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Executive Summary

Multiplier Event of the Mind Inclusion 3.0 Project

July 7, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Palazzo Grandi Stazioni

Multipurpose Hall, Cannaregio 99, Venice

The final event of the European project *Mind Inclusion 3.0*, held at Palazzo Grandi Stazioni, was a significant opportunity for dialogue and exchange among institutions, experts, professionals, and third-sector organizations. From the opening institutional greetings, a shared message strongly emerged: the inclusion of people with disabilities must become a collective responsibility across society, in the spirit of circular subsidiarity.

The key words—**inclusion, participation, co-design**—ran through all the contributions, emphasizing the need to build **alliances** among **public bodies, businesses, the third sector**, and **citizens**, and the shared desire to transform good practices into replicable and sustainable actions. A vision that fully aligns with both current legislation and the historical context.

The presence of the Social Services Department and International Relations and European Affairs Department of Regione Veneto, alongside partners such as **Confcooperative** and **Confartigianato Imprese Vicenza**, enriched the dialogue and strengthened the connection between social innovation and regional policies. Furthermore, the participation of the **ENSA network** and representatives from various European projects gave to the event an international dimension, fostering an exchange of experiences and best practices across countries.

The **SACRED project**, presented by Dr. Anthony Polychronakis (City of Rotterdam), offered a comparative look at European models, showing how many of the **challenges** related to inclusion are **shared** across various national contexts.

Several projects were showcased throughout the event, offering concrete examples and operational methods to make our societies more inclusive:

- **Mind Inclusion 3.0** developed digital tools to make **public spaces** (e.g., cafés, restaurants, swimming pools) more **inclusive** and to train educators and entrepreneurs.
- **Novilunio APS** demonstrated how people with dementia can become "**experts by experience**", actively involved in creating solutions to meet their own needs.
- **JobAut** addressed the issue of **employment inclusion** for people with autism.
- **EXTRA-C** promoted the **democratic participation** of young people with disabilities.
- **Irecoop Veneto** provided international mobility experiences for young people with cognitive disabilities and level 1 autism.
- **VERA** supported **inclusive volunteering** through mentoring and training, engaging people with cognitive disabilities and autism.

The afternoon workshops gathered new ideas and perspectives on inclusion as a fundamental right of every citizen, in line with the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

A clear message emerged: in order to ensure true inclusion for people with disabilities—and more broadly, for all those experiencing vulnerability or limitations—it is necessary to **reinvent** workplaces, public services, communities, and the very structure of society. The word *reinvent* is used deliberately instead of simply *rethink*, because in many cases improving what already exists is not enough: we must start from scratch, imagining new models with a mindset free from old patterns, open to change, and courageous. An approach that **involves** service users **from the very beginning**—the so-called "experts by design"—capable of meeting present needs while also anticipating future transformations, even when that means going against the grain.

Technology can be a powerful ally in this transformative process, offering innovative tools and new opportunities for access, communication, and participation. However, it must not—and cannot—replace human relationships, which remain the foundation of all genuine inclusion. Technology should act as a **facilitator**, a support that strengthens autonomy and the primary role of people—an **empowerment tool**, not a mechanism that weakens or replaces people.

We live in a fast-paced, hyper-productive society, where efficiency often becomes the only metric of value. However, if we aim to build truly inclusive pathways, we must re-center the importance of **time, care, and quality of relationships**. Social innovation requires a balance between depth and purpose, between acting quickly and acting meaningfully. For these reasons, it is essential to invest in inclusive **co-design processes**, rooted in authentic **listening** and an ethical vision of innovation. We need approaches that genuinely listen to people, with patience and respect for their timing and needs. Processes that empower beneficiaries as active participants while also transforming that listening into concrete and timely solutions.

A message inspired by the **SACRED project** perfectly captured the deeper meaning of the event, referencing the four cardinal virtues: **Prudentia, Fortitudo, Temperantia, Iustitia**. These virtues, grounded in philosophical and civic tradition, can help guide our collective decisions today:

- *Iustitia* leads us toward a more just society, where everyone can enjoy full citizenship rights.
- *Prudentia* invites conscious analysis of the present.
- *Temperantia* reminds us of balance, empathy, and patience.
- *Fortitudo* gives us the courage to face change.