Removing barriers to digital inclusion
Engaging stakeholders in rethinking policies and services

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Barriers to digital inclusion (1/2)

Study of the ENTELIS network
www.entelis.net

Society – Community – Individual

Policy domain

• Failure of existing policies and legislation to effectively cover essential aspects of ICT/ICT-AT for persons with disabilities.
• Lack of policy that systematically addresses the digital divide with adequate resources.
• Lack of priority given to ICT-AT education and in education.
• Assitive technology is by many considered a cost and not an investment.

Cultural, financial and accessibility related barriers
Barriers to digital inclusion (2/2)

Society – Community – Individual

- Lack of user-centred and user-driven approaches.
- Lack of competence in supporting people matching their needs with the available solutions.
- Educational systems are not fully prepared to support learners with disabilities in developing their ICT and ICT-AT skills.
- Lack of independent advice and knowledge centres.
- Lack of collaboration among stakeholders at all levels and between levels.
Lack of user-centred and user-driven approaches?

Not exactly true!

Good practice 1

In January 2021 co-design workshop were held in 7 EU languages. People with disabilities, accessibility & ICT experts and transport sector representatives, worked together on future inclusive public transport design concepts and mobility solutions. https://trips-project.eu/
Lack of independent advice and knowledge centres??

Not exactly true!

Good practice 2

Emilia Romagna’s Regional Centre for Assistive Technology

Supporting the choice of technology!
Helping people to make technology work for them

Part of Public Health Service Infrastructure
Independent Advise – Support – Follow up
Multiprofessional team (25)
Different areas of AT
In- & Outdoor Facilities
Good practice 3

MISSION
We believe in a world in which all people can access the assistive technology they need.

We work towards equitable and reliable access to assistive technology through collaborative research, policy, advocacy, education and awareness raising.

www.gaato.org
Contact: secretary@gaato.org
Need for coherent and coordinated approaches

4 core recommendations

• Research! We need data on the impact of the digital divide and of digital empowerment
• Sharing of good practice
• Co-production of innovative strategies
• Development standards and good practice guidelines for Assistive Technology Service Delivery systems and for the use of technology in Inclusive Education
Challenge

There is a big fish within reach and it is called: «digital inclusion»

Let’s wade into the water and catch it!
Thank you

Main references
• E.-J. Hoogerwerf et. al. (2016). Digital inclusion. A white paper.
• ENTELIS network: Manifesto «Towards full digital inclusion»
• E.-J. Hoogerwerf, K. Mavrou & I. Traina. The role of Assistive Technology in Fostering Inclusive Education. Routledge 2021

Relevant websites
www.gaato.org
www.aaate.net
www.at4inclusion.org
www.trips-project.eu
www.enterlis.net
www.enil.eu

Want to do something?
Read and Sign the Bologna Declaration!
on www.aaate.org

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A warm thanks to ENIL for inviting me