



A.M.O.R.

Advanced Measurements of
Responses to the Challenges
of Social Skills development
in a digital era



DIGITAL HANDBOOK



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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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This document is part of our commitment to inclusiveness and innovation in youth work. It showcases the value of digital tools and methodologies while supporting youth workers in creating accessible, thoughtful, and engaging educational environments. We hope this resource sparks inspiration, fosters collaboration, and empowers youth across diverse communities.

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Introduction

The AMOR Digital Handbook intends to respond to various aspects of the current gap in digital education in Europe made especially visible by COVID19. The handbook includes various outputs ready to be used within the lifetime of the project. It consists of 5 Chapters and includes the findings of WP2 and has been built upon the combined knowledge and experience in the fields of digital education and inclusion in schools and other educational institutions.

The overall objectives are to strengthen active social participation among YOUNG PwD and SEN in Europe and combat current negative trends of exclusion that the Covid19 pandemic and other current crisis have brought, by providing innovative/practical pedagogic solutions, based on already best practices of the recent months, and developing new strategies/approaches, in order to empower young people to change negative paradigms towards active and empathic social behaviour, as well as mental wellbeing for both their personal and professional development.

The Handbook provides a Framework for inclusive intercultural activities (Chapter 1), guidelines for inclusive education (Chapter 2), a tools collection (Chapter 3), video portraits and tutorials (Chapter 4) and 5 local versions of the handbook (Chapter 5) for all partnering countries in their local languages. This handbook, with all its chapters, is a useful support for educators (primary target group) directly, by giving them hands-on tools for their daily work with young people, especially those with disabilities and SEN (secondary target group) to empower and activate them in order to reestablish and strengthen their social participation.



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CHAPTER 1



FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVE INTERCULTURAL ACTIVITIES

01 Introduction to Inclusive Intercultural Activities

Inclusive intercultural activities encompass a range of experiences designed to foster understanding, empathy, and social inclusion among individuals of diverse backgrounds, including those with disabilities such as young People with Disabilities (PwD) and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Often young disabled people have limited opportunities to gain these skills. These activities aim to break down cultural barriers, promote open communication, and create environments that encourage the active participation of individuals from different races, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds. The importance of inclusive intercultural activities lies in their capacity to contribute to a more interconnected society. By engaging in hands-on and immersive experiences, individuals can more easily develop practical intercultural skills. In the context of young PwD, SEN, and other individuals, these activities become particularly crucial as they may face limited opportunities to access such experiences.

Benefits of inclusive intercultural activities for young PwD, SEN, and other individuals include:

Enhanced Understanding and Empathy

Participation in intercultural activities allows individuals to gain firsthand experiences, promoting a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and perspectives. Exposure to different ways of life fosters empathy, breaking down stereotypes and misconceptions.

Social Inclusion

Inclusive intercultural activities create spaces where individuals, including those with disabilities, feel welcomed and included. Shared experiences contribute to the formation of supportive social networks, reducing feelings of isolation.

Skill Development

These activities provide opportunities for the development of intercultural communication skills, a valuable asset in today's globalized world. Young individuals with disabilities can develop confidence, adaptability, and resilience through active participation in diverse environments.

Objectives of the AMOR Framework for Inclusive, Intercultural Activities:

- Fostering a sense of belonging and active social participation among young People with Disabilities (PwD) and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The framework aims to design inclusive intercultural activities that create environments promoting social inclusion.
- Developing effective communication skills, including verbal and non-verbal, within diverse cultural contexts. Explanation: The framework recognizes the importance of communication in fostering understanding and empathy. It provides educators with tools to enhance the communication skills of young PwD, SEN, and others, facilitating meaningful interactions and connections.
- Cultivating an appreciation for cultural diversity and the ability to understand different perspectives. In response to the gap in digital education highlighted by COVID-19, the framework will encourage hands-on experiences through intercultural activities, promoting a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and perspectives.
- Integrating Assistive Technology (AT) and accessibility features to ensure the inclusion of young individuals with disabilities. Recognizing the unique needs of young PwD and SEN, the framework will emphasize the use of AT and accessibility features in intercultural activities.
- Empowering and activating young people, particularly those with disabilities and SEN, for personal and professional development. The framework aims to provide educators with practical tools to empower young individuals.
- Addressing mental wellbeing through inclusive intercultural activities. Considering the challenges posed by crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, the framework recognizes the importance of mental wellbeing. It aims to create activities that not only promote social skills but also contribute positively to the mental health of young individuals.

The AMOR Framework, with its specific objectives, aligns with the broader goals of the AMOR project by actively contributing to the creation of innovative pedagogic solutions. The learning outcomes and strategies outlined in the framework directly empower educators to work with young PwD, SEN, and others, fostering their social participation, personal development, and mental wellbeing. Through practical tools and materials, the AMOR Framework becomes an important element in achieving the project's objectives and ensuring inclusive, ready-to-use resources for educators in inclusive educational settings.

Designing inclusive intercultural programs for young individuals, including those with disabilities, involves targeting specific learning outcomes that contribute to their development.

These are the main learning outcomes expected:

3.1 Empathy and Perspective-Taking

One of the most important skills is the ability to understand and share the feelings of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Encourage viewing situations from different cultural perspectives, promoting a more inclusive mindset. This opens many doors for everything else listed here.

Theory:

What are?

An empath is also used to describe individuals who exhibit a high sensitivity to the emotions and feelings of those around them. This sensitivity can lead to a deeper understanding of others' emotional experiences and is often associated with heightened emotional intelligence.

Perspective-taking is defined as the ability to view and understand the world from the standpoint of another person, without necessarily sharing their emotions. It involves stepping into someone else's shoes, mentally considering their point of view, and recognizing the reasons behind their beliefs and actions.

How it relates to youth work:

Empathy allows youth workers to connect with young people on an emotional level. By understanding and sharing their feelings, youth workers can establish trust, rapport and provide emotional support during trainings and exchanges, to young individuals who may be facing various challenges. In addition, empathy and perspective-taking is an incredibly helpful skill when creating materials for young people, by feeling their struggles it proves much easier to create content fostered to them.

Examples Scenarios:

Empathy:

A teenager in a youth program is feeling overwhelmed due to academic stress. An empathetic youth worker listens actively, understands the student's feelings, and provides emotional support, creating a safe space for the teenager to express their concerns.

Perspective-Taking:

In a group setting, a youth worker notices a conflict between two participants. By practicing perspective-taking, the youth worker considers each individual's point of view, helps them understand each other's feelings, and facilitates a conversation to resolve the conflict constructively.

Strategies for developing empathy and perspective-taking skills:

- Fully engage in conversations without distractions.
- Pay attention to non-verbal cues for deeper insights.
- Avoid closed-ended questions to promote comprehensive sharing.
- Engage in activities where you step into others' shoes.
- Explore diverse viewpoints in literature.
- Discuss themes and perspectives to enhance understanding.

Activity: Simple, not many resources, like an energizer

3.2 - Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity

Aim for them to develop an understanding of different cultures, traditions, and customs to cultivate an open-minded and non-judgmental approach towards cultural diversity.

Theory:

Understanding differences and similarities between oneself and other cultures, without assigning them value. Basically- avoiding judgment based on cultural distinctions. Cultural awareness and sensitivity involve recognizing cultural differences, avoiding judgment, and fostering positive behaviors.

How it relates to youth work:

Practitioners in youth work need to be aware of their own culture, beliefs, biases, and worldviews, this self-awareness ensures that responses to young people from diverse backgrounds are empathetic and non-judgmental.

