

**Title:** Project InBetweenN

**Type of presentation:** Poster

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No audiovisual requirement

## **Abstract**

### Background

This project arose from the creation of a platform, in an educational context, for facilitating interaction and communication between a small group of young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders from the Portuguese Association for the Developmental Disorders and Autism-North (APPDA-Norte) and a group of students from the fourth grade of Colégio do sardão Sardão. The general idea was that the two separate groups could develop into becoming one large group. We didn't have as a premise for these students any individualized programming, nor a simple inclusion of individuals with autism in a school environment. Our aim was to create a set for both groups to interact in a dynamic and non-formal way.

### Objectives

Awareness of the difference. Socialization and interaction with a distinct community (different age range and different cognitive level) in a different context. Establishment of partnerships and synergies in the school community and educational site. Openness and cooperation with new social realities. Acquisition of basic skills at the level of listening, written and verbal in another language (English). Ongoing reflection on the behavior of both groups initially, and on how these groups were evolving throughout the project.

### Methodology

Monthly classes. Workshops aimed at clarifying the class about the characteristics of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Planning and implementation of various

activities together, using the new information and communication technologies. Development of an original script. Production of a movie from the script created. Creation and maintenance of an informative blog on the Internet ([www.inbetween.blogs.sapo.pt](http://www.inbetween.blogs.sapo.pt)).

### Conclusions

The children of the fourth grade began to cope better with the difference in others mainly because they understood it and accepted it through an effective recognition of the positive aspects of it. The young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders started living more comfortably with their own difference having raised significantly their levels of self-esteem. The differences blurred and bonds were created.