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Digital inclusion expert workshop

“Empower every learner. digital skills adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups”

Date: 15 November 2024

Location: Premises of EVBB - European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (www.evbb.eu)
Bd. Charlemagne 28, B-1000, Brussels

The DIGITAL-IN (DIGITAL Skills for the INclusion of Digitally Vulnerable Groups: a DVGs’ needs-based approach to digital skills provision in adult education) project is an initiative, co-funded by the European Union, dedicated to enhancing the digital skills of Digitally Vulnerable Groups (DVGs). The project is specifically focusing on two priority groups:

1. **Seniors/elderly** – aiming to address the barriers they face in embracing digital advancements.
2. **Small business owners** – striving to equip them with digital competencies essential for modern entrepreneurship.

The **expert workshop, taking place on 15 November 2024 in Brussels**, promises an engaging platform to gather insights and suggestions from a diverse range of digital inclusion stakeholders across the EU. The goal is to enhance the consortium’s tools by integrating the valuable experiences and expertise of **adult education providers, civic organizations dedicated to Digitally Vulnerable Groups (DVGs), program designers, and other professionals in the digital inclusion arena**, as well as **digital transformation and inclusion stakeholders** from across the EU.

Experts located in the broader **Brussels area** interested in the event are invited to **register before 31 October 2024** by contacting Mr. Emmanouil Vergitsakis at evergitsakis@elearningekpa.gr

The workshop will be conducted in English.



Workshop Programme

Morning Session (9 am – 1 pm)

09:00 Registration and networking

09:15 **Welcome and roundtable introduction of experts**

09:30 Presentation of the European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training,
Sotiria Tsalamani, EVBB

09:45 Workshop objectives and expected outcomes, **Manolis Vergitsakis, E-learning Programme of the University of Athens, Greece**

10:00 – 10:30 Understanding digital inclusion: key findings from DIGITAL-IN project's cross-country needs analysis

- *Needs and challenges of the digitally vulnerable groups for adapted digital literacy, **Nicolas Kythreotis and Nicolas Ioannides/ Intercollege and University of Nicosia, Cyprus***

10:30 – 11:30 Digital literacy that works – sharing best practices

- *The Cyprus National Digital Competence Academy*
- *Scuola Digitale, **Giovanna Maggiori/ Grey Panthers Italy***
- *Inclusion Project, **Andrea Fumagalli/ Arci Servizio Civile***
- *Click-A initiative, **Javier Lopez/ Spanish Red Cross***
- *Q&A session*

11:30 Coffee Break



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11:45 – 12:30 Digital literacy that works (continued)

- *Digital inclusion for citizens and small businesses, **Raminta Krivaite/Employment Office Vilnius***
- *Digital inclusion in the heart of EU, TBA*

12:30 Practical tools for digital skills educators and inclusion stakeholders working with DVGs, **Laura Fernandez Rivas, Magtel Foundation, Spain**

- *Q&A session*

13:00 Networking Lunch

Afternoon Session (2.30 pm – 5 pm)

14:30 – 16:00 Enhancing effectiveness of Digital Inclusion Guidelines to meet the needs of DVGs and uptake by professionals (*Break-out experts' sessions*)

- *Skills, knowledge and attitudes: what makes a digital literate? **Moderator: Nicolas Ioannides***
- *Pedagogy and tools for the DVG learners: what works in practice? **Moderator: Laura Fernandez***
- *Inclusive digital communication and training, **Moderator: Valeria Russo***

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Discussing the future: digital resilience

- *Future-proofing digital skills for the micro and small businesses in Greece: insights from the Digital Skills Forecast Analysis for the Greek market, **Anna Maria Kanzola/ E-learning Programme NKUA***



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- *Decoding digital resilience for vulnerable individuals in the age of AI/Valeria Russo, Digital Communicator*

16:45 Digital inclusion experts' recommendations and reflections on the way forward,
Cristina Mosora/ E-learning Programme NKUA

Open space for continued conversations and networking opportunities at the EVBB

Speakers and participants bio

Sotiria Tsalamani, EVBB- European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training

Sotiria is EU Project Manager at EVBB as well as an independent trainer and facilitator. She holds a master's degree in Educational Sciences. Her experience revolves around Project Management in the non-profit and private sectors, where she has been involved in the management of educational projects funded by various donors. She is strongly interested in developing innovative educational material and training for youth and adults in the EU and Africa that aims to foster personal and professional development. Her expertise also includes media and digital literacy, social inclusion of marginalised groups and active citizenship.

Manolis Vergitsakis – E-learning Programme at the University of Athens, Greece

Manolis holds a degree in Statistics from the University of Piraeus. With over 13 years of experience in management, in 2018 he assumed the role of Head of English Language Courses at the eLearning department of the University of Athens. He is involved extensively in co-founded projects by the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Greek public employment service, and is part of the DIGITAL-IN project coordination team.

Nicolas Kythreotis – Intercollege, Cyprus

Nicolas is the Executive Director at Intercollege and the Cyprus Maritime Academy, where he oversees strategic initiatives in vocational and adult education. With more than 20 years of experience in the development and management of SMEs, he brings a practical approach to fostering digital skills and business innovation. His work focuses on creating sustainable solutions that bridge the gap between education and industry.

