



POLIBIENESTAR (<http://www.Polibienestar.org>) is a Public Research Institute belonging to the University of Valencia (Spain) led by Jordi Garcés, Prince of Asturias Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University, with more than thirty years of experience in training and research. It is specialized in research, innovation and social technology, technical advice and training in the field of public policies and assessment in issues regarding: social inclusion; social and health systems; youth; employment and labour market; vulnerable groups; social welfare; lifelong learning; friendly ICTs; entrepreneurship; and accessibility.

Polibienestar is composed by an **interdisciplinary team** with 24 senior and 18 junior researchers with national and European experience from the departments of Preventive Medicine and Public Health; Didactics and School Organisation; Educational Sciences; Personality, Assessment and Psychological Treatment; Applied Economics; Marketing; Labour and Social Security Law; Commercial Law; Social Work and Social Services; Sociology and Social Anthropology, from six Universities: Valencia, Castilla-León, Murcia, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and Castellón.

Additionally, Polibienestar has a **large network of European contacts** due to its active role in European research and policy design. Among others, Polibienestar works together with CORAL– Community Of Regions for Assisted Living, ENSA – European Network of Social Authorities, and two COST Actions – Cooperation in Science and Technology: ISCH COST Action IS1102 “Social Services, Welfare State and Places. The restructuring of social services in Europe and its impacts on social and territorial cohesion and governance” and ISCH COST Action IS1204 “Tourism, Wellbeing and Ecosystem Services”.

In the framework of the **Erasmus +** Programme, Polibienestar is interested in participating in the different fields of the Programme: (i) education and training, (ii) youth, and (iii) sport.

In this context, Polibienestar has a large experience in **formal and non-formal education** because its team is composed by researchers and professors belonging to the University of Valencia, Castellón, Murcia, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and Castilla-León, where they teach in different graduate, post-graduate and master programmes.

In this sense, Polibienestar tries to promote **life-long learning** and involve ICT devices, e-learning platforms and online materials as a mean to arrive more participants, widespread their knowledge and to contribute to reduce the digital gap with vulnerable groups at the same time promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship. In this line, Polibienestar can design and test training or awareness sessions to engage citizens in health, wellbeing, ICT, skills to labour inclusion, entrepreneurship, social participation, and solidarity.

Moreover, Polibienestar’s team highlights for its **innovative training**. In this sense, Polibienestar has started to introduce accessible social tourism as a transversal key competence for professionals in the field of social and health care. In a similar way, Polibienestar has developed an innovative training project for people with risk or difficulties in the labour inclusion, especially young people, to be able to provide specialized care to people with Alzheimer and their caregivers.

Furthermore, Polibienestar analyses the aspects that impact in the labour exclusion of vulnerable groups, mainly young people, migrants and over-50, and identify tools to **improve their skills** in order to reduce their risk of labour exclusion, poverty and social isolation.

One of the research lines of Polibienestar is addressed to link **sport and social integration**. The hypothesis of sport as a tool to improve the conditions of life of disadvantaged groups has accelerated in the last decade. Inside this research line, Polibienestar has conducted research in the field of disadvantaged youth, women and immigrants since 2000.

Additionally, Polibienestar, as **research** centre with a deep experience in European, national and regional projects, can elaborate states of the art and review the existing bibliography in topics related with: education, employment, effects of the crisis, lifelong learning, policies, etc. Polibienestar's research highlights for its multi-disciplinary approach because different professionals from diverse disciplines and Universities compose its team. Moreover, in all the research carried by Polibienestar the **ethical and gender aspects** are considered.

Due to our expertise, knowledge and previous researches we would like to offer our expertise to collaborate as a partners in possible submissions for Erasmus +. In this sense, Polibienestar has participated and coordinated regional, national and European projects and has advised to administrations and private companies. As example of our large scientific carrier, Polibienestar participates and coordinates the following **European and national projects**:

- ❖ 2013 – 2016 *Inspires, Innovative Social and Employment Policies for Inclusive and Resilient Labour Markets in Europe*, funded by the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities of the VII Framework Programme (ref.: 320121). In this project Polibienestar contributes to accumulate practice-oriented knowledge on the factors that positively and negatively affect **resilience and inclusiveness**, and to explain differences within and between countries, and within and between the **labour market** positions of different **vulnerable groups** on the labour market.
- ❖ 2013-2015 *EOSIAC, Equal Opportunities to Social Inclusion for Autistic Children*, funded under the Grundtvig Learning Partnerships within the Lifelong Learning Programme (ref. 2013-1-RO1-GRU06-29490). Polibienestar performs methodologies and good practice guides to **support the integration of children with autism** into public education.
- ❖ 2011-2013 *Alzheimer: tremplin intergénérationnel d'insertion sociale et professionnelle*, funded under the VP PROGRESS 2010 Call for proposals for Social Experimentations VP/2010/007 (ref.: VP/2010/007/0129). Polibienestar participates as a project partner and is responsible of elaborating **training materials** and implementing theoretical and practical activities in Spain **involving people at risk of labour exclusion**, people with Alzheimer disease and their families.
- ❖ 2011-2013 *SOCIALTOURISM*, Research for the improvement of the knowledge in social tourism accessible for all in Spain, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Sciences and Innovation (ref.: CS02010-15425). With this project Polibienestar tries to promote accessible social tourism for all through the building of accessible environments. In this project, Polibienestar has developed training for tourism professionals to **improve their skills** in accessible social tourism.
- ❖ 2011-2012 *ENSA Y, European Network of Social Authorities for Youth*, funded by the Youth in Action Programme of the Education and Culture DF of the

European Commission (ref.: 2010 – 5016/008-001). Polibienestar promoted **intergenerational activities** as a way to encourage **young people to participate in society**.

In summary, Polibienestar has participated and coordinated more than 40 R&D projects funded by Spanish Ministries, as the Ministry of Science and Education under different plans and programmes (CENIT programme, Innfluye programme) and the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade; and European programmes like the 6th and 7th Framework Programme (FP6-2005-SSP-5^o-044359, FP7-2008-HEALTH-223037, FP7-2012-SSH.2012.1.3-2-320121), the AAL Programme (AAL-2010-3-041), the Daphne III Programme (JLS/2012/DAP/AG/3086; JUST/2010/DAP3/AG/1059-30; JLS/2008/DAP3/AG/1275), the Progress Programme (VP/2010/007/0129), the ENPI CBCMED (N^o3/156), the Youth in Action Programme (2010-51016/00/-001 YT7 PDPA7), the LifeLong Learning Programme (540139-LLP-1-2013-1-IT-GRUNTVIG-GMP; 2013-1-RO1-GRU06-29490), and the Health Programme (529881; 533157).

Additionally, Polibienestar has **published** more than 100 publications in the past 5 years. Concretely, Polibienestar's team has produced 68 ISI articles; 37 indexed to different networks; 23 book chapters and 13 books.

Finally, Polibienestar has experience in **organize R & D activities** with national and international partnerships, among which are the IX Annual ESPAnet (European Social Policy Analysis network) Conference and the European Project Conference LivingAll and the First National Conference and Positive Parenting.

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