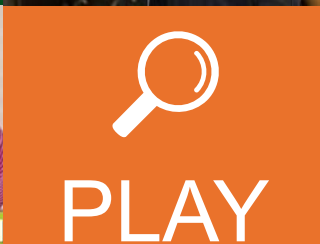





Fourth Action Conference

LUDI Reached the Turning-Point: First Results and Next Developments



Assistive Technologies and Robotics to Support the Play of Children with Disabilities



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Presentation of LUDI:
the project and the state
of the art of the WG
activities

Introduction



- ❑ How to present LUDI at its 4th Plenary Meeting?
- ❑ Different “publics”
 - ❑ co-ordinators, leaders,...
 - ❑ active members, other ones more silent
 - ❑ new members
 - ❑ very welcome representatives of local institutions and associations
 - ❑ very welcome member of our Advisory Board (with us for the first time)

So... what is LUDI?

- ❑ LUDI “Play for Children with Disabilities” is a trans-disciplinary COST Action, financed by the European Commission
- ❑ As such, it is a **multi-faceted network** about the play of children with disabilities
- ❑ Which type of play? **ANY TYPE**
- ❑ Which kind of disability? **ANY KIND**
- ❑ Ambitious? **YES!**
- ❑ Original? **A brand new idea!**
- ❑ Easy to implement and accomplish? **Not really...**

What does it mean “multifaceted”?

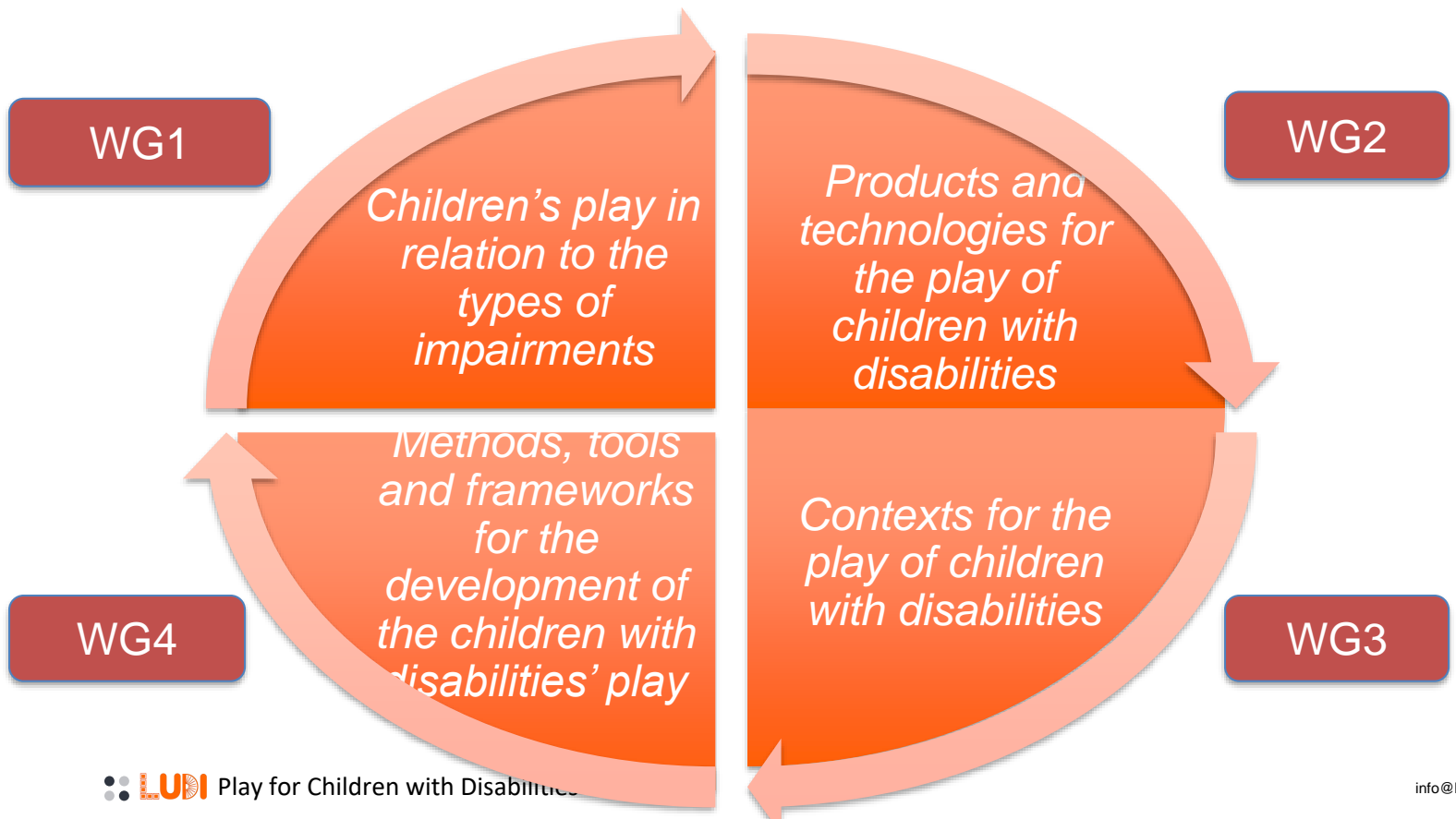
- ❑ **multi-professional:** it includes rehabilitation professionals, researchers, medical doctors, engineers, designers, sociologists, teachers, pedagogists, psychologists, playworkers, educators, ...
- ❑ **multi-scientific:** it pursues the ambition to consider and put together different fields: play, technology, child development, child observation and evaluation, societal studies, rights, education, participatory design, toys evaluation...
- ❑ **multi-national:** members of 32 countries are part of LUDI; this means (apart from what is obvious...): different – culturally and historically determined – ideas on disability, different societal realities, different interpretations and applications of relevant constructs such as “inclusion”...

