



Dá-me a tua pata.

Social assistance dogs.



University of Aveiro
ID+ DESIS Lab
Portugal
Ana Catarina Matos

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.

Dá-me a tua pata seeks to promote the well-being, autonomy and social inclusion of people with functional diversity and their families through social assistance dogs in the municipality of Loulé.



The process.

The process starts with the interview phase, where the beneficiaries talk about their conditions and living circumstance. The dog is then selected according to the interview and trained to assist a particular person. Within the project, there are two programs that were designed with social distancing in mind.



Governance and Policy Making



social innovation

social investment

KOKUA

CÃES DE AJUDA SOCIAL

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.

Activism and Civic Participation



visiting institutions

group interactions

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.

Social Interactions and Relations



social distancing

human-animal interaction

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.

Skill Training and Design Education



raising awareness

lectures and workshops

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



physical therapists

dog instructors

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.

Storytelling and Visualisation



social media interaction

website

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.

DESIS
NETWORK
Design for
Social Innovation
and Sustainability

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

geral@kokua.pt



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