Cultural sensitivity acknowledges that young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds face particular pressures, this requires tailored responses to address the specific challenges these youth may encounter. By being cognizant of cultural nuances, practitioners create spaces where diverse young individuals feel understood and valued, which creates an inclusive youth work environment. Understanding the dynamic nature of culture, recognizing unique pressures, and employing a strengths-based approach are crucial components.

Non-judgmental attitudes enhance the effectiveness of youth work interventions.

Examples Scenarios:

In a youth mentoring program, mentors use cultural sensitivity to understand the unique challenges faced by young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. This helps mentors tailor their guidance and support, fostering positive development.

3.4 - Effective Communication Skills

Help enhance both verbal and non-verbal communication skills in diverse cultural contexts. Prioritize them developing the ability to listen attentively and respond appropriately to individuals with varying communication styles.

Theory:

Effective communication means to successfully exchange ideas, thoughts, opinions and knowledge in a manner that ensures clarity and purpose. It's dynamic, adapting to diverse contexts and audiences. It promotes understanding, minimizes misunderstandings, and cultivates positive relationships in personal and professional settings.

How it relates to youth work:

Effective communication is paramount in youth work, where building trust and understanding with young individuals is crucial for positive outcomes. Communicating actively and effectively in youth work involves employing age-appropriate styles, using understandable language, promoting positive communication, understanding developmental stages, avoiding negative approaches, recognizing barriers, prioritizing active listening, and adopting child-centric communication strategies.

Examples Scenarios:

A diverse group of youth faces a common challenge in organizing a community event. The youth worker facilitates a problem-solving session, encouraging collaboration and brainstorming. By acknowledging each participant's ideas, providing clear explanations, and fostering teamwork, effective communication helps the group find creative solutions and successfully execute the event.

Strategies for developing effective communication skills:

Effective communication is a skill that can be honed through deliberate practice.

- Identifying your audience is the foundation of effective communication. Understand the demographics, interests, and preferences of your audience to tailor your message appropriately.

- Active listening involves fully engaging in a communication exchange, paying attention to verbal and non-verbal cues, asking questions, and avoiding judgment.
- Clarity is a key element of effective communication.

3.5 - Social Interaction and Relationship Building

We'd like youth to cultivate skills for inclusive social interactions, this ensures that all individuals feel valued and included. We're aiming for them to form meaningful connections and relationships across diverse groups.

Theory:

Social interaction is essential to human life (e.g., between friends, family members, and people of different origins and social status).

Social interaction involves engaging with others within a community or society, typically constrained by social norms. Its primary aims are to create a sense of belonging, foster relationships, and garner social support. Social interaction plays a crucial role in shaping our

attitudes, beliefs, and values, significantly affecting our perspective on the world. This article

discusses the significance of social interaction and its various objectives.

Human society is built around social interactions, which are essential in forming our relationships, culture, and economy.

One of the main goals of social interaction is to form and sustain meaningful relationships with others in society. However, social interactions aren't always about positive experiences

and benefits—they can also lead to friction among community members, resulting in social

conflicts. As we interact with others, our feelings of trust, care, affection, and understanding

evolve, potentially leading to enduring friendships and partnerships, provided that these interactions meet a certain intrinsic or extrinsic value. Social interaction also allows us to learn from others, gain new insights, and enhance our knowledge and skills.

How it relates to youth work:

Social interaction and relationship building are foundational aspects of youth work, playing crucial roles in its effectiveness and impact.

Effective youth work often begins with establishing trust and rapport between youth workers and young people. Social interaction facilitates the development of these connections, creating a safe and supportive environment where young people feel comfortable expressing themselves and seeking guidance.

Youth work aims to support the holistic development of young people, including their social, emotional, and cognitive growth. Social interactions within youth programs provide opportunities for experiential learning, skill-building, and personal reflection, fostering positive development outcomes.

For many young people, youth work serves as a bridge to social integration and community participation. By facilitating social interactions among diverse groups of young people, youth workers promote inclusivity, tolerance, and understanding, contributing to the building of cohesive communities.

Social interaction within youth work settings offers a platform for addressing social challenges and promoting positive behaviors. Through group discussions, peer support initiatives, and collaborative projects, young people learn to navigate complex social issues, develop empathy, and build resilience.

Meaningful relationships built through youth work empower young people to advocate for themselves and others, participate in decision-making processes, and take on leadership roles within their communities. Social interaction fosters a sense of agency and belonging, encouraging youth to become active contributors to society. In essence, social interaction and relationship building are integral to the effectiveness of youth work, providing the foundation for positive youth development, social inclusion, and community engagement.

Examples Scenarios:

When a team-mate mentions a problem to solve, repeat what is being said ("I believe you're saying that..."). Sometimes it's enough for a colleague to hear the problem in someone else's words to realise that they already know how to solve it.

Strategies for developing Social Interaction and Relationship Building skills:

- Active Listening Practice: Focused listening during conversations. Practicing active listening involves truly hearing the other person, asking follow-up questions, and showing genuine interest in what they're saying.
- Team-Based Activities: These activities foster cooperation and communication.
- Role-Playing Scenarios: Simulate real-life social situations. This approach allows individuals to practice responses and develop confidence in interacting with others.
- Empathy-Building Exercises: Activities that encourage empathy, like sharing personal stories, discussing diverse perspectives, or engaging in community service. These exercises help to understand and connect with others on a deeper level.
- Networking Events: Participation in networking events or social gatherings where individuals can meet new people and practice introducing themselves, making small talk, and building connections.
- Mentoring Programs: Mentoring relationships where more experienced individuals guide others. This not only fosters a sense of community but also provides opportunities for learning and building strong relationships.
- Group Discussions and Workshops: Group discussions or workshops on topics of interest. These settings encourage interaction, debate, and shared learning, promoting relationship building.
- Feedback and Communication Training: Giving and receiving feedback constructively. This skill is vital for building healthy relationships and improving communication.
- Volunteering and Community Service: This not only builds social interaction skills but also cultivates a sense of community and teamwork.
- Conflict Resolution Workshops: Learning to navigate disagreements and finding common ground is key to maintaining healthy relationships.

3.5 - Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking

Help them develop the capacity to critically analyze situations, considering cultural and accessibility factors. Encourage the ability to address challenges related to cultural differences and accessibility issues effectively.

3.7 - Advocacy Skills

Equip individuals with the ability to advocate for their own needs and the needs of others, especially in the context of disabilities.

Theory:

Advocacy involves promoting and defending a person's rights, needs, and interests. An advocate is someone who speaks up for themselves or others. While many people can advocate for their own rights, needs, and interests, some find it challenging. One way to promote inclusion and broaden opportunities for people with disabilities or special educational needs (SEN) is to raise disability awareness in society. Advocacy skills help individuals speak up, make informed decisions, and take action to protect their rights. These skills are crucial, especially for those with disabilities or SEN, to ensure their needs are met and their voices heard. Key components of advocacy include understanding one's rights, effective communication, problem-solving, and resilience. Advocacy can be self-advocacy, where individuals represent their interests, or group advocacy, where people work together for a common cause. By learning self-advocacy skills, people with disabilities or SEN can assert their rights, take control of their lives, and make decisions for themselves. It should be learned by all individuals entering adulthood, particularly those with disabilities.

