

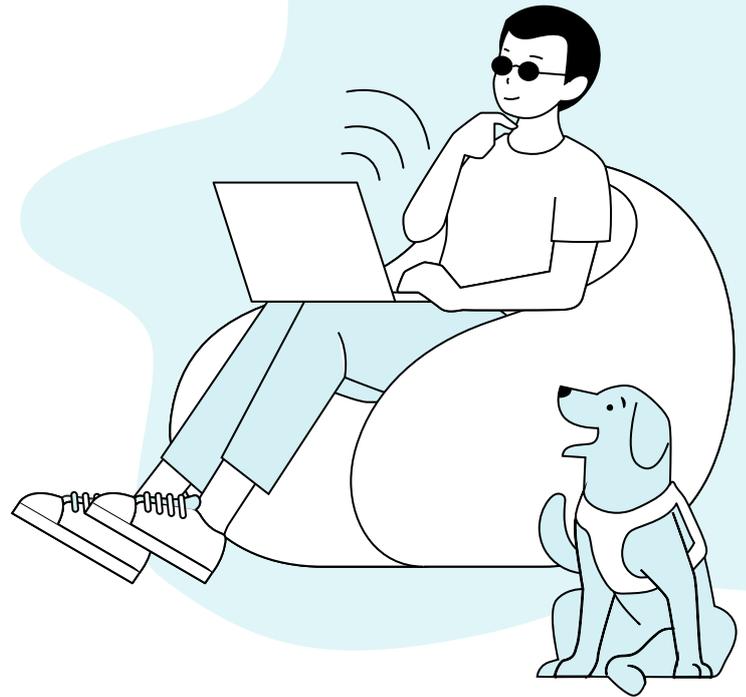
Fact Sheet on Digital Skills for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Key Facts

- **The digital revolution** has altered the way we live, learn, stay connected, and work in society. Digital skills are a necessity for all to participate in different areas of life.
- **However, a digital divide** exists which impacts persons with disabilities of all ages and older people. Reasons for this digital disparity include inaccessibility, poor digital skills and a lack of inclusive education.
- Consequently, the barriers causing this digital exclusion lead to individuals lacking **tools for self- management** thus preventing them from contributing to society.
- **Digital skills help** foster inclusive education, more participatory citizenship, improve employability, and provide better career prospects.

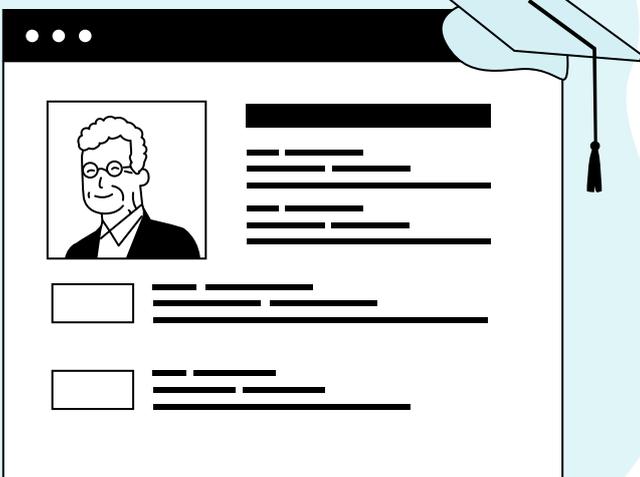


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ENTELIS+ Overview

- The ENTELIS+ project aims to reduce the digital divide by strengthening organisations to collaborate in the development of strategies and policies for digital skills development of persons with disabilities of all ages and older people.
- Work package 1 of the ENTELIS+ project focused on the collection and analysis of state-of-the-art research in digital skills and teaching, in relation to assistive technology (AT), accessibility, and information and communication technology (ICT). The collection of information was focused on examining existing resources, publications, practices, and key perspectives on existing gaps and needs in relation to digital literacy/ skills for persons with disabilities and older persons (end-users): a) attitudes, b) using AT, c) mastering accessibility features and d) working with mainstream applications.



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Methodology and Outcomes

In order to carry out this research, three main methods were used:

- **Resources Collection Tool**
- **Consultation Questionnaire**
- **Training Needs Survey**

The main conclusions arose from the use of the Consultation Questionnaire and Training Needs Survey tools. The Training Needs Survey tool was employed to gather insights on the initial needs of the ENTELIS+ partners and pilot sites for the development of the training modules. The major outcomes found from this tool are:

- **Training needs:** The training needs of persons with disabilities and older adults include basic knowledge of ICT, assistive technology and accessibility standards. Additionally, acquiring knowledge about the opportunities offered by technology in different fields like education, employment, and social participation, etc. should be encouraged.
- **Involvement:** Persons with disabilities will be involved in the training modules to improve their digital skills.
- **Type of training:** Online or on-site courses as well as remote support.
- **Format of materials:** Videos, webinars and interactive materials. However, there is a need to pay attention to literacy and cognitive abilities.



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The Consultation Questionnaire tool is used to collect stakeholders' views and opinions in order to better understand the existing situation and the needs — in relation to accessibility education and digital skills development for the inclusion – of persons with disabilities and older people. The main outcomes of this tool are:

- **Experience in accessibility:** Few stakeholders offer accessible courses and courses on the topic of accessibility.
- **Level of Interest** in accessibility education and digital skills: There is higher interest among people with disabilities and less interest amongst older adults.
- **Level of Knowledge:** Older people are perceived to have a low level of information on the topic whilst people with disabilities are perceived to have medium to low-level knowledge on accessibility as a whole.
- Consequently, **there is a need for education** in the areas of accessibility and digital skills among these groups.