Nicolas Ioannides – University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Nicolas Ioannides is the Director of Academic Affairs at the University of Nicosia, where he focuses on advancing digital education and quality assurance in learning. His work involves fostering innovative approaches to education, including the use of e-learning and digital competencies within vocational training, with a commitment to enhancing accessibility for diverse learner groups.



Eleni Themistocleous – Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus

Eleni is an IT Officer at the Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus (ANAD), where she is involved in the development and implementation of digital training programs for adult learners. With extensive experience working alongside educators and stakeholders to support adult learning, Eleni brings valuable insights on the challenges faced by participants in digital education, particularly those from vulnerable groups.

Giovanna Maggiori – Grey Panthers, Italy

Giovanna works as a journalist at the Italian portal Grey Panthers. Grey Panthers are committed to ensuring that the over-65s have a basic level of digital inclusion. It has been online since 2008, providing a newspaper with news, articles, columns, and dialogues with the Grey-Age world. Giovanna apart from her journalistic work, she is conducting courses and actions dedicated to reducing the digital divide among seniors.

Andrea Fumagalli – Arci Servizio Civile, Italy

Andrea is involved in the coordination, planning, selection, launching and management of volunteers in service at the Arci Servizio Civile Lombardia. The organization is involved actively in digital citizenship and is particularly focused on inclusion projects, such as carrying out “digital facilitation” with the intent to improve the digital culture within the community or in particular categories, such as individuals excluded due to age or lack of opportunity.

Javier Lopez – Spanish Red Cross

Javier López is the Regional Head of Social Inclusion at the Spanish Red Cross in Andalusia and Director of the Click_A program, recognized nationally as a leading initiative for digital inclusion of older adults. Since 2008, he has actively worked on reducing the digital divide in the Andalusian population, leading initiatives that promote the empowerment and digital inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, with a focus on improving their quality of life and promoting equal opportunities.

Luis Marcia – RedComercio, Spain

Luis Marcia, founder of RedComercio, a non-profit organization, has more than 30 years of experience in Vocational Training for employment. His organization’s main goal is to support small businesses in their digital transformation, as well as to train vulnerable groups with difficulties in labor insertion. It also collaborates with public administrations in the development of reports and market studies related to sustainable trade. Currently, RedComercio has developed a pilot project to integrate local commerce in Córdoba into the Metaverse, offering new opportunities for small businesses to improve their visibility.

Laura Fernandez Rivas – Fundación Magtel, Spain

Laura is a technician in the International Area at Fundación Magtel, gaining experience in the management of international projects and development cooperation. For the past year and a half, she has been part of the international area team, responsible for managing European projects, as well as International Development Cooperation projects. Currently, she leads Work Package 3 of the Digital-IN project and manages three IDC projects in Peru, while actively working on identifying new European project opportunities.

Raminta Krivaite – Employment Office Vilnius

Raminta is a Career Consultant at the Employment Service Under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania. She offers guidance on career development, organizes informational sessions with students, young



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graduates and adults on training and study opportunities. In her tenure with the European Solidarity Corps, she actively supported individuals with intellectual disabilities, facilitating their inclusion through tailored activities.

Sandra Sitnikaite – T.O.R.O. Training

Sandra has a degree in EU Law executed in Vilnius/Lithuania and the Science of Public and Administrative Science in Università Federico II in Naples, Italy. Since 2006 she has worked as a project manager, trainer and researcher in EU funded projects. She has experience in developing training content and material on diverse topics (entrepreneurship, digital skills, well-being and career counseling, business innovation and sustainability, etc.) for various target groups. She uses innovative training methods and approach innovative training solutions i.e. meta verse, AI in creating innovative career counseling solutions and shifting training paths.

Anna-Maria Kanzola – E-learning Programme at the University of Athens, Greece

Anna-Maria is a researcher and a PhD Candidate in Labor Economics and Behavioral Economics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Economics. Anna-Maria has numerous publications related to labor market analysis and foresight in leading international journals and has been awarded at international conferences. The subject of her PhD makes her well-suited to investigate the labor market within the framework of an economic and social approach for forecasting future skills, not only in terms of demand but also by considering the dynamic nature of professions and the broader resilience of skills.

Valeria Russo – Digital Writer and Trainer, Italy

Valeria is a professional digital writer with an extensive experience, working for well-known actors from both the public and private sector across Europe and the world. She has designed and developed numerous training sessions on digital writing and creative thinking, including in projects commissioned by the EU Presidency of the Council of Ministers. She is the author of books and essays, and is currently is involved directly in the DIGITAL-IN project in the development of guidelines for trainers working with vulnerable learners.

Lucia Zucchella – Project Manager and Coordinator, EMIT Feltrinelli

Lucia has long-term experience in design, coordination, and management of nationally and internationally funded initiatives with over 30 projects focused on training and the inclusion of vulnerable individuals in the job market have been successfully completed. She is responsible for the implementation of tasks of EMIT Feltrinelli in the DIGITAL-IN project.

Cristina Mosora - E-learning Programme at the University of Athens, Greece

Cristina acts as the coordinating point of the DIGITAL-IN project. She has extensive experience as project coordinator across various EU and international funding schemes and actions (FP7, H2020, HE, EEA, Erasmus+ etc.). In the recent years, her interest lies primarily with developing projects in the area of VET and life-long learning education, and is particularly motivated by initiatives answering the needs of SEND and their inclusion.