How it relates to youth work:

In youth work, advocacy skills are crucial for empowering young people, particularly those with disabilities or special educational needs (SEN), to become active members of their communities. Youth workers play a vital role in nurturing these skills through education, mentorship, and creating supportive environments where young voices are valued. By fostering advocacy skills, youth workers empower young individuals to navigate challenges, seek support, assert their rights, promote inclusion, confront exclusionary practices, create inclusive environments, build confidence, develop self-efficacy, and participate in decisions affecting their lives, fostering a sense of agency and responsibility. To enhance advocacy skills in young people, it's important to focus on developing their communication and leadership skills, while also ensuring they have a strong sense of their rights and how to assert them. Mentoring and peer support are also valuable approaches, particularly for young people with SEN, as they can promote positive relationships, independence, and social integration.

Examples Scenarios:

A scenario could be that a group of young people with disabilities want to advocate for accessible transportation in their city. The public transportation system lacks ramps and other accommodations, making it difficult for people with mobility issues to use the service. By reaching out to a youth organisation, a youth worker helps the group by organizing advocacy and community engagement workshops. In these workshops, the young advocates learn about their rights, identify issues, and to communicate effectively with decision-makers. Together with the youth worker's assistance they prepare their proposal and present it to the city council in hopes of getting a more accessible public transportation.

Strategies for developing Advocacy skills:

- Education and awareness: Provide information on rights and resources available to individuals with disabilities and SEN. Educate on the importance of advocacy and how it can impact their lives.
- Role-Playing and simulations: Use role-playing activities to practice advocacy scenarios, such as requesting accommodations or addressing exclusion. This builds confidence and prepares individuals for real-life situations.
- Mentorship and peer support: Pair young individuals with mentors who can guide them in developing advocacy skills. Encourage peer support groups where participants can share experiences and strategies.
- Communication skills training: Focus on developing effective communication skills, including assertiveness, active listening, and clarity in expressing needs and desires.
- Problem-solving activities: Encourage problem-solving through group activities and discussions. Teach individuals to identify challenges, explore solutions, and take appropriate action.
- Empowerment workshops: Organize workshops focused on empowerment, self-efficacy, and resilience. Try including topics such as building confidence, overcoming obstacles, and setting personal goals.

3.8 - Self-Awareness and Identity Development

Encourage youth to explore and understand one's own cultural identity and how it intersects with other aspects of identity, including disability. Empower them to communicate their unique needs confidently.

Theory:

Self-awareness and identity development are integral components of personal growth and understanding. Self-awareness involves recognizing and understanding one's own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, while identity development entails the exploration and formation of one's beliefs, values, and sense of self. This process often involves reflection, introspection, and experiences that shape and refine an individual's understanding of who they are. By cultivating self-awareness and engaging in identity development, individuals can gain clarity, confidence, and a stronger sense of purpose in navigating their lives and relationships.

How it relates to youth work:

In youth work, fostering self-awareness and supporting identity development are crucial aspects of promoting positive youth development. Youth workers can create safe and supportive environments where young people feel comfortable exploring their thoughts, feelings, and identities. Through activities such as group discussions, reflective exercises, and creative expression, youth workers can encourage self-reflection and help youth explore their values, interests, and goals. By providing guidance, validation, and resources, young people can be empowered to develop a strong sense of self with confidence and resilience. Additionally, promoting self-awareness and identity development can contribute to building positive relationships and fostering social connections.

Examples Scenarios:

A scenario could be that the employer organizes a workshop focused on identity exploration. During the workshop, participants can engage in activities such as small group discussions and creative projects where they can focus and reflect on their cultural backgrounds, personal values and aspirations. In this way, youth people are encouraged to explore and celebrate their unique identities and recognize the existing diversity in the group. Another example scenario could be hosting a career exploration and goal setting event, where professionals from different fields share their career journeys and insights. Following the presentation, youth are invited to reflect their own interests, skills and values in relation to their future career paths.

Strategies for developing ... skills:

- Doing reflection exercises, like mindfulness. This allows each person to explore the thoughts, emotions and experiences, leading to greater self-awareness and insight into their identity.

- Strengths assessment: facilitate activities that help each person identify and leverage their strengths. Personality assessments or strengths surveys can be used.
- Feedback and self-assessment: provide young people with constructive feedback by encouraging peers, mentors or other people they trust to offer feedback on strengths, areas for growth and interpersonal skills, fostering self-awareness and growth mindset.

3.9 - Collaboration and Teamwork

Cultivate the ability to work effectively in diverse teams. Promote the creation of inclusive environments where teamwork is based on mutual respect and understanding.

3.10 - Intercultural Aspects

The aim is for young people to develop an understanding of cultural diversity to enable them to respond appropriately in different intercultural situations and to understand their counterparts correctly.

Theory:

Increased globalization trends are leading to more and more intercultural overlap situations. People from culturally different contexts come into contact with each other, whether professionally or privately. In addition to understanding, these encounters automatically give rise to conflicts or misunderstandings because cultural world views and values are interpreted differently. Intercultural competence is required in order to behave appropriately in these situations and to shape them positively.

How it relates to youth work:

Due to the wave of globalization, today's youth workers are increasingly confronted with the most diverse cultures and religions, which must be understood as well as their differences accepted and classified.

The development of intercultural skills therefore enables youth workers to deal respectfully with other cultures, to accept their views and values without judgment and to respond accordingly without neglecting their own cultural background.

Examples Scenarios:

Two students with headscarves are excluded by their classmates because of their traditional clothing and view of religion and are not accepted because their classmates do not understand their worldview. At this point it is the youth worker's job to become aware of the situation. Thanks to the intercultural competence of the youth worker, he is able to mediate between both fronts, i.e. to explain what the burka means for the young girls, what their worldview is and, on the other hand, he also explains to the students what life is like on site (the school, in the country) and what effect traditional and foreign clothing (can) have on young people. Through this intervention, the youth worker creates a respectful understanding on both sides and a trusting situation.

Strategies for developing intercultural and communication skills:

- Examine your own and other cultures through, for example, experiences abroad in order to differentiate your own culture from other cultures
- In conflict situations, reflect on your own and other people's behavior and look at them objectively in order to recognize what the mistake was. Best case scenario: do a perspective change.

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Listening carefully prevents linguistic misunderstandings. If something is not understood, ask again and have it explained to you

- Accept your counterpart as he/she is and strive to understand him/her in his/her thoughts/actions. Be empathetic!

By incorporating these learning outcomes into intercultural programs, educators can contribute to the development of well-rounded individuals who possess the skills and attitudes needed for effective social interaction, empathy and cultural awareness, among many other subskills.

Offer guidance on how to integrate these technologies into educational activities, ensuring all students can participate fully and effectively.

Assistive technology refers to tools, devices, or systems designed to support individuals with unique needs in performing tasks they might otherwise find challenging. This can encompass a wide range of technologies aimed at breaking down barriers and promoting inclusivity. In the context of education, the integration of assistive technology has become increasingly prevalent, creating opportunities for a more inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Educator awareness and competence with assistive technology play a crucial role in fostering such an environment.

The base of assistive technology is considered to be computers, phones, the internet and other devices.

Text-to-Speech Software:

(TTS) software converts written text into spoken words, benefiting individuals with reading difficulties or visual impairments. It includes learning by providing an alternative way for students to access written information. - Allow students to use the software to listen to the text while following along visually. This supports students with dyslexia, visual impairments, or those who benefit from auditory learning.

