Amica

DISCOVERING CAPABILITIES
Valuing the past, building the present, looking to the future.
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INTRODUCTION OF AMICA

Brief description of the association and its values
AMICA\(^1\) is a non-profit organization established in 1984 whose mission is: Discovering the capabilities that exist in every person supporting their limitations, autonomy, their exercise of rights and participation with responsibilities in the community, to become the protagonist of their life and necessary social change.

As a vision, Amica wants to be a resource to promote networks of support and accompaniment to the people in the community, through collaborative projects of innovation.

Declared of public interest on March 26, 1993, Amica is maintained by public funds through grants and concerts, and by donations from private entities, in addition to the contributions of associated people.

AMICA consists of families, people with disabilities, and professionals. It represents a model of direct involvement of the management and the stakeholders.

Amica defines values as:

Values guide Amica’s trajectory and its actions towards the promotion of people’s support to reach full citizenship, with the conviction that their commitment to social transformation is the necessary key to have a facilitating environment. They are consistent with European values such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minorities.

Amica wants to be an association characterized by pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity, and equality between women and men, just as the society encouraged in Europe.

For 34 years, Amica has supported more than 7,300 people and their families through the services and programs of: social care and assessment, childhood, rehabilitation (physiotherapy and speech therapy), personal and home support, day-care, accommodation, leisure, sports and access to culture, family support, support in old age and independent living. It is achieved that more than 1600 people have been introduced to the world of work through providing itinerary of orientation, job training, and employment in its two special employment centres with productive activities such as laundry, clothing, and environment.

\(^1\) www.amica.es
EU policies in which Amica has developed projects and their results.
Amica began its journey in Europe in 1989, just four years after it had been founded. Much of its career and international projection have gone hand in hand with European policies, crossing borders with its participation in global actions in development cooperation. The work methodology that Amica has implemented in these 34 years of people support, has been enriched by the contribution of the programs in which it participated, as well as the reception and the exchange of other experiences and knowledge. All these efforts are focused to be people with disabilities’ “protagonist of their lives”, as indicated in its mission.

Participation in European programs has been decisive for the development of the Association, not only economically but also for the exchange and management of knowledge, as well as learning the collaborative work methodology, which has allowed Amica to grow and intensify its participation bases, which at present is the fundamental axis of its innovation projects, such as the Campus Diversia and Theme Park of Prehistory in Cantabria.

In 1988, the Second Community Action Program for the period 1988-1991 was adopted by the Council of Europe, **HELIOS** (Handicapped People in the European Independent Living in the Open Society).

The objectives of the “HELIOS I” program were:

- Determine the approaches and innovative measures that should be encouraged to achieve greater convergence and coordination of the actions carried out in the Member States.
- Providing added value for the community in the field of integration of (“the handicapped”) through the exchange of information and experiences.
- Improve participation at the community level of (“the handicapped”) and their organizations.
In 1990, Amica was granted the HELIOS prize in the category of “Accommodation in private homes (of disabled people)”, for the project developed with 15 adults and their families under significant limitations, in “La Barca” Centre. This provided an alternative to institutionalization through individualized support in the family and the social environment, with a community focus. With this methodology, Amica currently supports 72 people through a network of day centres and 49 people in houses, which have broken the model of residences to become homes for the promotion of personal autonomy.

In 1990, the Commission of the European Communities launched the Community initiative HORIZON for disadvantaged groups, with the aim of improving the conditions to access to the labour market and competitiveness (“of the handicapped”), particularly through professional training on new technologies, distant training, and the adaptation of infrastructures to satisfy the specific needs (“of the handicapped”). Through transnational actions and exchanges of experiences at the community level.

In 1992, Amica also participated in the Handynet System on technical aids, under the Helios program. The association was founded as an Advice and Information Centre (CAI) within the Network. Through it, professionals, families, and users were informed about the offers of technical aids available in the European market, contributing decisively to improving their quality of life. This participation provided complementarity to the services that the association was developing, in addition to working with other associations in a network at national and the European level. After this participation at the European level, CEAPAT proposed to maintain this network at the national level, adding Amica to this initiative.

