

E-Collaboration for Capacity Building in the Community of Persons with Disabilities of Québec



**2nd Global Forum on Disability
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context

- Persons with disabilities in Québec
- Organisations for persons with disabilities
- Challenges faced by these organisations
- Their knowledge of ICTs and accessibility issues
- Enter the PHARE project



objectives

- Build a virtual community of practice for organisations for persons with disabilities of Québec
 - Overcome practical issues (distance, cost, etc.)
 - Better communicate and manage information
 - Facilitate decision making and collective actions
 - Overall better support of their work (partnership organisations)
 - Better grasp of ICTs and Web resources
 - Better awareness of the disability community on issues related to accessibility of ICTs



partners

- CAMO pour personnes handicapées
- Communautaire
- AQRIPH (*Alliance québécoise des regroupements pour l'intégration des personnes handicapées*)
- M3KSolutions (Québec ICT firm)
- Fonds national pour la formation de la main-d'oeuvre d'Emploi-Québec (Training fund from a Ministry of Employment agency)



process

- Member organisations and the AQRIPH head office each delegated participants for training
- Two trainers were assigned to follow the participants throughout the project
- Two face to face meetings were held
- On-line learning modules concerning the various features were experimented
- A “real life” practical exercise was also experimented



challenges

- Organisations culture of this community
 - These organisations are used to working almost exclusively with e-mail
 - Their employees and members have various levels of skills using ICTs
 - They have limited resources to learn new tools
 - They have a high roll-over of personnel due to funding through temporary programs



challenges

- Adaptation of the collaborative platform
 - Synkro™ platform developed by M3KSolutions with IBM technology
 - In Québec, never used in the voluntary sector or by organisations for persons with disabilities
 - Unknown before start of project what disabilities would need to be responded to
 - No adaptive features to start with and heavy use of JavaScript



outcomes

- Innovative multi-stakeholder project to help organisations for persons with disabilities become more efficient and competitive
- Adaptation of a mainstream platform to be used by all participants
- The platform has helped to bring the member organisations closer together
- The project permitted Communautique to broaden its expertise with regards to training strategies for persons with disabilities
- Mentoring developed by certain organisations and some of the local organisations have started to contribute to the platform
- This virtual community will not be an obstacle to hiring disabled employees
- The project has given a better understanding of issues related to accessibility of ICTs.



future

- A grant application has been submitted to the Office of Learning Technologies of the Government of Canada
- If accepted, we will start the second phase which concerns deploying the virtual community throughout the 350 local member organisations



contact

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