Speech-to-Text Software:

The software transcribes spoken words into written text, aiding individuals with writing difficulties or speech impediments. Speech-to-text technology enables students to express themselves in written form. - During writing assignments or note-taking activities, provide students with the option to use speech-to-text software. This accommodates students with writing difficulties, motor skill challenges, or those who find it easier to express themselves verbally.

Screen Readers:

They interpret digital content and convert it into audible or tactile output, benefiting individuals with visual impairments. Screen readers make digital materials, websites, and applications accessible to students with visual disabilities.

- Ensure that all digital materials, including presentations, documents, and websites, are compatible with screen readers. Encourage students with visual impairments to use screen readers for accessing online content, fostering independent learning.

Closed Captioning and Subtitles:

These subtitles provide text descriptions of spoken content in videos, benefiting individuals with hearing impairments or those who prefer written reinforcement. Incorporating closed captioning and subtitles in educational videos ensures that all students, including those with hearing impairments, can comprehend the content.

- When using educational videos or multimedia content, enable closed captioning or subtitles.

Accessible Learning Platforms:

Learning management systems and educational platforms with accessibility features prioritize a user-friendly experience for individuals with diverse needs.

- Choose learning platforms that prioritize accessibility features. Ensure that the platform allows customizable settings, clear navigation, and compatibility with assistive technologies. This benefits students with diverse needs and ensures an inclusive online learning environment.

Mind-Mapping Software:

It allows users to create visual diagrams that represent relationships between ideas, concepts, or tasks. Users can organize information hierarchically and make connections between different elements. It helps organize thoughts, plan projects, and enhance understanding of complex topics.

- Incorporate mind-mapping software into brainstorming sessions or project planning activities. Encourage students to visually map out ideas, connections, and concepts. This also supports visual learners and enhances organization and understanding.

Brainstorming Apps:

They facilitate the generation of ideas through collaborative or individual brainstorming sessions. These tools often include features like real-time collaboration, idea categorization, and multimedia integration. Brainstorming apps encourage active participation and idea-sharing. They cater to different learning preferences and allow students to contribute in ways that suit their strengths, fostering a more inclusive learning environment.

- Use brainstorming apps for collaborative group activities.

Designing and implementing learning programs to strengthen active social participation among young People with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs in Europe, particularly in the context of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, requires thoughtful planning and innovative pedagogic solutions.

Step 1: Understand the Basics

Define the Learning Program Parameters:

Determine the purpose, target group, outcomes, strategies, and required resources

Focus on Learners' Needs:

Keep learners' needs in mind during design. Ask yourself questions such as: What is useful to them? What is a logical flow of information? What delivery mode is best suited to their needs?

Needs Assessment and Understanding:

Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to understand the specific challenges faced by young PwD and SEN learners.

Step 2: Develop Learning Program Content

Identify Program Elements:

Clearly define the purpose, target group, outcomes, learning and assessment strategies, and required resources. You should specify learning objectives, plan for achieving objectives, structure and sequence for learning, and content. Focus on fostering social participation, inclusivity, and addressing the challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

Create Comprehensive Content:

Develop content considering the specific needs of the learners and address competency standards, learning objectives, and real-life application of knowledge and skills.

Personalized Learning Plans:

Develop personalized learning plans for each student, considering their strengths, challenges, and preferred learning styles.

Adapted Curriculum:

Modify the curriculum to accommodate different learning abilities and ensure it aligns with the national curriculum standards.

You should always collaborate with parents, caregivers, advocacy groups, and relevant organizations to gain insights into the unique needs and preferences of the learners.

Step 3: Digital tools and Activities**Technology Integration:**

Leverage digital tools and platforms to facilitate remote learning and engagement. Make sure to provide training for educators, parents, and students on using assistive technologies.

Accessible Learning Materials:

Ensure that all learning materials, including textbooks, presentations, and assessments, are accessible and adaptable for various disabilities.

Step 4: Structure the Learning Program**Create a Program Delivery Plan:**

Develop a plan outlining each component of the program- include competencies, learning outcomes, content, tasks, practice opportunities, and assessment points.

Map Program to a Timeframe:

Clearly outline the timeframe for the program. Consider the time allocated to each component and how it enhances the learning experience.

Regular Assessments and Feedback:

Implement regular assessments to monitor progress and provide constructive feedback to students, encourage self-assessment and reflection.

Step 4: Review and Gain Approval**Review the Learning Program:**

Conduct a thorough review of the learning program. Ensure alignment with requirements, learner needs, and standards.

Ongoing Considerations:

Cultural Competence: Foster cultural competence among educators to create an environment that respects and values diverse cultural backgrounds.

Peer Support Programs: Establish peer support programs where students can assist and learn from each other, fostering a sense of community.

Accessible Physical Spaces: Ensure that physical learning spaces are accessible, considering factors like ramps, elevators, and sensory-friendly environments.

Global Collaboration: Explore opportunities for collaboration with international organizations and educators to share best practices and resources.

Remember, the key is to create an inclusive and supportive learning ecosystem that empowers young PwD and SEN learners to actively participate in social and educational activities. Adjustments and innovations should be made based on the evolving needs of the learners and the challenges presented by external factors like the ongoing pandemic.

06

Examples of Inclusive Intercultural Practices

TFN

[Inclusive teaching and learning - case studies of good practice - University of Plymouth](#)

[DivCap-IO3-Part1-Collected-CaseStudies.pdf \(diversitycapacities.eu\)](#)

Resources:

["Inclusion Culture" - Promoting Leadership in Intercultural Understanding within Mixed-ability Groups - AHEAD](#)

[35 Best Intercultural Learning Activities - BitGlint](#)

[ICL@School-Toolbox-final-1.pdf \(intercultural-learning.eu\)](#)

Intercultural learning classroom activities

<https://intercultural-learning.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ICL@School-Toolbox-final-1.pdf>

Activities for everyone everywhere

<https://www.cnh.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Activities-for-everyone-everywhere-An-Intercultural-Physical-Activity-Guide-FINAL-2016.pdf>

Empathy and Perspective-Taking:

[Perspective-Taking vs Empathy - Brian Miller, The Connection Magician \(brianmillerspeaks.com\)](#)

[Developing Empathy: How to Strengthen Perspective Taking Skills | Everyday Speech](#)

Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity:

[Culturally-Competent-Youth-Work-2016.pdf \(cmy.net.au\)](#)

[A Youth Leader's Guide to Building Cultural Competence \(advocatesforyouth.org\)](#)

Effective Communication Skills:

[Effective communication in youth work | International Youth Studies - \(teachable.com\)](#)

[What Is Effective Communication? Skills for Work, School, and Life | Coursera](#)

Assistive Technology and Accessibility:

[Inclusive Education with Assistive Technology – Technology and the Curriculum: Summer 2023 \(pressbooks.pub\)](#)

[Youth to Youth - Assistive Technology \(youth2youth.ca\)](#)

Designing Inclusive Learning Programs

[esigning Inclusive Learning Environments > Teacher Course \(teacheracademy.eu\)](#)

[Designing a Learning Program - Sydney Community College](#)

[5 Steps To Building Stronger Employees: Create A Training Program That Works \(elearningindustry.com\)](#)

Inclusive education and Supporting interculturalism in youth work

[Universidade de Évora - Inclusive Education: A Casebook for Good Practices](#)

[A Guide to Creating Inclusive Classrooms for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Supporting interculturalism in youth work](#)



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Advanced Measurements of Responses to the Challenges of Social Skills development in a digital era



CHAPTER 2



GUIDELINES FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

01

Introduction to Inclusive Education

The term "inclusion" has many different meanings. We can interpret the concept as acceptance and belonging to schools and other social institutions. As an educational practice, inclusion for students with special needs means attending regular elementary school and achieving knowledge standards in the general curriculum and other extracurricular activities together with peers who do not have learning difficulties (Kosi 2020).