In 1993, HELIOS II Program (93-96) was launched. Third Community Action Program. Its objective was the development of convergent approaches at the European level in areas such as prevention and early help, functional readjustment, integration in the field of education, lifelong learning, professional guidance and training, employment, new technologies, technical aids and databases, autonomous living, access to cultural, creativity, sports and tourism activities, families, the elderly and the society, economic and legal protection of people with disabilities.

Amica was selected to participate in the experience exchange activities promoted through FEDER funds. In 2017, the productive capacities of both activities were 1,223,096 kg of washed clothes and 94,608 garments made.

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Amica was selected to participate in the experience exchange activities promoted
by the Program between 1993 and 1996 within the sector of Social Integration and Autonomous Life with its project "Network of Centres and Services for the Promotion of Autonomous Life for severely affected people". It participated actively in thematic group No. 3, whose work subject was: "Elimination of socio-psychological barriers for people with ("mental deficiency"): guiding principles, housing, daily life, evaluation".

The learning carried out in these years and the recommendations proposed by the working group have been the supporting base for the accommodation and independent living of 163 people. This allowed Amica to develop, in a consensual manner with families and people with disabilities, two family homes (with a maximum of 15 places), a home for independent living (with 8 places), three shared houses, and 21 people supported on their own homes, in compliance with their personal goal of being independent.

Once the program finished, the Association raised awareness of the need for sustainable actions that would allow the transfer of what had been learned to other institutions.

In 1995, Amica continued its participation in the Horizon Community Initiative with the Forma Project whose main objective was the social-labour integration of people with disabilities in the ordinary labour market through the creation of a training structure for employment, supported by the special employment centre. 69 people participated in this project’s basic training, 243 in different labour training courses; 160 people were employed by the special employment centre and 24 people with disabilities joined different companies in the ordinary labour market. The project ended in 1997 with 986 people supported, contributing to the economic stability, providing a service of social and labour integration. And with the largest laundry plant in Cantabria, located in the Santander area, thanks to the FEDER funds, which is currently providing services of clothing management to the Cantabrian Health Service, with a washing capacity of 4,773,304kg. in 2017.

In 1998, Amica participated in three projects within the HORIZON Community Employment Initiative.

- **Entorno Project** for training and employment of people with disabilities in environmental activities, led by Amica and co-financed by the Government of Cantabria. More than 1,000 people participated in this program, including work and continuous training, employment in environmental activities such as waste classification, clean point management, landscape recovery, and environmental activities. This program facilitated the creation of the special centre for employment in environmental activities, as well as the creation of the Entorno Centre in Santander, which houses the waste classification plant and processes more than 9,000,000 kilos of paperboard and paper per year.

- **Inicia Project** aimed at introducing people with mental illnesses to the world of work. The promoter was the Government of Cantabria, establishing a network collaboration among Amica, the Hospital Center Padre Menni and ASCASAM (Cantabrian Association for Mental Health). The results were that 48 people agreed to psychosocial rehabilitation, 42 people to pre-employment training, 140 families provided with counselling and family support. Furthermore, a research on the predictors of social and labour integration was carried out. This program has remained until today, through the funds provided by the Government of Cantabria.

- **ILMO Project** promoted by Cocemfe aimed at the labour integration of people with physical disability through the operation of a Labour Integration Service (SIL).

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In 2001, within the framework of the **EQUAL Community Initiative**, the project was developed with the project **G.E.M.A** (Generating employment in the environment) co-financed by the ESF and the Government of Cantabria together with other 5 foundations in Cantabria. Its main objective was to develop innovative social intervention strategies to fight against social exclusion, through personalized itineraries of socio-labour insertion which were adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries of the project. A total of 454 people at the risk of social exclusion participated in this program. Throughout the training, 234 people were trained, 67 of them found a job, representing 29% of the people trained.

- **Erasmus+** is the European program in the fields of education, training, youth, and sport for the years between 2014-2020. Erasmus+ is the only

program that seeks to improve job prospects and personal development, as well as helping our systems of education, training, and youth to provide teaching and learning which will provide people with the necessary skills for the labour market and the present and the future of the society.

