



# EOLAS PhotoVoice Project

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## BACKGROUND

EOLAS is a co-produced, co-facilitated education programme that aims to engage service users and their families in understanding the recovery journey following a diagnosis of severe mental health problems ([www.eolasproject.ie](http://www.eolasproject.ie)). The EOLAS Research Project aims to explore the long-term impact of the EOLAS education programmes on participants and to identify facilitators and barriers to their long-term sustainability within the mental health service.

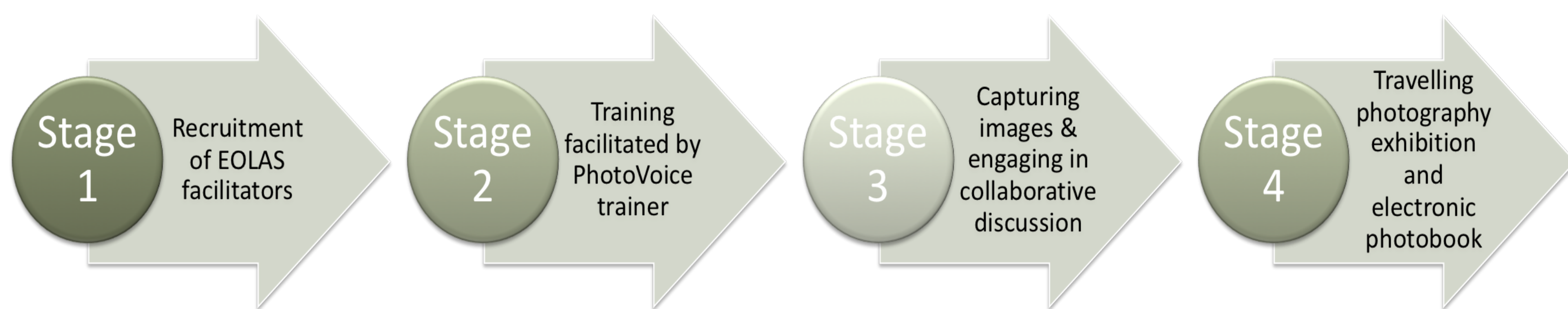
## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The EOLAS Participatory Photography Project sets out to capture in pictures and personal narratives, service user and family facilitators' experience of the EOLAS education programme and to illustrate the impact that EOLAS has on participants' lives. Facilitated by PhotoVoice ([www.photovoice.org](http://www.photovoice.org)) participants used photography to capture:

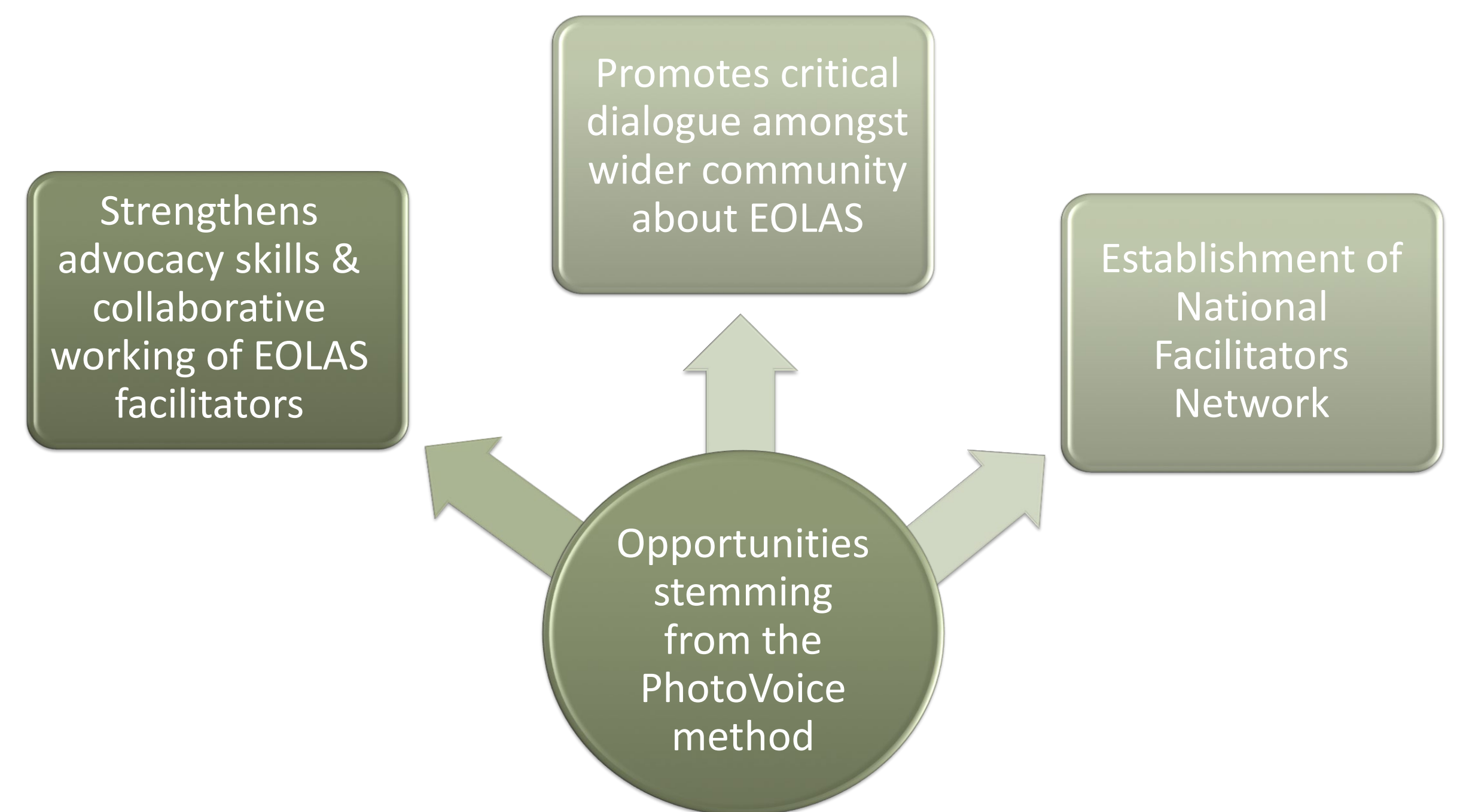
1. Their experiences of implementing the EOLAS programmes
2. Their insights into collaborative partnership
3. The long-term impact facilitating EOLAS has on their lives

## METHODS

Photovoice methods have been used in a variety of fields including, but not limited to, nursing, social work, education, public health, and community development (Wang, 1999; Wang & Burris, 1997 Lal, Jarus, & Suto, 2012). Ethical approval was granted for the project, which consisted of four main stages:



In total 70 images were captured, 34 of which were selected by participants to be included in photography exhibition



Core principles of PhotoVoice centre on choice, creativity, partnership, sustainability and cultural sensitivity. The approach seeks to promote self-efficacy, self-reflection, self-awareness and empowerment of participants.

## PREPERATION FOR THE EXHIBITION

The entire PhotoVoice team including participants, researchers and an exhibition curator collaborated together to develop the themes and design of the exhibition.



## OUTCOMES

The photography exhibition is currently touring the country raising awareness about EOLAS programmes and their impact. It is centred around 5 main themes:



An eBook of the photographs is available to download using this link <https://nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/outreach/eolas/>