



A European Leonardo da Vinci Project providing a bridge to the outside world

Raising Horizons is a new and exciting Project, supported by the European Commission, designed to increase employment opportunities for people with severe communication difficulties. Using computer technology, the Project will develop materials that will help people who find communication difficult to gain the confidence to seek employment and training. These training materials will include a programme enabling them to create their own CV in an easily accessible format and based on European Guidelines.

A Survey formed the first phase of the Raising Horizons Project and was designed to find out the aims, needs and skills of people with severe communication difficulties. Over 200 completed surveys were returned, helping the project to create training materials that meet their needs and lead to improved employment opportunities. Returns were received in 4 Languages, reflecting a range of European communities and cultures.

Following analysis of information received by 31st May 2003 the findings are summarised in the attached document.

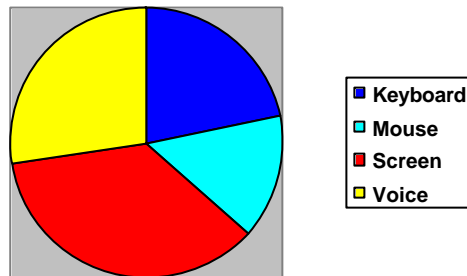
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Raising Horizons
31.05.2003

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**An Overview of the Findings of The Survey carried out by
The Raising Horizons Project.**
(Percentages reflect the number of respondents replying to each question.)

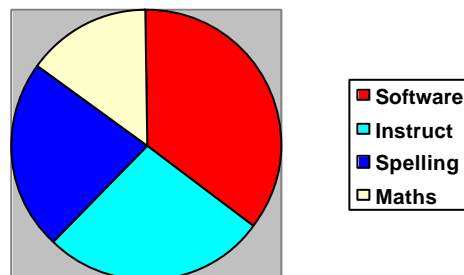
Adaptations to computers required facilitating access.

Computers would need	An adapted keyboard	An adapted mouse	A large screen	To be voice activated
	11.7%	7.8%	19.0%	14.6%



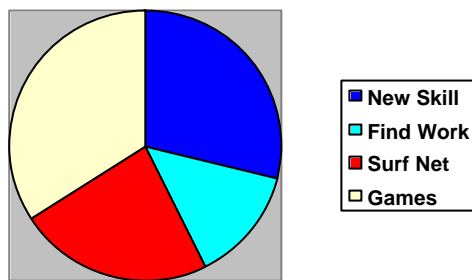
Software and Program Support required ensuring equality and ease of access.

Computers would also need	Easily understood software	Very clear user instructions	Spell Check	Maths Support
	78.5%	60%	51.2%	33.2%



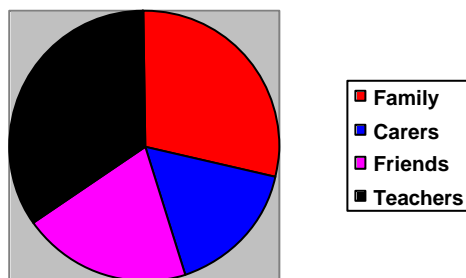
% Of respondents identifying a computer need for specific tasks

Computers would be used to:	Learn new skills	Help find work	Surf the internet	Play games
	60%	29.3%	47.8%	71.2%



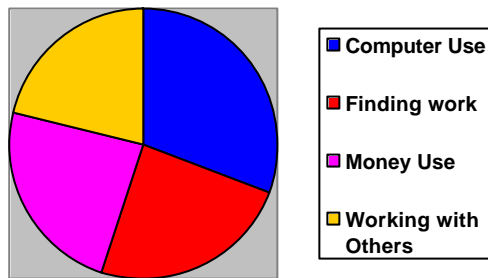
Identification of Support Workers by Category

These people would help the user to learn new skills	Family	Carers	Friends	Teachers
	66.9%	37.5%	47.3%	81%



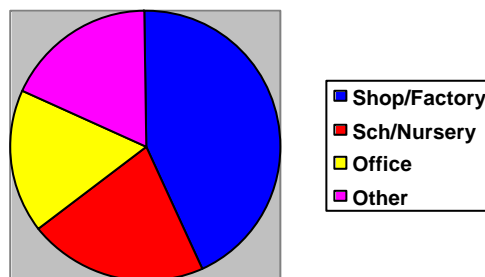
Expression of Desire for training in specific areas

Users would like training in:	Using computers	Getting a job	Managing money	Working with others
	61%	47.3%	46.8%	41.9%



