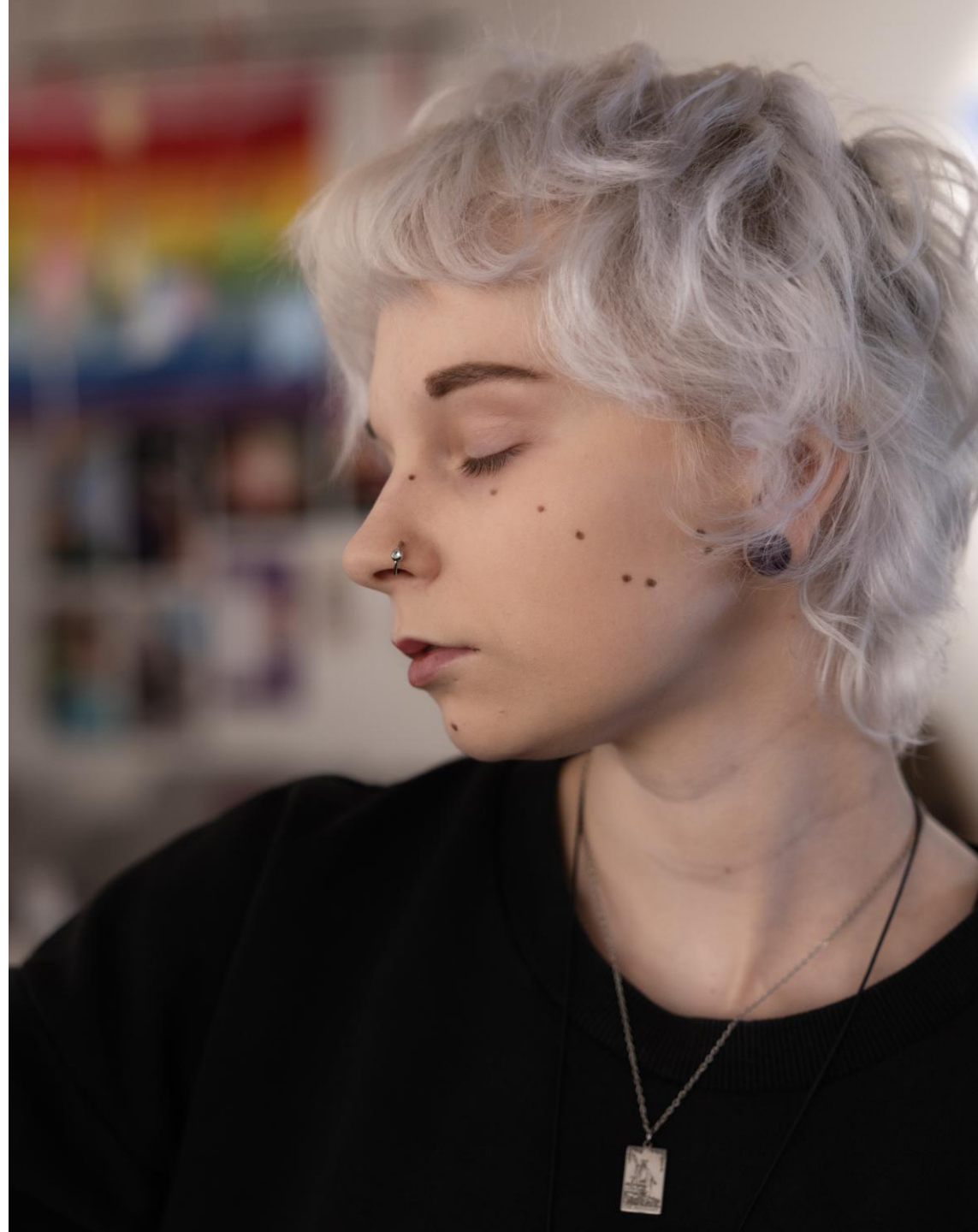
Y: Reinforcing links between policy, research and practice

