

ASDEU – mid-programme news

Autistic adults

Update on activities:

There is relatively little known in the European Union, or globally, about existing services and care for autistic adults or about the readiness of communities to provide for them. The objective of this area of ASDEU's work is to create a framework for improving services and care for autistic adults.

Through analysing information about service provision in seven sites and through literature reviews, the researchers are looking at: multidisciplinary approaches to services and care; the management of co-morbidity; diagnosis and post-diagnostic support in adulthood; managing major transitions in adult life; and care of autistic old people.

Progress and learning:

The study has confirmed how underdeveloped the research base about services for autistic adults is. From analysing site-specific reports, it has identified that private organisations (including charitable and not-for-profit) are the main providers of services, although the balance in the split of public/private provision varies between *and* within countries. Within countries, there is also a wide variation in the range of services available, and those that exist tend to cluster in large urban areas. There are also early indications there may be limited development and specialisation among services offered by the non-public sector.

Next steps:

Surveys on knowledge and experiences with adult services and care practices for autistic adults, caregivers and professionals are being finalised and translated, with the English versions launched from early January 2017. Other language versions will be launched as they become available. Preliminary survey results will be analysed from February 2017, and the final report should be prepared by August.

[You can find out more about progress from the autistic adults studies on the ASDEU website here.](#)