

THENAPA FINAL REPORT OF FRANCE

Aims and objectives of the work at national level

In France, the aims and objectives of the national group were to participate in the inter-ministries meetings and researches, to put in common the different data collected on integration of handicapped persons through APA (at school and sport settings) and also to improve the formations offers in the 18 universities offering APA curricula, according to the THENAPA proposals, asking for common basic curriculum on APA.

Another objective consisted in developing contacts between universities and local authorities in the scope of APA professionals' in-service training : the aim was to establish links between curricula, recognition of the contents, etc

➤ *Have they been achieved?*

Partially because France is a wide country and we had difficulties to carry on researches in all regions. Only the universities involved in THENAPA national group participated in these researches at local level and the results cannot be representative of our whole country's reality. Also if we gave informations on APA formations' contents and credits to universities and federations providing APA formations, we had no power nor right to ask them to follow the THENAPA proposals. Only a few universities took into account these proposal while elaborating their new formation plans.

➤ *What means have been used to monitor their success or failure?*

We organized two congresses, also meetings where we invited different partners. We never succeeded in having all the partners working together. We informed them separately, participated at different meetings (congresses, work-shops, inter-ministry meetings), gave informations to the other associations involved in APA in France : AFAPA (French Speaking association on APA) and APAPSS (Association of the Professional on Physical Education and Sport of the Specialized Sector).

Organisational approach and structure

➤ *Structure of national group*

The THENAPA national group is composed of university representatives involved on APA:

- UFRSTAPS, University of Paris X: Claire Boursier, Didier Séguillon, Xavier Devillard
- UFRAPS, University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble: Yves Eberhard and Josianne Brachet
- UFRSTAPS University of Montpellier: Anne Marcellini and Alain Varray
- UFRSTAPS university of Lyon 1 :Lyon: Michel Fodimbi
- CNEFEI Suresnes: Jean-Pierre Garel

Different meetings were held 3 times a year to present the work and researches decided during the THENAPA forums and also decide each participant's involvement.

➤ *Role(s) of the national partners, organisations*

After different mails and meetings, we had contacts with different partners such as:

- **the Ministry of Education**, General Direction of School Integration ;
- **the Ministry of Sports**;
- **the Ministry of Social Affairs - Health**, General Direction of Social Action, Service for handicapped persons.

The Ministry of Education Ministry of Sports supported the congress organized at the university of Paris X: "integration through Adapted Physical Activity of persons with special needs", March 19–23, 2001.

- **Nanterre mayor's office**;
- **General Council of the "Hauts de Seine": direction of youth and sports.**

Both Nanterre mayor's office and General Council of the Hauts de Seine supported the congress and also provided help in the dissemination projects, helping us to implement cooperation plans concerning integration of handicapped persons through APA and new in-service trainings on APA.

- **French Federation of Adapted Sports (FFSA)**, sport federation for mentally disabled persons: Patrick Bidot, responsible of the federal formations on APA;
- **"Handisport" French Federation (FFH)**, sport federation for physically impaired and blind persons.

Methodology, tools and technology used

The first meeting was held at Amiens, march 9-11. During this meeting, Yves Eberhard, the EARAPA key-person France presented the aims of THENAPA. An election of the Thenapa representative was organised and Claire Boursier was elected.

It was decided that members had to think about research on integration through APA in the scope of their laboratories.

The THENAPA representative took some contacts in september 2000 with different institutions such as National Associations for handicapped persons, Ministries, Sport Federations. The first work was to present THENAPA and organise a French network on integration through APA.

The national representative met on september 22nd, 2000 MM. Siksig and Brison from the Ministry of Education in order to constitute a national committee about integration through APA with representatives from the different ministries concerned and Thenapa members.

The second meeting took place at Victor Ségalen University, Bordeaux 2, on September 27-30, 2002. The THENAPA representative presented the results of the second forum (Oslo) and gave some information about the different contacts she had with the Ministries of Education and Health, Associations...