Amica is developing projects within the Key Action 2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of practices.

- **KA204 – Strategic Partnerships for adult education.**
  - IDIPOWER Project[^3]: Empowering people with disabilities through collaborative learning. [2014-2016].
  - IDPLiving Project: Development of a training program for improving and introducing people with intellectual disabilities to the social life [2017-2019].

- **KA202 – Strategic partnerships for vocation education and training.**
  - Inclusive Tourism Project: Development of a training program for enhancing the employability of people with disabilities in the inclusive tourism sector. [2017-2019].

The **LIFE programme** is the EU’s funding instrument for the environment and climate actions. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European Added Value.

[^3]: IDIPOWER Learning platform: [http://community.idipower.eu/](http://community.idipower.eu/)
3 BALANCE OF AMICA’S EUROPEAN CAREER
Throughout the history of Amica, European policies and the initiatives developed have allowed the association to put its objectives into practice through their participation in the programmes. This means a significant impact on people with disabilities and the society, resulting in a change of view, resulting in opportunities to arise for people. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)\textsuperscript{4}, published by the World Health Organization in 2001, has contributed to this in an extraordinary way, as Amica had participated in the study from 1997 until its publication in 2001, in the process of reviewing the previous classification, coordinated in Spain by the Research Unit of Clinical and Social Psychiatry of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital as a collaborating centre of the World Health Organization (WHO). Amica actively participated, both in the Spanish network and in the Ibero-American network, which favoured the promotion of cooperation for disabilities, worldwide.

\textsuperscript{4} Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) WHO.2001.
KEY RESULTS:

LEVERAGE EFFECT OF EUROPEAN FUNDS

With the seed capital received by European programs between the years 1993 and 1999, with the value of 1.495.513€, Amica and its sheltered employment centres contributed 421.181€ to the actual value of 14.000.000€.

Moreover, these programs favoured the co-financing and the support of other institutions and public funders such as Cantabria’s Government, other state-level calls and independent foundations also supported this project whose development demonstrated viability, provided job opportunities, and showed an increase of wealth in the region which today is still growing.

THE PRACTICE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

To look for solutions for each person and to give them a chance to show their own capabilities mean risks. However, there is often a need for risks, to apply a dose of courage and a dose of confidence to the future and to the people.

This entrepreneur spirit which is all around the Association has enabled the participation of two societies having Amica as the only shareholder today, and these societies develop their activities with the formula, sheltered employment. It provides job opportunities in its centres and it promotes the employment in ordinary companies. It is operating in Cantabria with two training centres which have two Industrial laundries and two industrial preparation workshops, and; an environment for job training centre and a packaging plant and a waste transfer centre thanks to Horizon initiative. Today the team consists of 329 people in the production area, 287 of whom have disabilities. Also, a team network was created to provide service in the laundries of 7 residences of older people, people with disabilities, and college students; and other activities related to the environment such as clean points management, landscape recovery, and the maintenance of green spaces, paper and cardboard management, companies’ waste management etc. with a team of 168 people, 115 of whom with disabilities.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECTS:

The association grew its budget of 61.000€ in 1992 to a budget of more than 16.000.000€ in 2018.

In terms of job opportunities for people with disabilities, Amica ended the 1992 year with 22 jobs provided to people with disabilities in working centres, today the team consists of 402 people with disabilities, and it continues its activities in 20 working centres.
The sustainability is one of the key points to success, generating economic value, as well as social and environmental value in the short and in the long term, and with a clear looking for a social change to advance to a level where job opportunities are provided to people who are at risk of exclusion.

Every day, Amica open its door, for more than 1000 people to receive the support they need for their independence, making use of their rights and participating in the community. With the huge responsibility of hospitals, health centres in Cantabria, residences, hotels, restaurants, and companies to have their clothes ready for the daily work and to separate all the containers generated by Cantabria citizens to a proper reuse of it.

