



## How One AuDHD Woman Is Transforming Education in Europe – IMPACTsci story

Andreia Morgado is an AuDHD woman who was diagnosed later in life. After working with various organisations on education and training projects, she recognised a need for better learning approaches tailored to neurodivergent people. This led her to found IMPACTsci, an organisation dedicated to developing inclusive educational methodologies and tools using scientific, human-rights-based, and participatory principles.

Andreia Morgado's own experiences before her diagnosis motivated her vision for IMPACTsci. She aims to create a society where neurodivergent individuals of all ages know they are appreciated for who they are and can achieve their full potential.

### # About IMPACTsci



IMPACTsci is an organisation dedicated to the research and development of educational and training methodologies and tools that specifically target the unique needs and preferences of neurodivergent adult learners.

IMPACTsci's mission is to make knowledge accessible to everyone, uphold human rights from an intersectional perspective and promote open, inclusive and responsive science. IMPACTsci is a member of the European Commission Initiative Pact for Skills and a pledger of the International Declaration of Neurodiversity.

IMPACTsci collaborates with key stakeholders in the field of education and training at a European level, developing, disseminating and applying science-based inclusive educational methodologies and tools to maximise learning outcomes and foster better opportunities for neurodivergent people. It also counts on a network of neurodivergent experts who participate in the development and advising of learning and training products.

### # Ongoing Initiatives

IMPACTsci has several initiatives underway focused on improving education and research for neurodivergent individuals.

One key European project is the ACTIVATE project, where IMPACTsci is responsible for the curriculum development for the first European Autistic Advocacy School. The school aims to provide autistic young adults with the tools and knowledge to advocate for themselves and their community.

IMPACTsci is also a partner in the SHIFT project, working to increase the capacity of European Universities to implement strategies aligned with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards. As part of this project, IMPACTsci leads the aspects related to equity, access, and well-being within the ESG's Social Dimension in universities.



The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a slide titled "Objectives" is displayed. The slide contains three numbered points:

- 1 Raising awareness of the ESG Impact Index among Higher education Institutions and Stakeholders, such as teachers, students, policymakers, funding agencies, and the general public.
- 2 Ensuring that the ESG Impact Index is widely adopted and used by Higher Education Institutions to implement and monitor ESG standards and practices.
- 3 Building partnerships and networks with relevant stakeholders to increase the visibility and impact of the project and ensure the project sustainability.

On the right side of the Zoom window, there is a grid of participant video thumbnails. The participants shown are:

- Andrela Morgado
- MIGUEL BEREZALLIS
- Bartoloz Kozłowski
- Vladimir Skovyc
- Carmen Amadoo
- Mihail Lisetchi
- IRENE GEA LABELLA
- Mais 2 pessoas
- Maria Inês Moreira

At the bottom of the Zoom window, there is a control bar with icons for mute, video, chat, and other functions. The time 11:44 and the meeting ID zbm-pqar-wdj are visible in the bottom left corner.

Recently, IMPACTsci has partnered with the Centre for Social Sciences at the University of Coimbra and other European partners to establish a European network for participatory research on neurodiversity. The network aims to improve the capacity and accessibility of community-led and participatory research initiatives by neurodivergent researchers. This partnership represents a critical step towards advancing the rights of autistic individuals across Europe by enabling more neurodivergent-led research. The NEUROLAB proposal was submitted for funding by the Erasmus+ programme and is awaiting approval.

## **# Impact on the Neurodivergent Community**

Embracing neurodiversity is critical for building an equitable society where all individuals can thrive. Neurodivergent minds offer unique perspectives and abilities that enrich our world. However, many neurodivergent people continue to face stigma and barriers to inclusion.

When neurodiversity is recognised as a form of human diversity to be celebrated and supported, we all benefit. Research shows that inclusive teams are more innovative, productive, and collaborative. Neurodivergent people deserve the opportunity to live self-determined, fulfilling lives and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

However, every person can play a role by being more inclusive in their daily lives. When we embrace neurodiversity, we move closer to a society where all people are valued for who they are.

## **# Conclusion**

At IMPACTsci, our vision is to create a more inclusive world where neurodivergent individuals can thrive. While there is still much work to be done, the progress being made gives hope. However, achieving lasting change requires continued effort. We must keep pushing for funding, reforming institutions and policies, expanding access and opportunities, and fighting stigma. But by working together, we can build a society where neurodiversity is truly valued. We urge all who believe in this cause to join us, advocate within your communities, and spread the message of neurodiversity.

### **To learn more visit:**

[www.impactsci.org/en](http://www.impactsci.org/en)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/impactsci>

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