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ICT4Elders

**Promoting ICT knowledge
for the elderly people**

Project Ref: 2020-1-CZ01-KA204-078197

**ICT4Elders NEWSLETTER
December 2021**

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Latest news and next steps in ICT4Elder project

“ICT4Elders – Promoting ICT knowledge for the elderly people” is a two year **project that aims to bridge the digital divide between generations by enhancing the digital skills and competencies of older persons**. The project started on November 2020 and is implemented in the Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, and Luxembourg, with the financial support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

First F2F project meeting

On July 28th – 29th 2021 the ICT4Elders consortium could already met face to face! Our first F2F meeting was hosted by APSS ČR in cooperation with EAN.

The first goal of our meeting was to present the **results of Analytical activities**, which were organized in the Czech Republic, Greece and Germany. The ICT4Elders consortium provided 26 individual interviews with older adults, got information from 80 professionals and family members, and organized the social experiment with 22 older adults to find out if they are able to recognize fake news. The results of these activities help us to focus the new training on topics most relevant to older adults.

The second, and probably the most important goal of our meeting, was to set up the main steps for **development of the training**. The ICT4Elders consortium agreed on the methodological framework and topics we should focus on. The training is not aiming only for the relevant topics, but also how to transfer the knowledge to older adults in the best possible way.

The next project meeting of ICT4Elders consortium is scheduled for January 2022. The next meeting will be hosted by AKMI who has the main responsibility for the training development.



New project leaflet and poster released



We are happy to announce that we continue in our project dissemination activities.

EAN prepared two important project dissemination and communication items – a leaflet and a poster. Both of them are now available in English, Czech, German and Greek. The final versions of the leaflet and the poster are accessible [here](#). Please, feel free to download and share and help us to disseminate the project!

Development of the ICT4Elders training

Our consortium has started prepare the ICT4Elders training! In this phase the Outcomes of the training and their thematic areas were defined. In these days we will start to prepare detailed content of each thematic area including the training materials. The training is focusing to older adults, and especially those over 70 years. The training introduce learners basics of ICT tools and provide answers to basic questions such as: How can I use the Internet?, How should I behave on the Internet?, What applications are and how to download them?, etc. Proposal of training will be discussed in more detailed at our next meeting in Athens!

Simona Matějková, APSS ČR

Read the ICT4Elders project's Comparative Report!

The report offers interesting insights from the primary and secondary research conducted in the Czech Republic, Greece, and Germany in an effort to map the current situation and existing needs of older people in using internet and digital technologies.



The **Final Comparative Report** of the ICT4Elders project has been published on our website, consolidating the findings from the **National Reports** and research carried out by the project partners in the **Czech Republic, Greece, and Germany**. The report offers interesting insights from the primary and secondary research conducted in the consortium countries on the current situation and the needs and challenges that older people experience due to the rapid changes resulting from the dominance of digital services and applications.

More specifically, the Final Comparative Report provides an overview of the **desk research and scoping analysis** performed by the consortium in an effort to examine common themes in the participating countries with regard to the needs and issues that older people face in the use of digital technologies.

In addition, the report summarizes the findings of the **interviews and surveys** performed by the consortium with the participation of **26 older adults, and 80 professionals and family members** of older people, aiming to collect information and in-depth insight into their experiences, needs, and views on the use of the internet and ICT tools and applications by older adults.

Lastly, the results of a **social experiment** are also explored, during which 22 older individuals in the Czech Republic and in Greece were presented with both fake and credible news stories and were asked to assess their plausibility and truthfulness. The aim of this innovative methodological approach was to assess the **vulnerability of older people to online threats**.

Main findings and conclusions

A cross cutting observation stemming from the present report is that despite the growing number of older people using ICT and the internet in recent years, the digital divide between generations remains an important issue. The phenomenon of limited digital literacy skills of older adults remains prevalent in the Czech Republic and even more so in Greece, but also, to a lesser extent in Germany.

Based on the results of the present report, older individuals appear to recognize the importance of digital technologies. However, they do not believe that their limited familiarization with ICT is restricting or influencing their lives in important ways. The family members and professionals surveyed, though, appear to have a different perspective, as the majority of them believes that older adults do not take advantage on adequate levels of the opportunities that the internet and digital technologies can offer.



At the same time, the participants surveyed appear rather open and willing to further enhance their digital skills and competencies. In practice however, despite their willingness, the actual participation of older adults in relevant non-formal educational programs remains rather limited.

To that end, the report provides a series of **recommendations** for the next project activities, and especially the development of the **training and guidance schemes** that the consortium will develop in an effort to effectively respond to the key need areas identified.

Read the full report, available in English, [here](#).

Alexandra Koufouli, Symplexis

The fight of the elderly with technology - An article in the regional newspaper "Lausitzer Rundschau" - Important information for the ICT4Elders project

74-year-old Professor Herbert Kubicek examines how seniors use the Internet. He is the Scientific Director of the Digital Opportunities Foundation.

