

PROJECT IMPACT IN IRELAND

1. What impact do you think the project had on you and your organization?

As an organisation that is involved in providing training in Animal Assisted Interactions the project and the involvement we had was a great opportunity to deepen and widen the understanding of this area to others in our locality and further afield. It was an honour to be asked to be involved and a privilege to share the knowledge and experience we have with other members of the project. Having Erasmus+ support the project was an important affirmation that the area of animals in education is worth researching further. Hopefully the Animal Integration in Education Guidelines produced will be a valuable tool for all professional people integrating animals within programmes so to benefit the children partaking.

2. **Did you involve any other target groups that are not a part of your organization and what was the impact on these participants?**

As a training provider within the project it was not required of us to perform the same activities as the schools with other target groups, although our final dissemination (closing conference) did see other professionals aside from educational attend, such as occupational therapists, play therapists as well as a practising animal assisted therapy facilitator. This provided opportunities for discussion and questioning of the guidelines framework. Feedback was encouraging and it is felt that the information was useful and relevant.

3. **Did you in any way manage to transfer the impact of the project on the local, regional or international level?**

While providing training to project members in Ireland during June 2016 ELISTA Education involved locals schools to enhance the learning experience. This was the local Knock National School and Phoenix Park Special School, Dublin. In order to provide interactive training for the project members, school pupils and staff directly participated in animal assisted education sessions. As permission was required from parents/guardians a further level of people had awareness of the project and its aims.