RESULTS IN THE LIFE OF PEOPLE

Amica is looking to the future, focusing on its efforts in the search of improvements in the quality of people’s and their families lives, managing the actions to promote people’s capabilities and providing them with the role of their life. For that, a methodology based on the objectives and individual projects, has been adopted, to promote their independence and to make their participation in the society easier and making an easier exercise of their rights.

"...People are the focus and protagonist of their individual project.

People are the main point in all our actions, a whole project for them, which means doing something different because every individual has their own aspirations and dreams. People have the right of an individual project, and to fulfill their life goals, because to live is to go forward..."

Some of the results in the last 34 years:

- More than 7.300 people supported
- Accompanying more than 500 families and their children has been the meaning of Amica since its beginning. Sharing their concerns, educating them, enjoying together, cheering them up, helping their families to see beyond the limits of their children. Today, Amica has the greatest fortune to consist of men and women who were helped when they were kids, who now have a job, and who have their own families and now they are the support of the older members in their family.
- More than 3.984 people had the chance to get trained for a job in laundry, cleaning, waste classification, landscape recovery, data treatment, marketing, and advertising, but mainly in personal and social skills are needed to be a good worker in the context of the labour sector.
- More than 1.611 people with disabilities in the region now have a job thanks to the support of Amica, 1.079 got their job through the special employment centres; 219 people went from the sheltered employment to ordinary companies, and; 696 people gained their place in the ordinary
More than 202 people with severe disabilities managed to maintain an active life, to stay in their family environment, participating as a citizen in the community, through the support provided in day-care centres and in their own home. Of these, 133 people attended one of 4 day-care centres and 113 received home support.

The goal of many people is to lead an independent life, either because they want to have their own home or share it with other people (with peers, with a couple, and so on) or because the family circumstances have forced them to follow this path. In this way, 43 people achieved their objectives of independent living, with the necessary support, and some of them live as couples and even had children.

There are 139 people live or lived in any of the three houses, 59 women and 80 men. 40 people permanent residents. For any person, living in family homes, while maintaining the connection with their personal environment, is their desire and the desire of their families.

584 people have received personal support, speech therapy and/or physical therapy, reaching highest levels of autonomy and well-being; in many cases, achieving the other personal goals such as employment.

The desire of any person is to feel themselves belonging to a group and to have a circle of friends. But it is also important to feel like a part of the environment in which they live, offering things to the community, benefiting from resources and taking the possibilities it offers. 454 people have made this possible through the leisure, sport, and access to culture services and programs for the community participation.
The family, as a fundamental piece in the life of any person, is not to be ignored by the technical support of the professional team of Amica. Many of them, need to be heard, to share the experiences and support each other, acquire and develop strategies, while that families also feel like a part of Amica. As a result, annually more than 58% of families participate in different activities.

More than 550 people are working stably in the Association and in its centres of sheltered employment. (The average staff of 2017 is 526, of which 251 were women and 275 were men).

Finally, 1,150 associated people, families, professionals, people with disabilities and numerous collaborators contribute to maintaining a solid Amica, eager and together.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, IMPLEMENTING THE QUALITY CULTURE AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE MANAGEMENT:

Amica professionals, families and people with disabilities participate in the decision-making process altogether. This management model is not well-known, in which each person has an important role: professionals have the task of finding new solutions for individuals, families, to maintain the quality and the people who participate actively in their lives.

This management model is participatory with 24 people with disabilities participating, and representative bodies of the association are 23 families and 22 professionals.

The desire to get into a permanent search of improvement, solving problems which are formed by disabilities, and it also gets us to think how much we have left to do, to achieve the greatest goals. The path to excellence means an attitude of proposing each time a higher goal, a greater achievement for each person, as proved by the recent recognition of Amica with the EFQM 500+ seal.

The confidence in the organizations and in its managers is based largely on transparency. In Amica, this feature has been one of the most important parts of our style. In 2004, the Lealtad Foundation certified to Amica as an association with the principles of transparency and good practices, and this certification has been renovated till the present day.
CONVERT THE VALUES INTO A PRACTICAL GUIDE:
The joint management could not exist without the component of exceptional confidence. Sharing values that are reviewed every 4 years with the participation of all people. Taking as a reference of the code of good practice as guidance for decision-making and behaviours towards ethical problems, whose follow-up is handled by a working group formed by 12 people supported in the services, 11 families and 5 professionals.

