



Article #4

VIPS VIBES: the legacy of the Erasmus project for the inclusion of visually impaired people in the bakery sector

With the conclusion of the VIPS VIBES - The inclusion of visually impaired persons in the bakery sector project (Project no. 2023-1-RO01-KA220-VET-000154452), funded by the Erasmus+ KA220-VET program, a two-year journey focused on inclusion, innovation, and training has come to an end.

The main objective was twofold: on the one hand, to provide new skills to visually impaired persons (VIPs) to enter the world of work as bakery assistants; on the other hand, to create the role of bakery mentor, capable of guiding colleagues and employers towards inclusive practices and accessible environments.

Although ambitious, the project's theme was received with great interest by stakeholders and the public, and we hope it will mark a step towards more inclusive work environments and new job opportunities for blind and visually impaired people.

What is the project's legacy?

The project has produced concrete tools that can be replicated at European level:

- a **Methodological Handbook for VIPs and companies**, which brings together guidelines and best practices for making work accessible and safe;



- a **Digital Toolkit** with innovative technologies and solutions that are useful not only in baking, but also in other educational and professional contexts;
- a **VIPsVIBES Curriculum**, structured in micro-credentials and validated by the Open Badges system, which allows modular skills to be certified and qualifications such as Bakery Assistant or Bakery Mentor to be obtained;
- a **VIPs VIBES Academy**, which offers specialized courses and training programs, accessible via the dedicated platform (<https://vipsvibes-academy.eu/>).

The website and dissemination

All materials, resources, and courses are available on the project's official website: vipsvibes.eu.

Impact and sustainability

VIPS VIBES has shown how the bakery sector can become a laboratory for social and labor inclusion, simultaneously responding to labor shortages and the need to enhance skills that are often excluded from the market.

The impact extends beyond the project:

- the materials created are adaptable to other sectors and educational pathways;
- the guidelines and curriculum can be used in contexts of vocational training, adult education, and inclusion policies;
- the network of European partners has initiated new transnational synergies that will continue beyond the duration of the project, ensuring the sustainability and dissemination of the results.

A European model of inclusion

VIPS VIBES has demonstrated that baking, a universal symbol of sharing, can also become a **tool for emancipation and dignity in the workplace**. The model developed is unique and can be replicated throughout Europe, contributing to the objectives of the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.

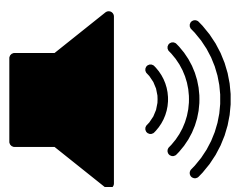


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"The inclusion of visually impaired persons in the bakery sector", project number 2023-1-RO01-KA220-VET-000154452

With the conclusion of the project, the message that remains is clear: inclusion is not an isolated gesture, but a structured path that can transform entire sectors, generating opportunities and breaking down barriers.

 To avoid missing any information about the project, follow the project website:
<https://vipsvibes.eu/>



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