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 4 which aims to "**Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning,**" hinges on addressing the global needs of children with disabilities. Without incorporating their needs, these educational objectives cannot be fully realized (UN 2016). Inclusive education namely ensures that all students, regardless of their abilities or disabilities, have access to quality education.

In 2022, **27% of the EU population over the age of 16 had some form of disability.** According to Eurostat estimates, **that equals to 101 million people or one in four people adults in the EU.** Further statistics show that **17.7% of people with disabilities aged 20-26 were unemployed in 2020,** compared with 8.6% of people without disabilities from the same age group. The rate of early school-leaving is double for people with a disability compared to non-disabled people. Many young people with a disability attend special schools and have difficulties accessing mainstream education and training: only 29% obtain a tertiary degree (post-secondary education) compared with 44% of people without disabilities.

To ensure that educational systems are accessible to all students, it is essential to adopt a multi-faceted approach that addresses various barriers:

Physical barriers can be eliminated by redesigning school infrastructures to be universally accessible, ensuring that buildings are equipped with ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms.

Communication barriers can be addressed by incorporating assistive technologies and communication aids in the classroom, such as speech-to-text software, sign language interpreters, and visual aids.

Cognitive barriers require the implementation of personalized learning strategies that cater to diverse learning needs, including the use of simplified language, alternative assessment methods, and the provision of additional time tasks.

By systematically addressing these barriers, educational systems can become more inclusive, allowing students of all abilities to participate fully in their education (European Commission 2023a).

Inclusive education is therefore a **continuous process that takes into account the diversity of students**. Many teachers have a misconception about inclusive education, believing that it is intended only for children with special needs, but **this is not true**. **Inclusive education is intended for all students**, but it is indispensable for children with special needs (Kosi 2020).

Equitable education and training systems don't mean that everyone achieves the same educational levels or scores. Rather, **these systems aim to make sure that a young person's success in education is not determined by their personal situation**, like their family's income, their parents' jobs, or how much education their parents had. Additionally, inclusive education and training systems pay attention to and address the specific challenges and needs faced by different groups of people within the population, especially people with disabilities and special educational needs. This chapter outlines the importance of inclusive education across the European Union, specifically focusing on specific policies and guidelines from partner countries.

Legal frameworks and policy background of inclusive education

Recognition of inclusion as a key catalyst for educational transformation and a primary objective on the global political stage is growing. The UN Convention on the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)** recognizes the right to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities.

The political agendas of many countries promote reforms aimed at developing more inclusive education systems (OECD 2015 in Azorin & Ainscow 2018). In this respect, the Education 2030 initiative represents an important step forward, where the priority is clear: to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (UNESCO 2015a in Azorin & Ainscow 2018).

Inclusive education has also been underpinned by various other legal frameworks and policies across the European Union. These frameworks provide the basis for implementing inclusive practices in educational settings.

The European Commission has launched several initiatives to promote inclusive education environments that embrace diversity and help students feel valued, respected, and included. The importance of inclusion, diversity and well-being in one's learning environment is one of the main pillars of the European Education Area, which the Commission presented in 2020 (Euridyce 2023).

Modifying learning environments, methods, and assessments to accommodate the individual needs of students involves **a shift towards a more flexible and responsive educational model**. This means **creating adaptive learning materials** that can be **customized for different learning styles and abilities**, such as digital textbooks that can be adjusted for font size or read aloud. Teachers should employ a variety of teaching methods to cater to a broad range of learning preferences, including visual, auditory, kinaesthetic, and tactile learning styles. Furthermore, **assessments should be designed to fairly evaluate the abilities of all students**, which might include alternative formats like oral presentations, projects, or portfolios, in addition to traditional written exams. This tailored approach ensures that all students have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and skills in a manner that reflects their individual strengths (European Commission 2023a).

In December 2017, the European Council, European Parliament, and the Commission supported the establishment of the **European Pillar of Social Rights**. This accord emphasizes the significance of social, educational, and cultural aspects of EU policies in shaping a unified European destiny.

The initial principle of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** emphasizes:

“Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market” (European Commission 2023a).

This vision was further supported in a Commission Communication on the role of youth, education and cultural policies in building a stronger Europe, which stated that one of the objectives of the European Education Area should be to **support EU Member States in improving the inclusive nature of their education and training systems.**

Following proposals from the Commission, several policy initiatives have already been adopted:

- **Key Competences for Lifelong Learning** (Council Recommendation)
- **Promoting common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching** (Council Recommendation)

Member States' progress towards achieving inclusive education is monitored through the **European Semester process and the Education and Training Monitor**. The Monitor also provides evidence on the role of education in fighting inequalities and promoting social inclusion (European Commission 2023a).

The European Semester process, alongside the Education and Training Monitor, serves as the mechanism for overseeing the advancement of Member States towards the goal of inclusive education. Additionally, the Monitor supplies insights regarding how education contributes to combating inequalities and fostering social inclusion.

Education and Training Monitor 2023 (Country Report Tool)

The Education and Training Monitor is the European Commission's annual report on EU education and training systems, and their progress towards achieving the EU-level targets, which were adopted as part of the 2021 Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area (European Commission 2023b).

Also, global guidelines on inclusive education exist to foster environments where every learner's needs are met. These guidelines, informed by research and best practices, aim to enhance educational inclusivity. For those seeking comprehensive insights and strategies, the following resources are essential:

- **UNICEF's overview of inclusive education** sheds light on the global principles and practices that underpin inclusive learning environments.
- **The Guide for Disabilities Inclusive Education Systems and Policies in Low- and Middle-Income Countries** offers practical approaches for integrating children with disabilities into mainstream educational settings.

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The growing prevalence of digital solutions in daily life drives the need for systemic change based on digital transformation in general and, more specifically, in inclusive education systems.

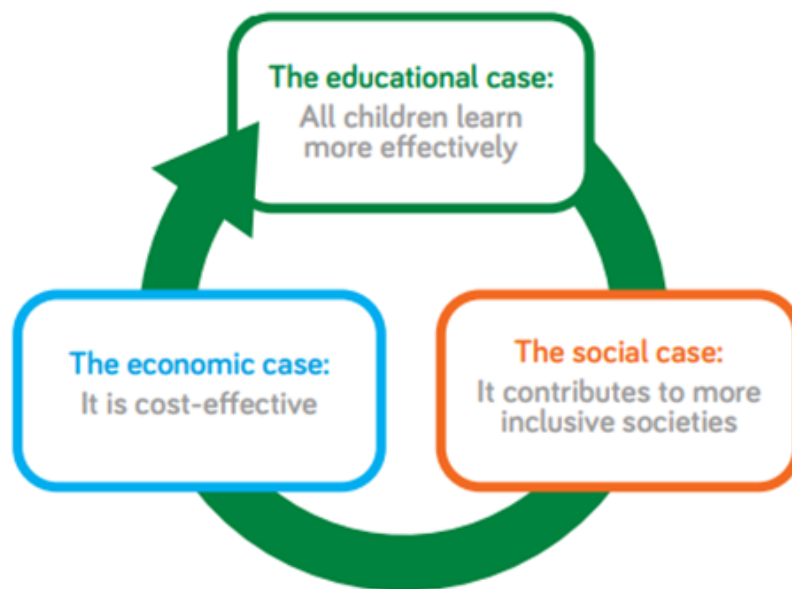
The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (the Agency) asserts that the ultimate vision for inclusive education systems is to **ensure that all learners of any age are provided with meaningful, high-quality educational opportunities in their local community, alongside their friends and peers**. This also requires a systemic change that considers all levels of the education system.

