



Press Release #1

A New Vision for Employment: The VISTA Project Launches to Empower Europe's Visually Impaired Workforce

Across Europe, a profound systemic gap persists in the labour market, with nearly 75% of individuals with visual impairments remaining unemployed. To challenge this reality, an international consortium has launched the VISTA project—Vocational Inclusion & Skills Training for People with Visual Impairments, designed to bridge the gap between education and professional success. This ambitious work is made possible through a specialized European network led by the Italian institute **I.E.R.F.O.P. ETS**, together with a diverse array of expertise from **PELICAN** (Czechia), **OECON** (Greece), **SYSTSERV** (Greece), **Odòs Società Cooperativa Sociale** (Italy), **IEWS International** (Belgium), and **Fundacja InFLUEDU** (Poland).

VISTA is built on the conviction that sight loss should never be a barrier to a fulfilling career. Supported by the Erasmus+ program, the project moves beyond traditional advocacy to build a practical, technology-driven bridge between learners and the workforce. The core of this vision lies in the modernization of **Vocational Education and Training** (VET). By introducing specialized teaching methods and assistive technologies, the initiative ensures that visually impaired learners are no longer left on the sidelines of the digital revolution.

The project's most innovative tool is the **VISTApp**, a cutting-edge platform powered by artificial intelligence. This application serves as a dual-purpose bridge, empowering both educators and students.

However, VISTA recognizes that true inclusion requires a human connection. The initiative moves from the classroom into the professional world through **practical apprenticeships**. These placements provide a vital proving ground where participants build job-specific skills while demonstrating to local businesses the immense value that a diverse workforce brings to any team. To ensure these successes resonate across the continent, the "**VISTA Ambassadors**" — young, visually impaired participants — will co-produce video content documenting their personal journeys of resilience and achievement.

Contact us for more information: office@viewsinternational.eu