What did we do?

by applying and having in mind the most important existing models, frameworks and statements in the field

- ❑ the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ❑ the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- ❑ the WHO International Classification on Functioning, Disability and Health
- ❑ the principles and the operational constructs of ***inclusion*** and ***autonomy***
- ❑ the concepts and definitions of Assistive Technology, accessibility, usability, Universal Design
- ❑ the conceptual separation of the “play activities for the sake of play” from the “play-like activities”

... we established four Working Groups



...with the purpose of studying their “narrow” fields for about two years



- ❑ creating active groups of scientists and professionals that through various methodologies exchanged their ideas, mixed them up, organized them
- ❑ and developed intermediate works (deliverable, publications, questionnaires, database, ...)
- ❑ In their turn, these products will need to be reframed, reconsidered, reorganized in the next future to the purpose of creating the final – comprehensive and hopefully exhaustive – expected results of LUDI

Presentation of LUDI: the state of the art of the WG activities

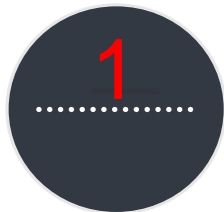


The floor to
Vaska Stancheva-Popkostadinova, WG1 Leader
Rianne Jansens, WG2 Leader
Angharad Beckett, WG3 Leader
Mara Westling Allodi, WG4 Vice-Leader

Sharing knowledge and collecting fields: the next steps of LUDI

In July 2017 we received the Progress Report Review

- ❑ Very positive – it was classified as “excellent” - as to the overall work of LUDI (its products, its activities, the quality of its management and of the members’ participation from various countries, with special reference to the inclusiveness countries, ...)
- ❑ A great occasion for LUDI for increasing our positive strengths
- ❑ and also for re-addressing or improving some parts of the Action, even by including different points of view in our perspective



The Advisory Board: collecting and including the end-users' voice



- ❑ It is established but it is made only by two persons and their participation to our activities is still poor
- ❑ New ways for sharing and merge ideas between end-users and professionals
- ❑ The European Parliament's Disability Intergroup should be involved again and more deeply
- ❑ The forthcoming two publications will be a wonderful occasion for attracting interest and strengthen a dialogue



Towards the final document



- ❑ The forthcoming publications are the result of a first work within the Working Groups, taking into account scientific fields that are more interrelated than the other ones
- ❑ But these publications should be considered as “iterative products”:
 - ❑ they represent a huge occasion for persons coming from different countries and different professions to share ideas, facing contradictions, solving biases
 - ❑ they will develop new knowledge, and this will imply that a new epistemological and methodological field should have been created together



Medical and social model of disability



- ❑ LUDI adopted the bio-psycho-social model of disability
- ❑ The medical model and the social model are still present in the world of disability, and these two ways of facing the theme are often opposed
- ❑ LUDI will be unavoidably one of the arenas where this discussion occurs
- ❑ The debate could become lively and deep, especially because of the numerous sectors which populate the LUDI world; but an agreement should be found at the end, or, on the contrary, different perspectives will be represented at the best.

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Which type of play?



- ❑ There is the need to establish a clear dividing line between play and play-like activities, to support the idea of the “play for the sake of play”
- ❑ This might create a big “cultural change”
- ❑ The need for this distinction is still an open discussion within LUDI (“shifting to a new paradigm takes time”)
- ❑ Nevertheless, while play for the sake of play has an inclusive treat in itself, there is the risk that “inclusive play activities” are created on the basis of a low average level of challenge; as a consequence, it is possible that the interest and the involvement of children decrease quickly

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Additional areas of study



- ❑ Risk in play discourse: it is already included as part of the next Deliverables (mainly those in charge to WG3) in relation to outdoor play and play activities in the wild nature
- ❑ Advancements in the neurological field study: this was not taken into consideration, but some members have declared they might be interested in deepening it
- ❑ Not overlooking the role of adults in play: parents, playworkers, professionals. This part has been completely included in LUDI and will be treated in the next Deliverables
- ❑ The study field of the QoL as possible recipient of the LUDI results. We have already considered the possibility to answer to some important Calls



Management aspects



- ❑ All the publications will be “open access”
- ❑ STSMs should be more than now devoted to the specific issue of LUDI, and possibly produce new research projects, new publications, etc.
- ❑ Participation to H2020 Calls and to European initiatives (e.g., Marie Curie Joint Doctorates)
- ❑ Involvement of manufacturers and companies
- ❑ Study the possible economic impacts deriving from the adoption of a new paradigm in the field of play
- ❑ Exploit the potential of the policy impact of this Action

**This is what we have done,
and this is also what we have still to do!**

**And we are here, today,
to move forward on our road**



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INVITED SPEAKERS

Kids, Robots and Play – Pulling the Pieces Together



The floor to
Prof. Emeritus Al Cook

Department of Communication,
Sciences and Disorders, University of
Alberta, Edmonton (AB), Canada

Robots as Therapeutic Toys: Encouraging Communication and Social Interaction Skills in Children with Autism Through Play



The floor to
Dr. Ben Robins

Adaptive Systems Research Group,
School of Computer Science,
University of Hertfordshire, UK

The Importance of Participation



The floor to
Miss Lucy Mason

Children's Rights Activist, Advocate and
Researcher; Representative of the LUDI
Advisory Board