

# **FIRAH Resource Centre Project**

## **Interactive platform overseeing the sharing and exchange of knowledge resulting from applied research**

### **Introduction to the FIRAH overall project**

The Foundation's project is based upon 2 complementary focal points which come together to support FIRAH'S assignment:

- The selection and financing of applied research projects via their annual call for projects,
- The circulation, promotion and development of knowledge resulting from applied research, financed or not by FIRAH, via the Resource Centre.

### **Applied research, made by and for people with disabilities**

- Applied research is focused on the needs of persons with disabilities and their families and seeks to create actions adapted to the reality of their needs.
- Applied research must be carried out in close collaboration with researchers, professionals, persons with disabilities and their families, in order to take into account the main concerns of persons with disabilities and their families.
- The final goal of applied research is to suggest actions which should be taken to solve specific issues related to practical problems. Therefore, the FIRAH seeks to foster the elaboration and dissemination of “relative materials” <sup>1</sup>

### **Resource Centre objectives**

- Facilitate the elaboration of new projects of applied research and foster collaboration between researchers and associations.
- Enhance applied research projects and disseminate the knowledge obtain from the research via “relative materials”
- Inform about existing applied research projects on disability, provide access to relative materials (whether elaborated by the FIRAH or not)
- Conduct an objective evaluation of applied research already carried out and International practices.

### **The resource centre is composed of:**

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<sup>1</sup> "Relative materials" refers to the presentation of results and the knowledge produced from the applied research of products, services and content meeting the needs and requirements of disabled persons. The relative materials will be adapted so that they can be exploited by Resource Centre users. This involves interactivity between disabled persons, via the demonstration of their expectations and needs, the organisations involved and the applied research world which can fully enhance its potential in the eyes of the disability sphere with the support of FIRAH.

- A data base accessible online gathering applied research projects, and two directories. This part of the website will be available in April 2012. It will be possible to register in the directory in order to become a member. Members of the Resource Centre will have access to further items of the database, and to a virtual forum.
- A virtual forum which allow its members (who registered in the directory) to communicate and work together. This part of the website will be available at the end of 2012.

### Creating a network

On an international level, the Resource Centre aims to create links and synergies between those directly affected by disability, as well as other legal and natural persons, in order to promote and facilitate inclusive social transformation.

#### Those involved are:

- Organisations representing disabled persons and their families,
- All organisations defending the rights of disabled persons so that they may be included in all activities,
- Service providers and other organisations working in the disability field,
- This also includes mainstream service providers and other organisations that must incorporate disabled persons in their activities, such as, for example, architects, teachers, companies, industrialists...
- Researchers and research bodies,
- Local, national and international policy makers,
- General public.

### A social network composed of members and partners

- The Research Centre does not take the form of a "teacher/pupil" or pyramidal model, but it enables a working network which favours transversality, group work, individual needs. Forming long-lasting and productive relationships between the different **members** (2 directories) and opening communication channels using ad hoc solutions and technologies (amongst others, social networks),
- Enable the **partners** to collaborate: other organisms who wish to be involved with the Resource Centre and who have expertises focused within a specific field, such as education, employment, access to transport as well as others...To achieve this, the Resource Centre will develop a method which sees action in order to involve the partners. FIRAH ensures the overall management and coordination of the project owing to the synergy with partners.

### Project Business Centre

Working together to present new applied research projects

### 3 directories

- 1/ Researchers who wish to work with the associations
- 2/ Organisations who wish to involve researchers in order to resolve their issues
- 3/ Project calls and research project sponsors

### COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE 3 ENTITY TYPES:

- 1/ Virtual forum present at the FIRAH website
- 2/ Technical meetings and seminars
- 3/ Work groups...

### Anticipated results:

Increase the number of research projects which comply with the framework as established by the FIRAH project call and revitalise the finance opportunities for these projects.

### Concepts and approaches governing understanding and action

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)  
Disability Production Process.  
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations)

### USEFUL MEANS GOVERNING DISSEMINATION

- 1/ Training of trainers
- 2 / Training
- 3 / E-learning
- 4 / Technical meetings
- 5/ Creation of training tools...

### Anticipated results:

Promote a conceptual framework relative to the implementation of inclusive practices in order to improve the social participation of persons with disabilities.

### Enhancing applied research

Communicating the knowledge obtained from the research in the form of supports suited to those "in the field".

**Sound knowledge of**  
Database and sites connected to applied research work on disability

### Posting on line and sound knowledge of

Research supported by FIRAH  
Research carried out and which forms part of the FIRAH project call  
Relative materials

**A database will be established, featuring the elements necessary to evaluate the applied research projects already in existence and the**

Relative materials associated with specific research or associated with multiple research on an identical theme

### Creation of relative materials via:

- 1/ Virtual forum via the FIRAH website
- 2/ Technical meetings and seminars
- 3/ Work groups

### USEFUL MEANS GOVERNING DISSEMINATION

- 1/ Training of trainers
- 2 / Training
- 3 / E-learning
- 4 / Technical meetings
- 5/ Creation of training tools
- 6 / Scientific journal
- 7/ Newsletters...

### Anticipated results:

Improvement of practices via the "concrete implementation" of the knowledge resulting from the research.