

CHAPTER 22

Criteria for good practice in supporting inclusion and activities¹⁶

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Within the scope of the Enablin+ project, research concerning good practice was developed. We propose in this chapter, first, a conceptual definition of good practice. Second, the odds are that centres which rather work “in the shadow” and do not make publicity, will not be found. Third, the risk is that those which are thought to be “good practices” will be subject to fluctuations.

On the other hand, when the aim is to highlight innovative practice in a domain which tends to be in the shadow, i.e., the support for children with particularly complex and intensive support needs, it is important to show the pioneers, who are trying to innovate. As became clear in the first Work Package of Project Enablin+, the “Needs Assessment Research,” the sector of supporting children with multiple disabilities, who have intensive and complex needs of continuing support, needs innovation, because children are too passive, many of them are not even schooled, let alone invited to participate in various societal domains (school, leisure time, normal family life). Assistive technology is innovating rapidly, but it remains to be seen if these innovations extend to children with CISN.

Therefore, one of the aims of the Enablin+ project was to search for examples of good practice which try to improve the quality of life of children with intensive and complex support needs. In this chapter we present a conceptual discussion about the concept, the working methods that we follow in the project and a list of criteria created in the project to identify good practice.

¹⁶ Part of this chapter has been published in the article “Good Practices towards inclusion, activity and participation of children with Complex and Intense Support Needs” in the International Journal of Disability, Development and Education (Lebeer et al., 2023)