

THENAPA

DISSEMINATION YEAR

IRELAND

Although it started in December 2004, it was an exciting and productive dissemination year. Many groups of people from various areas of the community and from around the country were introduced to the CD Rom 'ADAPT' and generally were extremely impressed by the quality and range of possibilities it offered.

There were a variety of concrete outcomes. Many of the CD's were distributed widely. They are now in university and public libraries throughout the country. They are also in the Department of Education & Science, Schools of Nursing, Institutions like **Tralee, Institute of Technology** and Cope Foundation in Cork. Principals of both Primary and Post-primary schools have requested the CD. It continues to be distributed widely, both North and South. Further disseminating meetings of groups of interested parties are to take place by the end of the year. There are also disseminating meetings organised for February of 2005.

One significant result was the interest expressed by a number of practitioners in the field of disability to undertake the EMDAPA Programme in 2005.

A few people, who received the CD-Rom by post, initially thought that it was too academic in its presentation to be of use to the general public. However, when they were introduced to it by demonstration they changed their opinions. They saw the value of it to a wide population both in and out of academia. Many people would have liked more information on people with intellectual and learning disabilities. Generally it was extremely well received. It was recognised as a work of importance and a valuable resource in the area of Adapted Physical Activity.

The highlight of this disseminating year for us was the visit in April of Stefka Djobova and the THENAPA co-ordinator Prof. Herman Van

Coppenolle. They organised a training session for the use of ADAPT as a tool for distant and life-long learning in the University of Limerick to a diverse group from within the University and from places as far away as Cork and Kerry. That meeting provided the impetus to organise further opportunities for dissemination.

This resulted in Stefka Djobrova and Iana Dobrova visiting Ireland in June 2004 during a planned by the Irish key person promotional week on THENAPA and ADAPTS CD-ROMs. This was a very rewarding visit. They presented the CD-ROMs in various venues in Limerick, Cork and Kerry. There was a significant turnout to hear their presentation, which was very well received in all venues. The feedback was powerful in its praise of the vision that resulted in this CD Rom, a major contribution to all those working or interested in APA. The CD was widely distributed.

Much interest was expressed in the product by managers and directors of institutions. They wanted to ensure that their stake-holders were informed and could benefit from this new product. Feedback from the Directors of a School of Nursing was that it was of particular use to the students. Students of Physical Education at the University of Limerick have used it as part of their experience of working with people with 'special needs' in various contexts. They were very impressed and found it particularly useful in adapting activities for those with whom they were working.

The Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences at the University of Limerick received 1,000 copies of the CD-ROMs extra than the initial planned distribution. Many of these CD's were widely distributed. It has certainly made impact on those who have seen and used it.

Work is still ongoing in this area?

There are plans in place for the distribution of many more CD's around the country. There are a number of groups and interested parties who will be introduced to it in the coming months. These include The Special Olympics Ireland and the Irish Sports Council. There are a number of courses planned within the National Coaching and Training Centre at the University of Limerick for Coaches of various National Governing Bodies of Sport. They will each receive a demonstration of the CD. The Department of Education

and Science have organised a meeting on December 8th, during which a demonstration of the CD's will take place.

Through the realisation that a group interested, concerned and knowledgeable in the field produced such a fine resource, confidence was restored to many who work in the area of disability and who felt marginalised by the lack of attention given to people with disability. In recent times, Ireland is making some progress in this area with ongoing public debate and the promise of significant financial resources to address the needs of people with disability. The **CD Rom ADAPT** serves to support this ongoing debate.

The main benefit was and is the actual resource itself. However, the academic and professional interaction was of enormous value. The special assistance given by Prof. Van Coppenolle, Stefka Djobreva and Iana Dobreva was of incalculable value. They visited Ireland on various occasions during 2004 to make presentations and to disseminate the CD-ROMs. This resulted in a number of requests for information about any other activity related to THENAPA.

A firm foundation has been forged between Ireland and other member states in the EU. A professional and personal network has been established which will impact on all future plans and activities in the area of disability, both at University and the wider community levels. The continuity of the THENAPA network is assured through the new project concerning Aging and Disability. Ireland will play its role in that project, strengthening the bonds already established. There is likely to be more interaction between the University of Limerick and Third Level Academic Institutions in the EU at student and lecturer levels.