Three meetings of the national group were organized each academic year. It can be noticed that the national committee on inegration of handicapped persons with representatives of the ministries, federations university were not carried out and that the national network only gathered university partners.

During the different national meetings, the THENAPA representative gave a summary of the different THENAPA forums and presented the researches that had to be done within the country. Each participant decided what his/her contribution would be during the following period.

The researches on integration were led by the university representatives of the national group at a local level. Students specialized on APA participated on these research in the scope of their master thesis. We used the tools elaborated or given during the THENAPA forums and adapted them to our country's specificity. We also used data of different studies carried on in

the country on integration of handicapped persons through APA at school and in sport settings. The results of these researches were discussed before being sent to the THENAPA responsables in charge of integration and formations and also sent to the different french partners according to their interests.

➤ *Open and distance learning*

We did not use this tool for the moment.

➤ *Tools and technology*

- *CD-ROMS, new information and communication (ITC)*

We gave the THENAPA's CD rom in english version to a few partners (mostly universities) and will spread it as soon as we will have new ones in French.

- *Appropriateness and effectiveness of the tools and technology used to fulfil the tasks on national level*

Reports were sent to each member of the national group. Two congresses were organized during the period to disseminate information on integration through APA (march 2001, University of Paris X) and on formations on APA (University of Nice, june 2002). This was not effective enough to spread the information everywhere. We need to take more time to disseminate the results, developing ITC, spreading the CD-ROMS and also work closer with the other associations such as AFAPA and APAPSS to have more chances to reach the ministries, the local authorities, the specialized institutions and the handicapped persons themselves as well. The tools must be adapted to each public as their concerns, attitudes and habits are different.

Products and results, their dissemination

➤ *Integration through APA*

Thanks to all the contacts taken, different national meetings were held at the university of Paris X and in other universities. The main one occurred during the congress which main theme concerned integration through APA in March 2001. The University of Paris X invited a

few important researchers on this field. The ministers contacted before the congress gave their entire support.

Since this congress, 3 inter-ministries meetings were held (between the ministry of education and the ministry of youth and sports). The aim of these meetings were to improve the integration of handicapped persons in sport and physical education settings and also to improve the different formations in the domain of APA, at federal and academic levels.

The different partners of these meetings are:

- the sport federations for disabled (FFSA and FFH)
 - the universities
 - representatives of the ministry of education
 - representatives of the ministry of youth and sports
 - associations of APA professionals (APAPSS)
 - representatives of the French Speaking Association on APA (AFAPA)
- } Both involved in the formations
on APA

The priority was to study the different integration modalities of persons with special needs in regular physical education and sport settings, and also to assess the contents of all the formations on APA from II to V++ levels.

- An audit survey was conducted by the ministry of education in 9 regions of France to assess the integration modalities of handicapped pupils in regular physical education lessons (February – June 2001).

- A qualitative research was carried out by the THENAPA national group in the region of Paris in regular primary and secondary levels schools to study the integration modalities of handicapped pupils in regular physical education (PE) lessons. A questionnaire was submitted to school headmasters and physical education teachers. The data collected were completed by observations of integrated PE lessons, according to an evaluation scale – adapted to the French context – given during the 3rd THENAPA forum. A summary of the main results was given during the congress in Paris, March 2001. The complete results of these researches were discussed in the university of Paris X during a meeting of the french Thenapa network (see appendix n°1) on January 2002.

➤ *Education and training on APA*

An audit assessment was made, both by the ministry of education and the THENAPA national group. The results showed a great variability among the universities' curricula. While some university deliver the Vth degree in APA with 100 hours on APA, others give the same diploma after more than 1000 hours on APA! The objectives, contents, fields appeared different from a university to another.

The aim of these assessments was to propose a common basic curriculum on APA in all the universities in France preparing APA professionals.

Some discussions were also made to increase contacts between universities and sport federations for the disabled in the scope of APA professionals' trainings (II and III levels).