The European Commission's Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) outlines several actions to promote inclusive education. These include blended learning approaches, ethical guidelines for AI and data in teaching, and fostering digital literacy to tackle disinformation

Understanding the inclusive education system

Developing an inclusive system implies a shift from seeing the child with a disability or special educational needs as the problem to seeing the education system as something that must be strengthened to better serve the child. It requires **strong commitments from local government, ministries, administrators, teachers, parents, and citizens** (Hayes and Bulat 2017, 14).

As mentioned by Unicef (2017), **inclusive education improves learning for all children – both those with and without disabilities** - it promotes understanding, reduces prejudice and strengthens social integration and it ensures that children with disabilities are equipped to work and contribute economically and socially to their communities (Unicef 2017, 2).



Although there are many obstacles to implementing inclusive education, the thoughtful **integration of digital technologies can enhance the teaching and learning process, improve accessibility** for those who require it, and **offer more personalized learning experiences**. If used appropriately, **digital tools can contribute to more inclusive education** systems (OECD 2023, 14).

In recent years, the rapid advancement of technology, along with changes in attitudes and policies aimed at promoting more equitable educational opportunities for everyone, has created new priorities and demands for inclusive digital education and blended learning. This is also at the core of the European Union's Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) policy initiative, which 'offers a long-term strategic vision for high quality, inclusive and accessible European digital education (EASNIE 2023C, 9).

The **European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education** are an independent organisation that acts as a platform for collaboration for the ministries of education in their member countries, of which Slovenia, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Germany and Bulgaria are part of (EASNIE 2023).

Their work is mainly focused on supporting the development of inclusive education systems to ensure every learner's right to inclusive and equitable educational opportunities, which enhances the learners' life chances and possibilities for actively participating in society.

Their **Inclusive Digital Education Report** examines the need for inclusive education and digital transformation to be considered in an interrelated way. It analyses research, policy, practice trends and expert views, giving an overview of developments and highlighting issues in inclusive digital education that still need to be addressed.

The vision of inclusive (and digital) education:

- involves all levels of the education system – from the individual (learners and teachers), to the organisational (schools), to the regional or national level;
- addresses inclusion, exclusion, digitalisation and the digital divide as interconnected, interdependent cross-cutting issues;
- is anchored in the education system's structures to foster resilient education systems that offer equitable education opportunities for all learners;
- is based on digital transformation that goes far beyond merely applying digital technologies in education (EASNIE 2022, 1).

What needs to be done to enable inclusive education?



To reach the target of inclusive education - even digital - Unicef (2017) suggests the following requirement to be met:

- **Commitment and investments from education ministries** – it takes time and money to change systems.
- **Support for teachers and students** – teachers need training and guidance, and students need to be provided with services to overcome barriers to learning.
- **Promotion of respect for diversity and inclusive learning** – action is needed to challenge negative attitudes and prejudice against children with disabilities. High expectations of all students – teachers need to invest in and support all children.
- **Safe and inclusive environments** – children cannot learn if they are frightened either of teachers or bullying from other children.
- **Partnerships between parents, organisations of people with disabilities and schools** – inclusive education will benefit from the widest possible experience and knowledge.
- **Systems to monitor progress** – it is vital to measure whether the situation is improving, and if not, what further changes are needed (Unicef 2017, 3).

Using digital technologies in a way that includes everyone benefits many people, like students, teachers, parents, and local communities. Teachers, in particular, find technology very helpful because it makes it easier for them to join online training sessions, connect with other teachers online, and lessen their workload. For instance, with the help of tools like **learning analytics and artificial intelligence**, teachers can manage their classrooms more efficiently. This means they have to spend less time on repetitive tasks, giving them more time for other important activities (summarized after OECD 2023, 29).

Teacher and Staff training and ongoing professional development are crucial for the successful implementation of inclusive digital education. In the realm of education, it's essential for both policy and practice to consider key factors that impact students' engagement with digital learning:

- First, there's a need to recognize and raise awareness about how some students might be at risk of being left behind, especially in digital learning environments. This includes understanding how a student's background— like their disabilities or special educational needs —can affect their ability to participate fully in digital education.
- Second, it's important to ensure that every student has not just access to digital education, but also the opportunity to actively engage and even contribute to the creation of digital tools that support their learning. The untapped knowledge and skills that students, along with their families and friends, possess can be invaluable in shaping and refining new educational technologies.

The Inclusive **Digital Education Report** suggests, that teachers often need more skills in using digital tools. It's important for their training and ongoing learning to improve these skills regularly. They should know how to use technology and how to choose the right digital learning materials. They also need to create learning spaces that work for all students, considering each one's likes, abilities, or strengths. When teachers bring digital tools into the classroom, they have to think carefully about what's good and bad about using these tools, like how they handle student information and what they need to work properly.

When creating and applying disability-inclusive education programs, practitioners must grasp the subtleties of disability and the resources needed for high-quality, fair education for learners with disabilities. The most effective method to comprehend the complexities and requirements of the disability community is to collaborate and engage with Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs).

Engaging parents and the wider community (social workers, youth workers, tutors etc.) is essential in supporting inclusive education. As mentioned by OECD (2023), technology in education extends its benefits beyond the classroom, enhancing connections and communication among parents, schools, and the broader community. It supports greater collaboration by making it easier for parents to engage with schools through digital tools.

For instance, digital translation services help non-native language speakers participate more fully, and virtual meetings can overcome logistical barriers like childcare, work schedules, and transportation issues. However, challenges remain, such as parents' limited time due to work and family duties, particularly in single-parent families, and a lack of digital skills, which can hinder effective support for children's digital learning.

For digital tools to truly serve their users' needs, including parents and teachers, it's crucial to consider their feedback during development and monitoring, aiming for equitable and inclusive educational outcomes (summarized after OECD 2023, 30).

Teachers require backing from their schools to get the right training and advice. It's important for everyone involved—like teachers, principals, school staff, the community, education authorities, lawmakers, and families—to work together. This helps figure out what systems and digital tools each student needs. While there are official ways for these groups to share ideas, they're using social media more and more to talk to each other (EASNIE 2023c, 3).

Comprehensive training programs that cover a wide range of topics, including understanding different types of disabilities, effective communication strategies, and adaptive teaching methods are required. Staff should also be trained in the use of assistive technologies and how to modify curriculum materials to meet diverse needs. Additionally, fostering an inclusive mind set and empathetic understanding among educators and staff is essential for creating a supportive and welcoming learning environment for all students.

EASNIE suggest that regarding digitalisation, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that digital and inclusive education promote greater system resilience. Organisations that had prepared for inclusive digital education before COVID-19 also seemed to fare better in the crisis.

Summary

To summarize everything that has been presented so far, we advise the following actions to assure inclusive digital education:

1. Adaptation of Access to Education

Objective: Customize digital education experiences to meet the unique needs of each learner, which will ensure that no one is left behind.

Actions:

- Implement adaptive learning technologies that adjust to the learning pace and style of each student.
- Offer a range of accessible content formats (text, video, interactive simulations etc.) for different abilities and preferences, which will ensure a personalized learning journey for every student involved.

