

September
2010

CONTENTS

Dyslexia Policies Roundtable in Sofia

Looking Dyslexia Friendly

Helping the helpers Technology helps!

The EMBED Partnership

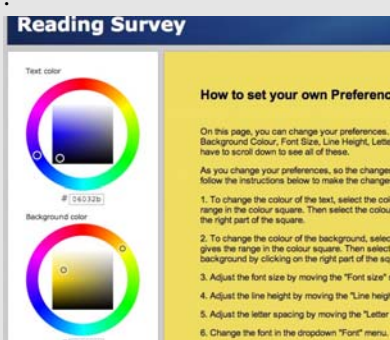
Dyslexia Policies Roundtable in Sofia

Bulgarian EMBED project partner, Centre of Inclusive Education organized a national roundtable discussion for all Bulgarian stakeholders involved in dyslexia provision. Representatives of the Ministry of Education, dyslexia researchers from the academic field as well as civil non-profit support organizations gave lectures on the current situation in Bulgaria. There was also an international overview of best practices given by EMBED project partners present. The presentations were followed by an open discussion and finished with a list of recommendations towards the Bulgarian government for a national dyslexia action plan.



Looking Dyslexia Friendly

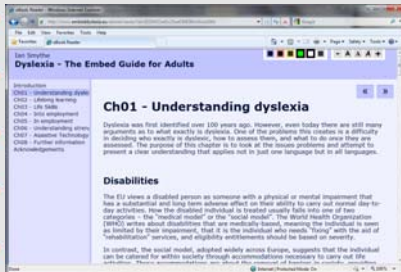
Reading lengthy texts is not easy if you are dyslexic. There are some tricks however, that can make texts more accessible. We know from experience that dyslexic readers prefer coloured letters and background, instead of the traditional black and white. The most popular variations are pale soft green or blue letters on pale cream or yellow background. Font types can also make a difference: instead of the most common Times New Roman, dyslexic individuals often prefer Arial, Comic Sans or other types. The advantage of digitalized information is the possibility to adjust these layout features to individual needs. To show how it works, EMBED website offers several dyslexia friendly layout options to choose from just as well as the online e-books on dyslexia.



Helping the Helpers

As part of the project, the partners developed two valuable resources e-books. One of them is aimed at helping parents and teachers working with dyslexic children, the other one is for adult dyslexic individuals. The books cover important areas, such as understanding and identifying dyslexia related problems, learning styles and teaching methodologies, assistive technology resources and classroom practices.

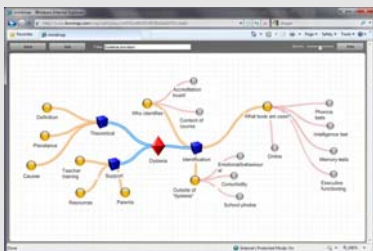
The e-books are open access through the web site, in dyslexia friendly electronic format, to demonstrate the importance of multisensory (voice and picture enriched) layout for dyslexic readers.



Technology Helps

Advances in technology continue to bring costs down, making its use possible for an ever increasing number of dyslexic individuals across Europe. For many years the dyslexic individual has been restricted to the options offered by Microsoft Word, such as colours, fonts and sizes when trying to make texts more readable. But for now assistive technology have become available in more ways and languages other than before. One example is the Ikonmap concept map, aimed at the multilingual community. Its minimal use of menus makes it ideal for users in many languages. Also more voices for text-to-speech software, and falling prices, make access easier for many. Other online software, such as translators, and reminder systems, provide resources in many languages that rival those that are available in the English language. For more specific references please visit our website:

www.embeddyslexia.eu



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