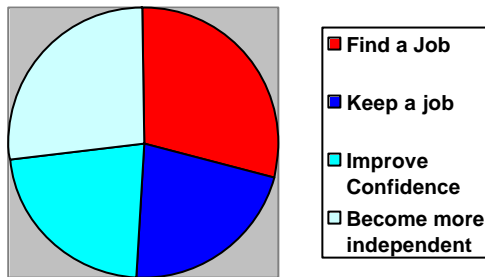
Desired Working Areas where identified

% of respondents seeking work in:	Shop or factory	School or Nursery	Office	Other
	47.3%	23.4%	19%	20%



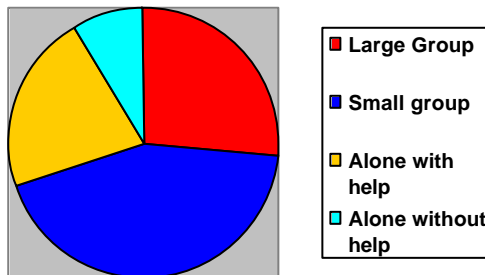
Desired outcome of training

With help respondents will be able to:	Find a job	Keep a job	Improve my confidence	Become more Independent
	57%	42.4%	43.4%	52.7%



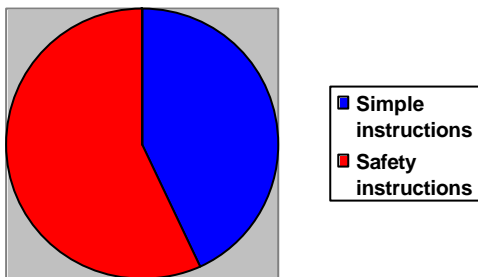
Range of desired working groups

% of respondents who identified who they would like to work with if employed	Others in a large group	In a small group	Alone with help	Alone without help
	28.3%	45.8%	22.9%	9.3%



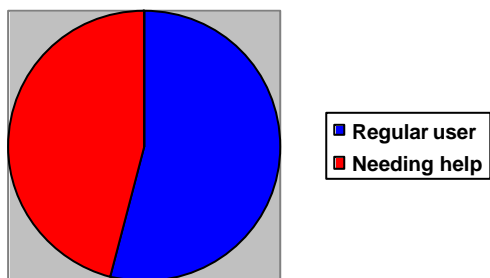
Level of help required to read and understand

% of users needing help to read and understand	Simple instructions	Safety Instructions
	37.6%	49.7%



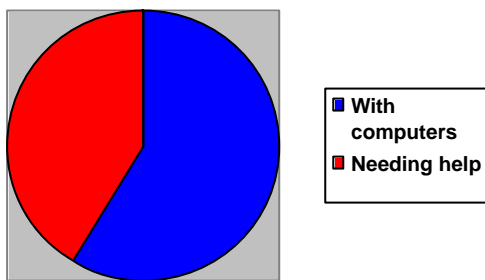
Computer use at home

% of Respondents who regularly use a computer at home.	Users need help to use it
51.2%	43.9%



Number of respondents attending centres with computers

% attending centres with computer facilities	% of users needing help to use computers
68.8%	48.8%



Conclusions

The survey showed that a substantial number of respondents had access to computers although many users need help to use them.

1. 53.1% of respondents recognised the need for adapted computer technology.
2. A substantial number of respondents recognised the need for easily accessible software, with spelling and maths support.
3. That while a significant number of respondents would use computers to learn new skills, surf the Internet and find work, a substantial proportion identified games use as a major facility.
4. Teachers and family members were identified as the two largest groups providing support for users.
5. Training in computer use was identified by the largest number of respondents, followed by recognition of required training in finding a job, money management and working with others.

6. The largest group of respondents would like to work in a shop or factory in a small group. 20% of respondents identified a desire to work in an unidentified employment area.
7. Over 50% of all respondents recognised that the Project could help them to find a job and improve their independence.
8. A significant number of respondents stated that they would need help to understand simple and safety instructions.

Project Implications

- a) Software programs need to be adaptable to individual needs, providing visual, physical and auditory support.
- b) Recognising the desire to use computers for games highlights the need to ensure that developed software is highly interactive.
- c) Training should be directly linked to computer and work based skills.
- d) Help with Simple Instructions and understanding Safety Regulations recognises the need for the Project to consider these areas when creating training courses.
- e) With 20% of respondents expressing a desire to work in an unidentified employment area, the Project should consider how it links to career choice and guidance.