Hint:

- **European Schoolnet**, a network of 34 European Ministries of Education, provides innovative teaching and learning resources to promote digital and inclusive education across Europe. Visit European Schoolnet: <https://www.europeanschoolnetacademy.eu/>

2. Provide Adequate Training and Resources for Educators

Objective: Educators should have comprehensive training and a variety of ICT resources to effectively teach students with diverse needs and learning preferences in a digital setting. They should be able to effectively use at least some of the presented resources.

Actions:

- Develop and/or provide access to professional development programs focused on inclusive teaching strategies and digital tools. The educator should choose which of the presented resources is best suitable for the specific student or group of students.
- Find relevant and adaptive digital resources and educational materials that cater to a broad spectrum of learning styles and needs.

Hints:

- The Teacher Academy by School Education Gateway offers free online professional development courses and materials for teachers on various topics, including inclusive education. Visit their webpage: <https://www.teacheracademy.eu/>
- Coursera offers courses on inclusive teaching and learning practices (<https://www.coursera.org/>) that educators can use to enhance their skills in addressing diverse learning needs.

3. Provide Financial Support for Digital Learning Platforms

Objective: The educational institutions should ensure ongoing and adequate financial support for digital learning platforms to assure fully inclusive digital activities and services (no matter the social-economical background of a student or a group of students).

Actions:

- Advocate for funding models that prioritize inclusivity in digital education.
- Look for digital platforms, that are affordable to the learning group.
- Implement strategies for the sustainable development of inclusive digital learning environments.
- Funding structures need to be adjusted to ensure that schools accepting students with special needs are provided with the extra financial support required.

Hints:

- The School Education Gateway, supported by the European Commission, offers a platform for teachers to find and share resources and training, supporting inclusive digital education at no cost: <https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en>
- Google for Education (<https://edu.google.com/>) offers free and low-cost tools that schools can use to enhance learning, collaboration, and communication among students of all backgrounds.

4. Empowering Parents

Objective: Help parents to support their children's right to be included and learn alongside everyone else in online classrooms and other digital platforms.

Actions:

- Provide information and (free) resources to parents about the rights to inclusive education and present the possibilities digital learning environments offer their children.
- Organize workshops and support groups (by social workers, youth workers, tutors etc.) to empower parents to use and get to know digital education systems better and present them the inclusive practices.

Hints:

- **The Better Internet for Kids (BIK)** portal, funded by the European Commission, offers resources and events aimed at improving children's digital literacy, including resources for parents to help guide their children's online activities.

Website: <https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/practice/youth>

- **The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education** offers advice and resources for parents to support inclusive education, including digital learning tools. Visit their page for more information and materials: <https://www.european-agency.org/>

5. Community Engagement in Digital Education

Objective: Foster a community-wide approach (teachers, tutors, youth workers, social workers etc.) to inclusive digital education by encouraging collaboration among all stakeholders on all needed fields.

Actions:

- Create forums and collaborative platforms for the **above mentioned** stakeholders to contribute to the design, delivery, and monitoring of inclusive digital education.
- Encourage participatory decision-making processes that include voices from across the educational community.

Hints:

▪ **eTwinning** is a platform for teachers in Europe that fosters collaboration on educational projects, including those focused on inclusive education. Teachers, youth workers, educators, parents, and students can work together on projects that promote digital learning: <https://school-education.ec.europa.eu/en/etwinning>

Suggestions for an effective implementation:

- Regularly review and update training programs and resources to ensure they remain relevant and effective.
- Establish partnerships with local and national stakeholders and educational organizations to enhance the quality and accessibility of digital learning tools.
- To only make digital technologies accessible will not ensure equal education by itself. Teachers, parents and other stakeholders need to make sure children have adequate skills for using digital resources and keep their motivation high.
- Try using social media platforms and other communication tools to raise awareness, share ideas and build a supportive community for an effective inclusive digital education.
- Implement feedback mechanisms (questionnaires, reflections after each class etc.) to continually assess the effectiveness of the inclusive practices that have been used and make necessary adjustments.
- Young individuals often struggle with verbal communication, so it's better to observe their behavior instead of quickly attributing their actions to their condition. They could be experiencing trauma or facing an unusually stressful period. Some people, when feeling emotionally vulnerable, feel compelled to manage something in their physical surroundings, and expecting them to express this verbally is unlikely to be effective.
- When communicating with young people who have intellectual disabilities, be adaptable and let them take the lead as often as they feel comfortable to foster their sense of independence. Listening to, respecting, and validating their feelings can help them move from a potential state of silent defense to one of progress.

Conclusion

Inclusive digital education is a key way to make education fair and varied, not just in Europe but all over the world. This detailed look at inclusive education shows how crucial it is to use digital tools and other methods to help every student. By changing the way education is given to suit different needs, training teachers specifically, supporting digital learning financially, and getting the community involved, the goal is to make sure every student gets the support they need. This method helps not just students who need extra support but improves learning for everyone. It leads to a greater appreciation of everyone's differences in schools and other learning environments.

As mentioned above, the commitment to inclusive digital education requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders, including policymakers, educators, parents, and the broader community (youth workers, tutors, NGOs etc.). The policies and practices discussed in this chapter reflect a growing recognition of the importance of inclusivity and diversity in shaping the future of education. Through ongoing evaluation, collaboration, and the embrace of digital transformation, we can advance towards an educational landscape where every student has the opportunity to succeed and thrive in a supportive, inclusive environment. This vision of education is not just a goal but a necessary foundation for building a more inclusive, knowledgeable, and cohesive society.

The AMOR Guidelines for Inclusive Education outline specific learning outcomes and guidelines that enable educators to better serve the needs of youth with disabilities, special educational needs (SEN), and others, thus promoting their integration into society, personal growth, and psychological health. With our approach we not only try to address the educational requirements of students with various (dis)abilities but also try to enhance the overall quality of education, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 4 which emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

The Guidelines suggest a comprehensive approach to make education more accessible for everyone. By doing so, it will ensure that students of all abilities are fully included in their educational journey.

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- <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eac/education-and-training-monitor-2022/en/country-reports/slovenia.html>



A.M.O.R.

Advanced Measurements of Responses to the Challenges of Social Skills development in a digital era



CHAPTER 3



Chapter 3 of AMOR Handbook consists of a tools collection based on the findings of WP2 and uses the newly developed indicators to evaluate the tools of WP2. Thus, it provides an approved “starter-kit” of tools ready to use for teaching staff and learners to support the improvement of skills for an active social participation of young people, especially with disabilities and SEN. The presented tools are accessible, self-explaining and easy to use, and are divided in two categories: energizers and inclusive intercultural activities.

Energizers are usually short, engaging exercises or games designed to boost students' energy levels, improve focus, and create a positive, active learning environment. These activities are usually quick, lasting anywhere from a few minutes to around 10 minutes, and can be physical, mental, or a mix of both. They are often used between lessons or during transitions to help students reset, re-engage, and be ready for the next task.



The main goals of energizer activities include:

- **Recharging Students:** They provide a quick break to refresh students' minds and bodies, especially during long periods of sitting or concentration.
- **Improving Focus:** By stimulating movement or interaction, energizers can help refocus attention and enhance cognitive performance.
- **Building Social Skills:** Many energizer activities involve group work, which can promote teamwork, communication, and positive social interactions.
- **Creating a Positive Atmosphere:** Energizers are often fun and light-hearted, contributing to a joyful and inclusive classroom environment.

