



“Eliminating Social Exclusion” (EiSE)

Nr. 2019-1-LV01-KA204-060427

Fair traveling model

Premise

This model is the result of desk research and surveys carried out by partners. It represents needs, issues, barriers that occur to families with children with ASD as well as the strategies to mitigate them.

Model description

A synthetic traveling model for families with children with ASD has been developed, identifying its most important dimensions, needs, and issues these families can experience in traveling.

The model also refers to motivational, cognitive, situational, and dispositional factors that determine the interaction among subjects involved in traveling activities.

The primary components of the model are (Figure 1):

- Transportation
- Accommodation
- Restaurants
- Leisure
- Public services

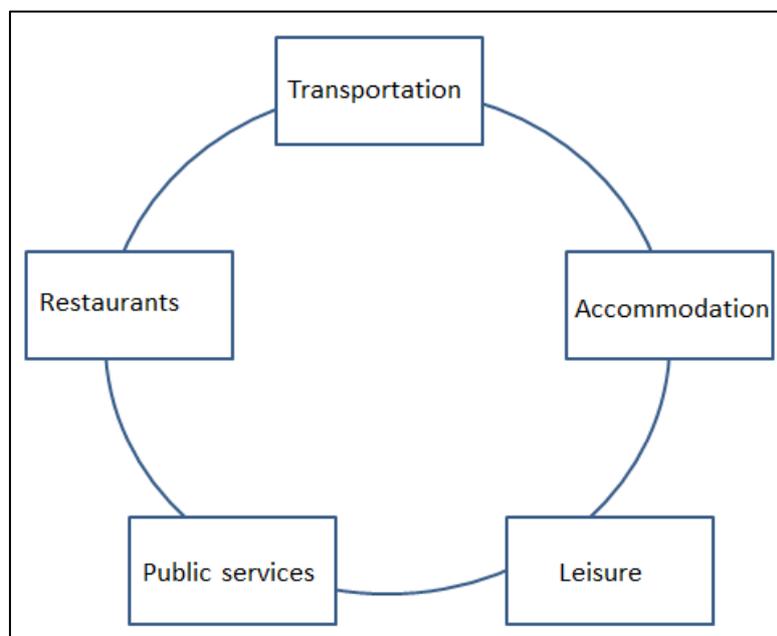


Figure 1. Traveling components

The key traveling relationships of families are with:

- Residents
- Other travelers
- Public services



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- Health-care services
- Social services
- Traveling service providers
 - Travel agencies
 - Tour operators
 - Online accommodation bookings
 - Online flight bookings
 - Online public transportation bookings
 - Online private transportation bookings
 - Online leisure bookings

Note that families can take advantage of new technologies to access to services.

The relational issues include communication difficulties with:

- Residents: exclusion, due to the distrust and ignorance of the problems of people with ASD
- Other travelers: exclusion, due to the distrust and ignorance of the problems of people with ASD
- Public services: lack of supportive policies and/or specific services
- Traveling service providers: lack of interest to create specific services

The main traveling impact/issues for families with children with ASD are:

- changes in routine
- tackling unexpected events
- Finding the appropriate accommodation structures
- Manage the children behavior
- Interacting with normal people
- crowd
- new noises and sights

Planning travel is an action that encompasses all the travel components and can be affected by traveling relationships. When a family plans travel should define a strategy to minimize the primary impacts/issues that can occur.

To achieve this goal, it is important to define travel in all its aspects. On this purpose, can be useful the following travel descriptors:

- trip origins
- trip destinations
- distance
- travel time
- travel duration
- trip purpose
- mode for trip
- number of persons

Lists of services that support families of children with ASD are also necessary.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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Furthermore, the best practices to tackle the various issues should be identified. Best practices are also relevant to define the policies to support the traveling of families with children with ASD. The principles underlying good practice should form the conceptual basis for policies.

Educational support is an important element of the model. Educational actions are needed to sustain families as well as to stimulate awareness and inclusion from “normal” people.

New technology plays a crucial role in providing information to families. Nevertheless, appropriate strategies should be identified in order to screen information available on the internet and select only reliable sources.