"The turning point is 70 years. From this age on there are more people without internet than those who have a connection. In the case of seniors over 80, only 10 percent use the network." He demands that geriatric care and nursing care funds not only offer traditional housekeeping for them, but also digital assistance. *"The possibility of staying in contact with people close to you via services such as WhatsApp or video conferences offers a strong motivation to deal with the opportunities that the Internet offers even in old age."* But many technical devices are more short-lived than they used to be. This phenomenon overwhelms many seniors.

A senior citizen stated that "many elderly people have laboriously learned to use technology such as smartphones. But getting used to a new device again is almost hopeless". Seniors without an Internet connection are at risk of being cut off from their environment in the face of rapid technological advances. It was suggested that these people set up a hotline telephone at the city administration, which they can use to find out about upcoming weather changes, as they cannot follow the current weather forecasts on the Internet.

Bernd Kruczek, BK-Consult GmbH

New concurrent educational project for the elderly in the field of ICT in the Central Bohemia Region

Although Život Plus has only carried out support activities within the ICT4Elders project in the last few months, this does not mean that our organization has not been involved in ICT education for the elderly. Just the opposite, this issue is very meaningful for us and in this period the organization has started a pilot project called "Let's follow our children".

The project aims to strengthen self-sufficiency, self-confidence, activation, and consequently a fuller life in the place where one lives. This is to be achieved through an ICT training programme for the elderly that responds to identified challenges in the lives of the elderly with modern information technology. Thus, among other things, our participation in the ICT4Elders project and the activities carried out within its framework have contributed significantly to the identification of the problems and challenges of the elderly themselves.



During the implementation of the training courses, 2 lecturers work with a group of about 6 elderly and each of them is provided with new tablets. Already after 2 meetings we are getting positive feedback from the participants and some of them have already purchased their own smart devices. After the final evaluation, we will be happy to share the results and enrich the ICT4Elders project with new insights.

Zdeněk Vyhnis, Život+

Inclusive University Digital Education: Promoting accesses to higher education

Accessibility is crucial to the realization of a more inclusive society. As well as promoting the full development of learners, our education supports our ambitions in the next phases of our lives and also enable us to find work and employment. For many people today, obtaining a higher education qualification is a necessary step to reaching their chosen career path.

Inclusive University Digital Education (InclUDE)

Education

The InclUDE project aims to promote the realisation of accessible and inclusive higher education opportunities for students with special educational needs. To achieve this goal the project has three key aims:

- To provide an easy way to search and access free and open tools for online accessibility.
- To create a practical, step-by-step resource that guides lecturers through setting up online teaching sessions that are accessible to a wide range of students.
- To create guidelines of considerations that can help lecturers to make their teaching scheduling and practice more inclusive.
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The onset of the pandemic has highlighted that the ever-expanding digital space lacks accessibility.

As many aspects of life moving online due to the pandemic, so did the education sector. While the world marveled over the fact that, thanks to technology, we could continue living our lives online, there were some who were left behind.

Enabling access to the internet; ensuring the availability of hardware, such as laptops, and equipping students and teachers with the training and knowledge to use this technology are just a few of the common barriers which fall with the wider debate of the digital divide. Promoting the accessibility of online platforms, tools and hardware for those with additional access needs, such as persons with disabilities, is less commonly discussed, but requires our attention.

While the right to accessible and inclusive education at primary and secondary levels is generally acknowledged, the inclusivity and accessibility of higher education still lacks focus. While efforts have been made by many universities in Europe to make their campuses more accessible for people from diverse backgrounds, the digital space, however, has revealed barriers to a comprehensive educational experience for all. With assignments and the submission of graded materials being more commonly required online; lecturers increasingly required to provide online learning opportunities and digital tools being used more regularly in class, universities are being pushed to ask themselves how inclusive and accessibility are their digital practices? In fact, in retrospect, the pandemic has amplified the problem of unequal access, which was present, prior to the pandemic.

To overcome these digital hurdles, the [European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities](#), along with the [University of Wolverhampton](#) (UK), [Universitaet Klagenfurt](#) (Austria), [Universite Rennes II](#) (France) is a part of the Inclusive University Digital Education (InclUDE) project. Co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, the project aims to create:

An online repository that will provide an easy way to search and access free and open tools for online accessibility in English, French and German.

A practical, step-by-step resource that guides lecturers through setting up online teaching sessions that are accessible to a wide range of students, including those with disabilities.

Guidelines of considerations that can help lecturers to make their teaching scheduling and practice more inclusive.

To support the creation of the online repository and accessibility guidelines for lecturers the project partners are currently inviting lecturers, higher education professionals, students and support service providers to complete our online survey. The project will use the survey responses to understand participants' current level of awareness of accessibility tools for online learning and identify useful tools that can be used by others to make their online learning practices more inclusive. The survey will also collect respondents' recommendations on how to encourage the use of online accessibility tools in higher education institutions, which will be used in the development of a set of policy recommendation for relevant stakeholders.