INNOVATE PRACTICING THE TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE:
Amica has become a think tank, exploring new ways of working with people. Innovation is a fundamental column. Since its foundation, Amica intends to contribute to knowledge, experience, and finding new perspectives where each person is the true protagonist of their future, and institutions, with their families and their support.

To learn, to advance in the discovery of the capabilities considered essential to share knowledge with other organizations and to share experiences so that people with disabilities in other places could also benefit from the progress made. Establishing organizations for them to share what they have learned and consider that knowledge must be the heritage of all, to form the basis of this practice to test the sustainable transfer characterized in Amica. Developing a model of collaborative work.
GENERATE COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS:
From the beginning, Amica has walked hand in hand with other foundations, with the idea of wealth which involves the sharing of experience and knowledge to achieve greater results in the projects it develops. More than 250 alliances over the 34 years.

Currently, more than 150 active partnerships for the progress of the implementation of the mission and the vision, with an average of 20 each year. Each alliance has a plan of action and a person responsible for promoting actions, to pursue and evaluate them.

One of the objectives is the management of knowledge, innovation, and research; the introduction of people with disabilities to the employment; the promotion of the mutual social responsibility; the promotion of volunteerism; the realization of non-professional practices in the association; promoting for social transformation; promotion of development cooperation and collaborative projects.
4 CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL INNOVATION
This is what Amica has achieved in 34 years, so far. It is currently immersed in its 5th Strategic Plan 2017-2020 which foresees to empower sustainability, so that the association will be able to continue to offer opportunities to the people with disabilities, assuming new challenges for the next 20 years.

To achieve this, an important investment plan for business activities is being developed, aimed mainly at the expansion of facilities and the introduction of a state-of-the-art technology, in order to provide greater and better response to customers, because of being more competitive and improving productivity, all without reducing job opportunities for people.

A Viability Plan has been drawn up for the management of packaging in a new plant that will reduce the costs of selection through mechanizing the processes. For that, an investment of 4,000,000€ is foreseen.

All without a reduction in the job opportunities, other environmental activities are being extended to where people are in need. Just like the Industrial Waste Transfer Centre; services to companies and professionals with the destruction of confidential documents, landscape recovery, and maintenance of green spaces.

It is also planned to extend the laundry dedicated to hotel and business uniformity, which was the first to have been launched with Horizon I, 25 years ago, and since it will be renewed to improve the enormous energy costs, increase productivity of each person, and there will be much more efficient and latest generation machinery. An investment of €2,600,000 is planned.

With all these actions, Amica wants to empower its productive structure, based on what was created with the support of European programs and that has been
sustainable up to now, to face new challenges in the labour market that will allow us to continue providing employment opportunities to future generations.

The association, focusing on its vision, wants to be a resource to promote networks of support and to provide accompaniment to the people in the community, through collaborative innovation projects and for that, it has designed two important projects: Campus Diversia in Valencia and the Thematic Park of Prehistory in Cantabria.

Amica wants to share all the knowledge it has, the experience on the practice of so many people, professionals and families, during the creation of the Campus Diversia, dedicated to the capabilities of people and in collaboration with other associations in the field of disability and chronic diseases and with the participation of universities. It wants to be a place for meeting, reflection, innovation, transfer of knowledge of good practices throughout organizations, contributing to personal and organizational experiences, establishing transfer and research networks to turn the great progress we are making with the methodology of support for people into a scientific reality.

It is a unique project, conceived as a Reference in Social Inclusion, Employment and Environmental Education, which takes place in Finca Mijares in Yátova (Valencia). A natural environment of 400 hectares in which the river Mijares runs, which has extensive forests, vineyards, olive groves, land with irrigation ditches, some of which was built by the Arabs more than 800 years ago. It is a place full of history, which has a huge farmhouse of the 19th century, where you can host groups from associations, schools, foundations that want to enjoy a few days in nature and organize meetings.

