

# Digital Prototype for AutSPACES Platform

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**AutSPACES** is a citizen science platform co-created by autistic people and their supporters alongside researchers and the open source community. The aim is to create an online space where autistic people can share their experiences around sensory processing and autism. We would like to use citizen science in a participatory framework to raise the autistic voices and educate non-autistic people on how they can change the world. To really make a substantial difference, we want to take the research out of the lab and learn from the lived experience of autistic people in their daily lives.

## OBJECTIVES

The platform has four main goals:

**Collect:** to collect together the stories of autistic people and their supporters about how they are affected by sensory processing in their daily lives. This will form a qualitative dataset for research.

**Share:** to create a safe, autism-voice-first online environment for autistic people and their supporters to share their stories. These can then be read by others who can benefit from their experiences and insights.

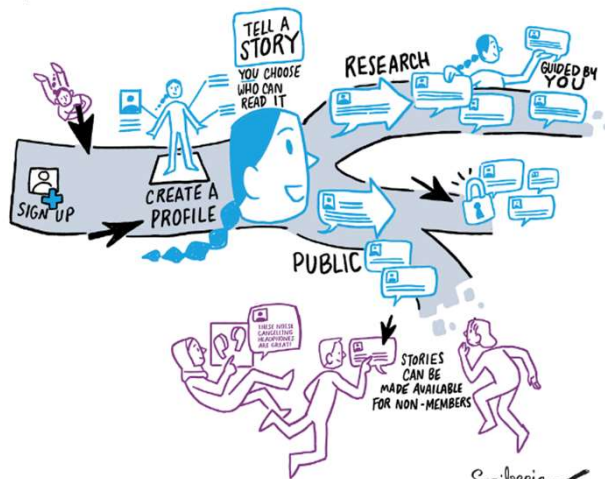
**Educate:** to educate non-autistic people about the experiences of autistic people so that they can become better supporters to them, and to reduce misunderstandings and stigmas about autism.

**Change:** use research done on the dataset to inform policy-makers and people who build and design environments how to make those spaces better for autistic people.

## METHODOLOGY

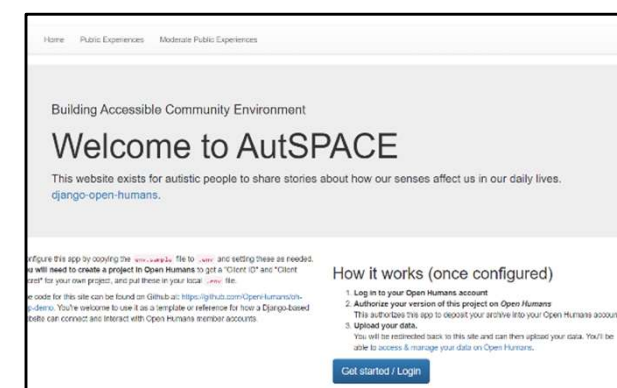
**How does it work?**

Interested users when they visit the platform have two options namely: Viewing the stories created by others or logging their own stories as experiences on the platform. They also have the option to submit their story for research, publishing it on the platform itself or neither both. Before publishing the story, it goes under moderation to make sure it follows the platform's code of conduct.



**How is it built?**

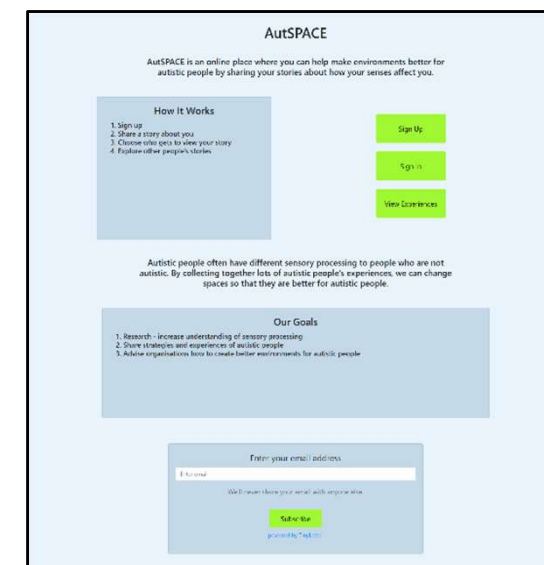
The platform is being developed with the help of Python/Django web development framework. Users will be able to share experiences through a website which will then be deposited into a backend database supported by OpenHumans. The platform is entirely open source and also it is easily updated with help of GitHub version control.



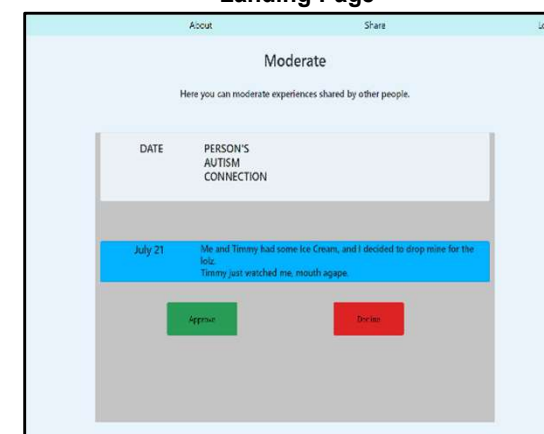
Basic Skeleton of the Website

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

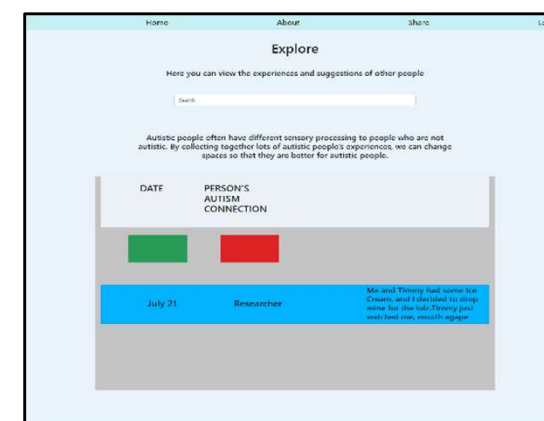
Creating a basic MVP according to the requirements along with the other essential components for an interactive website.



Landing Page



Moderation Page



View Experiences Page

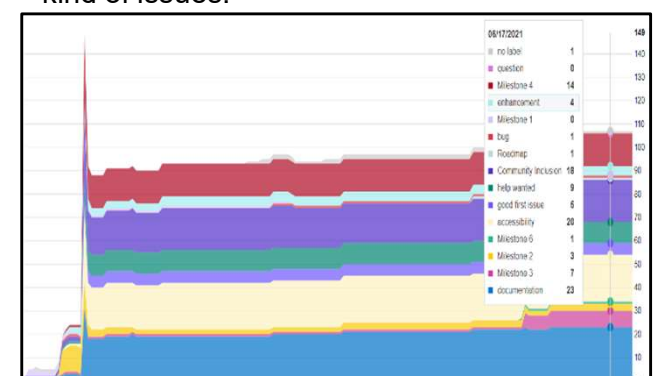
## GITHUB ISSUES

The interested developers, willing to contribute can do so by commenting on active GitHub issues.



Overview of the contributions to the repo

The graphical representation of the issues is rendered with the help of a tool called Bug Life. Each color represents different kind of issues.



Graphical representation of the issues

## CONTACT

The project is completely open source and everybody is invited to contribute.!



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