In June 2002, at the university of Nice, during the annual AFAPA congress was held a meeting concerning academic curricula on APA. The proposals of THENAPA were presented and discussed. A few universities such as Bordeaux 2 and Paris X, preparing the next "four-year" plan took into account these proposals. The next meeting on APA academic formations will be held in the University of Paris X on September 19th, 2003.

Dissemination

➤ *Integration through APA*

The first dissemination strategy we used concerning integration was to organize an international congress on "integration of handicapped persons through APA" in march 2001. We invited the THENAPA coordinators herman Van Coppenolle and Jean-Claude De Potter, THENAPA representatives, the IFAPA president Greg Reid, the first IFAPA president Clermont Simard both from Canada, representatives of the Ministry of Education, of the local authorities (departmental and city levels), representatives of all federations for handicapped persons, presidents and board members of the main associations involved on APA (AFAPA and APAPSS), researchers, professionals and students. More than 600 participants attended this congress. The abstracts of all the communications were published - in English and French - during the congress (See the appendix n°2).

The second dissemination strategy was to share with our partners such as universities and local authorities examples of good practices on integration throughout Europe. Thanks to THENAPA opportunities to share experiences of good practice, we started a co-operation between different countries concerning integration of handicapped persons through APA.

In 2002, we hosted a group of Finnish APA professionals and researches and organized meetings with french peers, local authorities and university representatives. Interesting informations were shared on pedagogical and institutional levels. This co-operation continues in 2003 between the university of Paris X, the General Council of Hauts-de-Seine and Finland with the visit of french professionals, representatives of the university and local authority on May 2003. The aim of these visits and contacts are to improve in both countries the integration of handicapped persons taking into account the “good practices” of each country at all levels (pedagogy, accessibility, organisation of APA, etc.) and to develop co-operation between professionals (see program appendix 3).

➤ *Education and training in APA*

The results of the different researches carried out by the THENAPA national group were proposed during the AFAPA congress in june 2002 and discussed with representatives of the universities offering APA curricula. As many universities are working on the next formation plan (3-5-8), the propositions elaborated by the THENAPA representatives were given as advices to all universities proposing APA curricula.

We also implemented programs on APA for in-service training of sport instructors at local level. This in-service curriculum, elaborated in co-operation between local authorities (General Council of Hauts-de-Seine) and the University of Paris X took into account the proposals of THENAPA and should start in 2003.

Evaluation

➤ *Tools and criteria used to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of the work on national level?*

As the researches, assessments and work are not totally completed in France, we did not start any evaluation.

➤ *Difficulties at national level*

France is a wide country and such researches take more time than the periods allowed by the THENAPA terms. The choice of the THENAPA national group was to select only a few aspects and/or only some regions.

Three meetings per year of the THENAPA national group (only university partners) were held and other separated meetings with the federations and ministries occurred. Many studies were carried out by these different structures and it was difficult to put in common the different data.

It was difficult to disseminate information everywhere and we need more time to reach all the partners and think about other means of communication. The congresses, meetings and letters only reached a few partners. There are still some universities who don't participate in the different forums and it's difficult to see the effects of the co-operation as we have to wait for the new four-year formation plans of all the universities to see any change (this should occur in the coming years).

Besides the congresses which got financial support from the local authorities, universities and private sponsors, the only financial support were given by the different universities involved in THENAPA for the travel expenses of the national group members.

We have a serious problem in France concerning the status of the APA professionals. The status and functions of these professionals do not depend on the level of qualification / diploma. The THENAPA objectives were not to clarify this point and it could be a new concern in Europe.

In the scope of the European year for handicapped persons, the french government put the integration of handicapped persons as a national priority. The question of integration is also universities' concern such as the University of Paris X. We didn't have time during the THENAPA term to work on integration of handicapped students in universities in general nor on sport sciences' curricula. The national group decided to continue its work in these directions in order to improve the work started (mostly concerning dissemination) and go further. We wish to play an active part in the development of the projects concerning integration and well-being of handicapped persons in France.