

Dá-me a tua pata.

Social assistance dogs.



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Promoter(s). Kokua C. Municipal de Loulé

Funder(s).
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Context.

Dogs became known as "a man's best friend" by being great companions. It's been proven that dogs can improve a person's mental wellbeing by reducing tension and improving one's mood, thus being able to promote social functioning.









The project is financed by the European Social Fund and is part of Portugal Inovação Social, which is a public initiative that aims to promote social innovation and boost the social investment market in Portugal.



The social assistance dogs visit schools, hospitals and daycares, and interact through a set of activities prepared according to the individuals. By interacting with the dogs, the individuals feel more at ease to interact as a group.



The main purpose of the project is to promote well-being through the social interaction between human and animal. Because of quarantine, people couldn't visit the usual facilities. As a response, the dogs and trainers started visiting people's homes and interacting through the window so people wouldn't feel so isolated.

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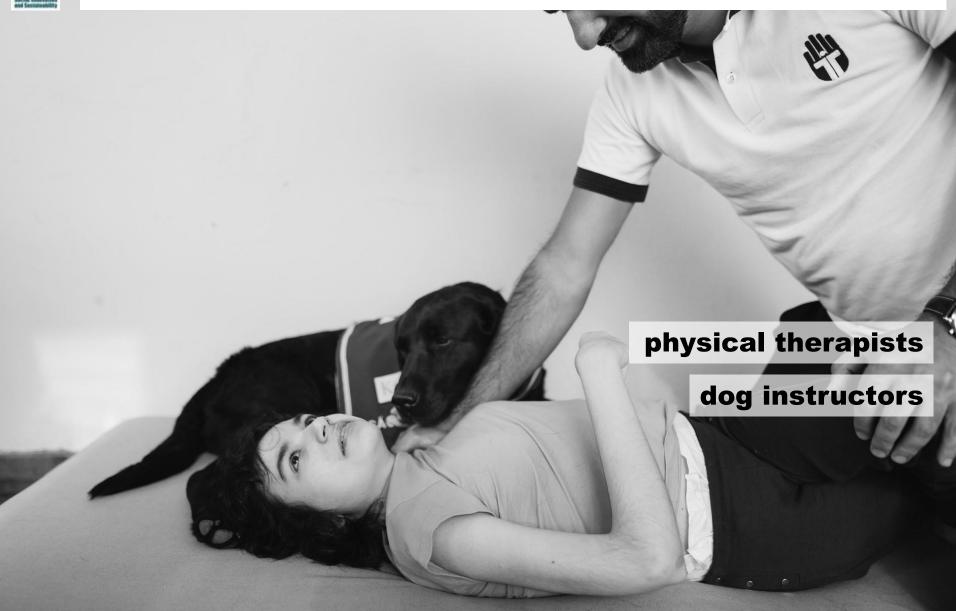
Skill Training and Design Education



The organization believes that the most effective way to promote the integration of people with disabilities in society is through awareness. Their contributions for raising awareness include visiting schools, giving lectures, and doing workshops. They also provide certifications related to social assistance dogs.



Job Creation



Kokua has a consultation and support team made up of physical therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, doctors, dogs, dog instructors, teachers, a veterinarian, a graphic designer and a seamstress.



The organization frequently uses social media to talk about the project and engage with their followers by sharing videos and photos. They also provide detailed documents about the project on their website.



https://www.kokua.pt/d%C3 %A1me-a-tua-pata

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