

UMSIC – Usability of Music for Social Inclusion of Children



UMSIC offers an intelligent and accessible tool to support children's social inclusion through music. The multidisciplinary and transnational S&T UMSIC project develops a system - the JamMo (jamming mobile) - that uses familiar modern technologies to create an interactive environment for children to communicate musically by. With a special focus on child-centered usability, intelligent musical engineering and carefully developed pedagogical design, JamMo allows children to use the product in both stand-alone and networked mode with easy start up and large extensibility. Children will benefit from the targeted musical material by being able to independently learn the usage of musical software required to enter musical online communities. Whilst intended for all children, UMSIC aims to particularly support, through music, those children who are at increased risk of being marginalized.

At a Glance

Projects:

Development of JamMo – the jamming mobile – for children with learning disabilities like ADHD and children with bi- or multicultural backgrounds.

Project coordinator:

University of Oulu (UOULU), Department of Educational Sciences and Teacher Education, Finland

Partners from:

Switzerland, United Kingdom, Greece and Finland

Duration:

36 months.

Total cost:

2.130.000 euro

Programme:

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
Accessible and Inclusive ICT

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UMSIC objectives

One of the major challenges in European preschools and schools today is the inclusion of different learners. Among the most common types of learning disabilities are attention deficit disorders (ADHD) which are frequently accompanied by mental or behavioural disorders. Another challenge for inclusive education is the increasing migration and multicultural environment. Children with bi- or multicultural backgrounds may find themselves isolated from peers, both by language and culture.

In order to offer children better chances to integrate into the multicultural European society, the UMSIC project assumes that language and music are essential for building a cultural identity and for actively participating in various cultural environments. In addition, language and music are both powerful means to integrate into social groups.

The UMSIC project is developing JamMo, a mobile time- and place-independent system that provides an interactive environment for children whilst also enabling them to communicate musically

