

Motivation

At least a third of people on the **autism spectrum** who are **able to work** are unemployed despite having good qualifications. The reasons for the **high unemployment rate** are primarily to be found in the challenging **working conditions** and environments. Time pressure, high communication requirements, a high degree of flexibility and sensory stimuli are **barriers** for autistic people and prevent **equal participation** in the general labour market.



High unemployment among autistic people



Low employment in the general labour market

Utilising Potential

Autistic people perceive the environment differently and **process information** in unusual ways, **enriching** the world of work with **new perspectives** and alternative solutions. Many autistic people have **valuable skills** that most other people do not have, from which the world of work can **benefit**, e.g. enjoyment of routines, precision and attention to detail, honesty and creativity.

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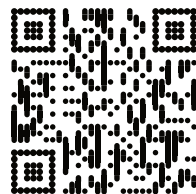
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Research Project AutARK

Automatic adaptation to overstimulating contexts



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Gefördert durch:



aus Mitteln des Ausgleichsfonds
Funding No. FT 1 – 58330

Supporting people on the autism spectrum in a professional environment

Project duration:
January 2023 to December 2025

Support The Project!

In order to develop **needs-orientated solutions**, it is **essential** to involve the **target group** in our research. That is why we are always looking for volunteers from the autism spectrum to support our research.

What Can You Do?

Are you on the **autism spectrum** or work with autistic people and would like to tell us about your **experiences in a work context** or take part in **user studies**? As part of our research, for example, we conduct **surveys** and allow you to try out various **technical solutions**.

By **participating**, you not only make a **valuable** contribution to inclusion. You will also receive a **financial reward** and the opportunity to **actively help** shape current research.



Current studies:
www.autark-arbeiten.de/aktuelle-studien

E-Mail:
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[@autark.tud](https://www.instagram.com/autark.tud)

About This Project

The BMAS-funded **AutARK** research project at the Chair of **Human-Computer Interaction** employs four **research associates** and student assistants and is scientifically managed by the chair holder.

The aim is to **increase** the **employment opportunities** of autistic people on the general labour market by developing **technical support systems**. The focus is on three areas that often lead to **challenges** in everyday working life:

1. **Stimulus Sensitivity:** reduction of stimuli to avoid stimulus overload
2. **Communication:** support for verbal and textual communication
3. **Task Management:** support for structuring and prioritisation in task and time management

Our Approach

The project is investigating how **employable autistic people** can be **supported with technical systems** in the context of office work in line with their needs. Solutions for various **use cases** are conceivable, such as the use of adaptive filters in headphones to reduce **ambient noise**, the use of data glasses and smartwatches for **person recognition**, the application of AI-based methods to support the understanding of **linguistic peculiarities** (e.g. metaphors, irony) or the use of interactive objects for visualisation and interaction with **daily structures**.



We develop solutions based on **scientific methods** and test them with the target group, taking into account **ethical, social, data protection** and **personal** aspects.