The Campus has the mission to show society people’s capabilities, as the protagonists of the recovery and care of natural spaces, producing direct benefits to the community. It is an open resource to the society for the enjoyment of children, youth, adults and older people, a natural environment and outdoor activities, learning to take care of the environment.

In its configuration, different axes of development converge on:

A) A social axis through the planning of youth activities, the experience, and the group dynamics, the pedagogy in free time, and the social and cultural
animation, designed for everybody and specifically for people with disabilities with social vulnerability;

B) An environmental axis leading to education and interpretation of nature, the study of ecological environments, the innovation, the sustainability, and the development;

C) A labour and social axis through the providing job opportunities and the employment for people with disabilities or mental illnesses, people in a situation of vulnerability and social exclusion, implementing environmental responsibility programs, landscape recovery, and environmental protection.

D) An axis about the respectful enjoyment of nature, providing a natural space accessible and adapted for the tourism and the leisure time for families, and promoting different pedagogical programs and a chance for careers, families and in general the people.

E) An axis of rural development, dynamization of the socio-economic environment and the community resources for the associations and centers which are in the area, providing opportunities of participation, providing job opportunities for people with disabilities, chronic diseases and the development of a feeling of belonging to this open space that offers the region all its resources.

The Campus Diversia is a model of an collaborative project and institutional cooperation, and a space for sharing knowledge and establish sustainable social economy networks, which exceeds to the scope of associations of disability by introducing other agents, such as businesses, local action groups, training institutions and research, associations of free time, etc. For this purpose, collaboration agreements are signed with social organizations and companies. An executive group has been created for the development and revitalisation of the Campus. In addition to Amica, there are participating associations such as ADIEM (mental health), AVAPACE (cerebral paralysis), FEDER (Spanish Federation for rare diseases), COPAVA (Coordinating association of resources for people with intellectual functional diversity), COCEMFE (People with physical and organic disabilities), Renal Foundation, ALCER Spain, European Headache Alliance, FEASAN-AVAC (anti-coagulate) and ASPRONA (People with mental disabilities) and animation and research institutions such as Experientia association, Edetania and Innova Inclusión, as well as universities. For its development, a network of partnerships is being woven with the companies of the productive sector which is oriented towards the project and with local public institutions such as the municipality of Yátova, regional and state, such as the Real Patronato sobre Discapacidad, with which there is an agreement to push the project forward.
Since 2017, the project of the Campus Diversia has already been a reality, throughout the year training activities have begun in non-labour practices for people with disabilities who are in recovery, activities involving olive trees, vineyards and regarding recovery of the landscape, as well as training workshops for cultivation of aromatic plants, cleaning and prevention, thanks to the Operational Program of Social Inclusion and Social Economy (2014-2020), co-funded by the European Social Fund and managed by the Fundación Once. The results of this first action have been the recruitment of 4 professionals, the establishment of a special employment centre "Diversia Empleo" and access to productive labour activity of 8 people with disabilities (5 men and 3 women).

The Campus Diversia has the added value to promoting large-scale projects, how to Make Visible The Disability in the world, whose objective is “Contribute to making the disability visible by implementing assessment criteria and carrying out censuses in countries that do not have them or yet to be completed”. To achieve this goal, support will be provided to the countries that have signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the United Nations, in the knowledge and application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), adjusted to the reality, to know the identity and the type of disability that more than one billion people have, according to the report of 2011 of WHO. Colombia will be the country where first experiences take place. Partnerships will be established for the development of the project with the University of Cantabria, UNICEF; in Colombia, University of Cartagena de Indias, Universidad San Buenaventura. In addition, a training model of the equipment adapted to the characteristics of the country has been designed with Spanish Cooperation.