TOPICS

Quality and innovation of youth work

International relations and development cooperation

Social innovation



Erasmus+ Pathways to Inclusion

10/2025 ↓ 4/2027	WP	why	who, to whom	how	for what
	The start	framework for collaboration	employees	on-line work and documents	mutual commitment and shared knowledge
	The field visit to Santander	share practices, enhance understanding	employees (+partners), volunteers, young from NV's programs	visit; observation, co-working, informants	dialogue, new tools and methods. enhance special youth work in NGO's
	Collaboration	Co-creation and evaluation	employees	on-line work, peer review	evaluation (strengths and areas for improvement) and applicability
	The field visit to Oulu	share practices, enhance understanding	employees (+partners), volunteers, young from ODL's programs	visit; observation, co-working, informants	dialogue, new tools and methods. enhance special youth work in NGO's
	Co-developing	Co-creation and evaluation, enhance knowhow and find best practices	employees	on-line work, peer review, participatory co-development, writing	new methods and tools for outreach work
	Local workshops and pilots	refine the descriptions of the methods and deepens collective learning	employees (+partners), volunteers, young from ODL's and NV's programs	workshops to co-develop and test agreed methods	knowledge about the impacts, foster social innovation
	Communication and Implementation	disseminate methodological expertise, foster public discussion	employees of NGO's, young from ODL's and NV's programs, general public	write and compile method descriptions,	digital publication. The publication will consist of descriptions of best practices in special youth work
	Advocacy	present the situation of the youth at-risk to policymakers and other influencers	employees and young from ODL's and NV's programs policymakers and other influencers	visit: testimonials	direct influence and advocacy, strive for more human decision-making and sustainable solutions

Challenges
Lessons learned
Recommendations

Costs and Funding

Challenges:

- Amount of funding share
- Differences in cost levels

Solutions:

- Funding: ODL 59% - NV 41%
- Self-financing share: 10%

Visits:

- ODL and NV are responsible for their own trips
- ODL and NV are responsible for accommodation costs for visitors in their own country

Salaries:

- Average of employees' salaries (ODL-NV), minimum hours for work packages
- Significant part of the work is done remotely

The Budget Summary

Costs					
	Activity's grant's attribute	Grant amount allocated	Coordinator/ODL	Partner/Nueva Vida	Total costs of activities, incl. co-financing of applicants
Activity 1	Online meetings; Salaries , 10 hours for 4 people per organisation.	1908	1280	840	2120
Activity 2	The Field Visit to Santander. Travel and subsistence; ODL :Flights for 4 people. Salaries and daily allowance for 4 people. Nueva Vida: Accomodation and food for 4 visitors. Transport in Santander. Salaries for 4 people from Nueva Vida.	18416	12154	8538	20693
Activity 3	Online work; Salaries for 4 people per organisation.	1944	1280	880	2160
Activity 4	The Field Visit to Oulu. Travel and subsistence; Nueva Vida; Flights for 4 people. Salaries for 4 people. ODL: Accomodation and food for 4 visitors. Transport in Oulu. Salaries for 4 people from ODL.	14983	9595	7239	16834
Activity 5	Online meetings; Salaries for 4 people/organisation from 5-7 meetings	3024	1792	1232	3024
Activity 6	Workshops in Oulu (ODL) and in Santander (NV); Workshop as a purchase and workday-salary for 4 people.	3287	1979	1673	3652
Activity 7	Purchase concerning publication. Salaries from 10 hours for 4 people per organisation.	4194	3780	880	4660
Activity 8	The Field Visit to Brussels. Travel and subsistence; Nueva Vida; Flights, accommodation and food for 3 people. Salaries for 2 people.Allowance for young person. Transport in Brussels. ODL: Flights, accommodation and food for 3 people. Transport in Brussels. Allowance for young person. Salaries and daily allowance for 2 people from ODL.	12244	7538	6175	13713
Total		60000	39399	27457	66856

Funding

Erasmus+ funding

ODL funding

Nueva Vida funding

60000

3940

2746

Collaboration

Challenges:

- Finding a partner and defining the partnership
- Defining the idea
- Application process:
 - Language
 - Scope and structure of documents
 - Responsibilities

Solutions:

- Partner from the Eurodiaconia network
- Network meetings and further discussions

Objectives:

- Objectives for content (young people at risk of social exclusion) and collaboration
- Structuring the objectives according to the funding call and its priorities, deciding on roles before the application process

Application:

- Impact chain
- Shared working platform
- Responsibilities for writing the application
- English as the main working language

Thank You!