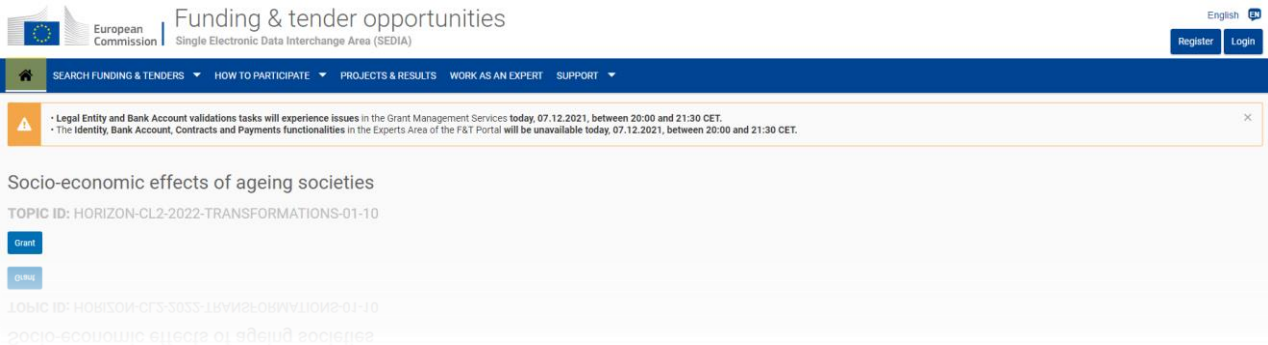


The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and is available [here in English](#), [French here](#) and [German here](#). The deadline to complete the survey is 10th December.

To know more about the InclUDE project, click [here](#).

Rachel Vaughan, EASPD
Karel Vostrý, European Ageing Network

The forthcoming Horizon call about the socio-economic effects of ageing communities



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Legal Entity and Bank Account validations tasks will experience issues in the Grant Management Services today, 07.12.2021, between 20:00 and 21:30 CET.
The Identity, Bank Account, Contracts and Payments functionalities in the Experts Area of the F&T Portal will be unavailable today, 07.12.2021, between 20:00 and 21:30 CET.

Socio-economic effects of ageing societies
TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-10
Grant
Call
TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-10
SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF AGEING SOCIETIES

A new call from the European Commission will be launched in January 2022 and will focus on the socio-economic effects of ageing communities under cluster 2 of culture, creativity, and inclusive society of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

Current state

Europe is constantly changing, and its citizens' prosperity is exceptionally affected. Demographic changes, digitalization, automation, environmental deterioration, and globalization have created social and economic challenges. Meanwhile, a steady escalation of inequality, poverty, social exclusion, the maintenance of opposing views related to skill needs in the working environment, a deceleration in convergence in income and employment, and the burgeoning inequalities that pandemic generated has particularly challenged EU countries. In the meantime, the continuous increase of ageing communities and migrants urge societies to capitalize on older adults' knowledge adequately and the active engagement of migration in societal transformations, respectively. In this way, policymakers are forced to thoroughly analyze these challenges to apprehend socio-economic effects correctly and create policies including societies' vulnerable groups to be part of all social transformations.

Scope

The proposals should investigate the constantly growing number of older adults in Europe, considering the ageing of populations and the demographic repercussions of migration.

Expected outcomes

The projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes: **ageing communities' social impact, longer healthy life expectancy, and the declination of the age gap**. More specifically, the proposals should scrutinize the older adults' impacts on productivity, employment, community, growth, healthcare systems, accessibility to physical or digital public services, and public finance sustainability. In addition, they should propose measures to increase life expectancy and deal with phenomena commonly affecting older adults. Last but not least, they are supposed to decrease age segregation and ensure the essence of learning from older people's experiences.

Destination of the research

The research should be thorough and inclusive. It is essential to investigate the consequences of these changes in the working environment since older adults might experience risks because of a rapidly evolving society and be perceived as unequal because of the obsolescence of their skills.

One more research milestone should be the silver economy. Proposals should consider the possibility of capitalizing on older people's knowledge to create economic opportunities through their occupation, their societal commitment, and the working conditions suitable for working longer and having a positive impact on the sustainability of the silver economy. In addition, research should examine fertility in conjunction with family, housing, and labor policies to define people's willingness to have children and the involvement of older people in the creation of digital public services to be acquainted with digitalization.



In a nutshell, proposals should develop suggestions on how Europe deals with demographic changes combined with the reforms needed to increase the benefits and limit the negative consequences.

More info related to the call [here](#).

Christina Triantafyllou, AKMI

Lead partner



Association of Social Services Providers
Czech Republic

Partners



Contact

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For more information visit <https://www.ict4elders.eu/>.