In addition, Amica is designing in Cantabria a project with many of its common axes to the Campus Diversia, which could be developed in collaboration between the two communities to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, the recovery of degraded spaces, establishment of a social economy producing wealth in depressed areas that will allow to settle the population.
This is the creation of a Theme park of Prehistory of Cantabria in the Besaya region (Torrelavega), where Amica has its roots, and people there are concerned for their situation of the industrial and commercial decline and for their livestock declining. Amica wants to acquire a commitment to its development, where it was created and the place where many associated people live. The idea is to encourage, in the area that occupied the mines of the Asturiana de Zinc, a unique initiative based on similar parameters that the initiated in Valencia with the well located Campus Diversia that can support one another to get support from the European Union, if the administrations of Cantabria and Valencian work together with Amica and other organizations, to improve both projects in parallel. The responsibility of territories with less interest, with statements such as the one of Community interest which is processed at the Finca Mijares or mining environment of the Cuenca del Besaya, offer the opportunity to develop great income-generating projects, many employment opportunities and environment conservation, becoming both an economic engine for the area of the Hoya de Buñol, in Valencia and the Cuenca del Besaya in Cantabria. Cuenca del Besaya (Basin of the Besaya River) and the surroundings of the mines from Ipsos has a strategic geographical position. The land, resulting from the exploitation of the old mine Asturiana de Zinc connected with the municipalities of Torrelavega, Reocín, Cartes, and Santillana, is in such a way that there are just 3 kilometres in a straight line from the Caves of Altamira. Cantabria has an underground archaeological heritage of great magnitude and importance worldwide, with ten cavities declared world heritage.

In addition to the 17 other enclaves with rock art in a radius of fewer than thirty kilometres from the old mining exploitation. Besaya’s region is intended to attract tourists interested in cultural life and its nature is completely unique. In Spain, there is hardly any museum with a space dedicated to prehistory where the habitat of our ancestors is rebuilt. All of this is possible to reproduce by planting species that inhabited the forests of Cantabria, in addition to a faunal repopulation of the animals grazing in the meadows which are divided by their forests and coasts. This initiative can put the region on the map of tourist places and enhance their economic development in harmony with an energy efficiency; in addition to collaboration for the recognition of the cultural heritage of the region and to generating a greater visitor satisfaction, living such an experience perhaps will be as exciting as the entering the cave. The aim is to provide a complete experience to the visitor, you can get close to nature with the most magical and artistic views. A model of efficient tourism, where people will be the protagonists of a trip to the past, where they will be able to co-exist with animals and experience the feelings and emotions of the past. Bison, stags, goats, deer, etc., represented both in Altamira as in
other settlements, may be seen in the reality along with his companions of the herd in an open space, where along with the reproduction of flora and everyday ways of life and cultural rights of that time will no doubt be an attraction for visitors. In short, it will be a tribute to nature. The space to be created is supposed to be a teaching resource of special interest for educational centres for the promotion of cultural education and nature and this is what to be achieved. In addition, there may be a research centre on the botanical and zoological species, and the evolution in Cantabria of culture. All of this will be made with the labour capabilities of persons with disabilities.
THANKS TO EUROPE

HELIOS I SEGUNDO PROGRAMA DE ACCIÓN A FAVOR DE LAS PERSONAS CON MINUSVALÍA

Premio Helios “Centro de adultos La Barca”. Proyecto para la promoción de la vida autónoma de personas con minusvalía. 1990

“EMPLEO-HORIZON I”

Proyecto de integración social y laboral para personas con minusvalía en Cantabria. 1992/94

HELIOS II. TERCER PROGRAMA DE ACCIÓN COMUNITARIA PARA LAS PERSONAS MINUSVÁLIDAS.

Centro de asesoramiento e información del Sistema Handynet. 1992/96

“Proyecto para la promoción de vida autónoma en personas con minusvalía en Cantabria”. 1993/96

EMPLEO-HORIZON II

FORMA 95H1301 CTB. 1995/97

LEONARDO DA VINCI, D/97/1 /12017/P/L1 .1 E/FP1

LEONARDO VALS. 1997/00

EMPLEO-HORIZON III

ENTORNO 98H1350CTB. 1998/00

INICIA 98H1351 CTB. 1998/00

ILMO Incorporación Laboral en el Mercado Ordinario 1998/00

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