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He gave voice to the 17 year old Stella

The idea was born on the occasion of the Stella, a 17 year old girl who suffers from quadriplegia. The only move that her brain can control is that of the right foot, while it is a mentally healthy girl with acute perception and excellent memory.



How Does life for someone who understands and can not speak? And that he has feelings, unable to externalize, to express hunger, physical pain or joy?

Starting from these questions and seeking a solution to the problems posed, a Greek student in the University of Crete, Vilemini Kalamratsidou, designed an innovative communication platform for people with serious mobility problems, an innovative application that can cheaply to significantly upgrade the quality of life physically disabled persons deprived of speech.

The idea was awarded by the Polytechnic Innovation Unit, while the lady Kalamratsidou, which now continues her studies at the University of New Jersey, USA, is looking for ways to exploit commercially the platform.



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"The application was developed in order to give this girl and any other person with similar disabilities the opportunity to improve on its communication with the world and grow spiritually by reading books, watching videos, listening to music and viewing photos, all autonomous by simply clicking a button, without the need to help escort "says speaking in the " Nation ", the creator of the platform.

Gives solutions



The 17 year old Stella, who suffers from quadriplegia, is the first to try the innovative application of student Vilhelmina Kalampratsidou

"I learned about Stella through a friend. He explained the situation and that the teacher was trying to help in every way. She had discovered that Stella learned to read alone and deeply believed that development was likely with proper technological support. Given, however, that in the market there were specialized applications for its case at a price reachable, looking for someone who can make something. I loved the idea to design such an application because I think an engineer should give solution to the problems of society and satisfy human needs. "

The application works via a laptop or tablet and adapts to the different needs of each individual. In the case of Stella a large button, which she handles with the foot acts as a mouse and gives you access to application icons via the automatic cyclic scan of the respective options. The icons cover verbally wide variety of activities, physical needs, desires, as "thirsty", "hungry", "my head hurts," "I want to stay alone" or "wear it", which as noted Ms. Kalampratsidou "is a priceless value, even though we take it for granted and do not understand it.

Also important and innovative in relation to products on the market is that this software combines communication with personal employment and entertainment.

Through the application the user can read books, see movies, pictures and listen music at one go. The application is fully customizable on literary, user's musical preferences and additionally can store statistical information preferences.

THE ACHIEVEMENT How has life girl

"It's like suddenly comes a gift for your kid," says Mr. Costas Koumpiadis, father of Stella, describing the "Nation" the effect of the innovative application in the life of his daughter. Stella has finished high school, but the options for further development of her personality with autonomy is minimal.

"The test platform to Stella was successful," says Mr. Koumpiadis.

The option

"To have someone with disabilities the opportunity to express moods, needs, a question, a comment, I can simply say hello or 'I want water' 'or' 'I do not feel happy' 'with one touch, is very important. What would be very interested to further develop is the field of play and music, activities that can not be accessible otherwise a person with disabilities. "

He explains that he saw the psychology of his daughter be changed using the application and found that he wanted to deal more and more with it. "It took with it the system and outside the home and at school, and the teacher had incorporated and textbooks in the software. There was just something pleasant and necessary. The Vilelmini be congratulated, because in Greece with limited means managed something that does not make foreigners.

Katerina Rovva

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