Concerning inclusive intercultural tools/activities, they refer to strategies, exercises, or resources designed to promote understanding, respect, and appreciation of diverse cultural backgrounds among students. These tools and activities aim to create an inclusive environment where all students feel valued and recognized, regardless of their cultural, ethnic, or linguistic backgrounds. They are used to foster intercultural competence, reduce biases, and encourage positive interactions between students from different cultures.

Key aspects of inclusive intercultural tools/activities include:

- **Celebrating Diversity:** These activities highlight and celebrate the unique cultural contributions of each student, creating a sense of pride and belonging.
- **Building Cultural Awareness:** They help students learn about and reflect on their own culture and others, promoting empathy, curiosity, and open-mindedness.

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- Encouraging Interaction and Dialogue: Many activities are designed to facilitate dialogue and interaction between students from different cultural backgrounds, encouraging them to share experiences and learn from one another.
 - Reducing Stereotypes and Bias: These tools aim to challenge stereotypes and prejudices by exposing students to diverse perspectives and fostering critical thinking.
 - Overall, these tools and activities are integral to creating a learning environment that respects and values diversity, supports inclusion, and prepares students to thrive in a multicultural world.
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02 Energizers

Energizer 1 | Speed Networking

MAIN TOPIC: Building connections and improving social skills

OBJECTIVES:

- Enhance participants' ability to introduce themselves and engage in conversation.
- Foster active listening and effective communication skills.
- Create opportunities for participants to meet and network with new people.
- Encourage the formation of new friendships and professional connections.
- Increase participants' confidence in social settings and public speaking.
- Ensure that all participants feel included and valued in the group.
- Promote an inclusive environment where everyone has a chance to share and be heard.
- Lay the groundwork for future teamwork and collaborative projects.
- Allow participants to share aspects of their culture and learn from others.
- Encourage an appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism.
- Improve participants' ability to prioritize key information during short interactions.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Minimum 20 people

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Chairs and a timer

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Introduction (5 minutes)

Welcome and Overview:

- Greet participants and explain the objective of the activity.
- Briefly describe the Speed Networking activity.
- Emphasize the importance of active listening and engaging with their partner.

Rules and Instructions:

- Each pair will have 2 minutes to introduce themselves and share a fun fact.
- When the timer rings, participants will switch partners.
- Encourage participants to find new partners for each round.

Activity (30 minutes)

Set Up:

- Arrange chairs in pairs facing each other (if using chairs).
- Ensure everyone has a partner for the first round.

Rounds:

- Round 1 (2 minutes):
- Start the timer.
- Participants introduce themselves and share a fun fact.
- Switch Partners (1 minute):
- Signal the end of the round.
- Participants move to a new partner.
- Repeat for 10 rounds, ensuring each participant meets 10 different people.

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Group Discussion:

- Gather everyone in a circle or group.
- Ask participants to share one interesting thing they learned about someone else.
- Discuss how it felt to meet and talk to many different people in a short time.

Feedback:

- Encourage participants to provide feedback on the activity.
- Ask what they enjoyed and what could be improved.

Closing Remarks:

- Thank everyone for participating.
- Encourage participants to continue networking and building connections beyond the activity.

Tips for Success

Facilitation: Actively manage the time and signal clearly when it's time to switch partners.

Engagement: Encourage enthusiasm and positive energy to make the activity enjoyable.

Accessibility: Ensure the setup is accessible to all participants, including those with disabilities.

Follow-Up: Consider providing a follow-up activity or discussion to reinforce the connections made.

Variations

Themes: Introduce themes for each round (e.g., favourite hobbies, travel experiences, career aspirations).

Groups: If the group is large, split into smaller groups to ensure more meaningful interactions.

Energizer 2 | Icebreaker Bingo

MAIN TOPIC: Using Icebreaker Bingo to build classroom community and enhance student interaction.

OBJECTIVES:

- Help students get to know each other in a fun and engaging way.
- Encourage pupils to interact and communicate with classmates they don't usually talk to.
- Create a positive and inclusive atmosphere in the classroom.
- Energize students and prepare them for learning activities.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Whole class or groups of 10-20 students.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- Bingo cards with different icebreaker prompts (e.g., "Find someone who has travelled to another country," "Find someone who has a pet")
- Pens or pencils for each student

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

1. Preparation:

Create Bingo Cards: Prepare bingo cards with different prompts. Make sure each card contains a different combination of prompts.

Distribute Materials: Distribute one bingo card and a pen or pencil to each student.

2. Introduction:

Explain the Activity: Explain to the students that they will be playing Icebreaker Bingo. The aim is to complete their bingo cards by finding classmates who match the prompts.

Set Ground Rules: Set ground rules for the exercise, such as respect and listening to others.

3. Perform the exercise:

Start the Game: Allow students to move around the classroom and interact with each other. They should ask their classmates if they match any of the prompts on their bingo card.

Marking the Cards: When a student finds a classmate who matches a cue, they should sign or initial the corresponding square on their bingo card.

4. Conclusion:

Finish the Game: The game can end when a student fills in an entire row, column or diagonal (similar to regular bingo) or when the set time limit is reached.

Summary: Gather students and discuss what they have learned about their classmates. Highlight interesting or surprising facts they have discovered.

Energizer 3 | Mentimeter - Cultural diversity and inclusivity

<https://www.mentimeter.com/>

Mentimeter is an excellent digital tool that makes presentations engaging and accessible for everyone. It features interactive elements such as live polls, quizzes, word clouds, and q&a sessions, which help participants to keep involved and make dynamic presentations. Additionally, Mentimeter includes accessibility features like screen reader compatibility, high contrast mode, keyboard navigation, alt text for images, and adjustable font sizes, ensuring it is accessible to users with visual impairments and other needs.

With its user-friendly interface and strong commitment to inclusivity, Mentimeter allows individuals of all abilities to engage and contribute meaningfully. It works seamlessly on various devices, including smartphones, tablets, and computers, ensuring full participation from all attendees. This makes Mentimeter an ideal choice for creating engaging and inclusive presentations, particularly for youth workers and young audiences.

To ensure that everyone can participate, understand, and contribute to all Mentimeter presentations, they've compiled a guide for creating accessible and inclusive presentations. You can find detailed information about accessibility and download their vpat for menti.com at www.mentimeter.com/accessibility. In the settings menu, you can also find an accessibility check, where you can see how inclusive your presentation is and get recommendations for how to improve it.

Accessibility features:

- Real-time text responses: for non-verbal or speech-difficult students.
- Anonymous participation: reduces anxiety for those uncomfortable sharing publicly.
- Multi-device compatibility: ensures all students can join using their preferred device.
- Visual aids: word clouds and visual polls help students with learning disabilities.

MAIN TOPIC: Cultural diversity and inclusivity

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote cultural awareness and understanding among students.
- Foster inclusivity and ensure participation from all students, including those with disabilities and special educational needs.
- Create an engaging and dynamic environment for sharing cultural backgrounds.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10-15 participants

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- Mentimeter account (educator)
- Devices for each student (smartphone, tablet, or computer)
- Internet connection

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

The activity called "cultural mosaic," is designed to be an inclusive and engaging way for students to share and learn about different cultures. It uses Mentimeter to facilitate interaction and ensure that every student's voice is heard, regardless of their ability to communicate verbally or their comfort level in traditional classroom settings.

We start by setting up a Mentimeter word cloud where students can submit words or phrases that describe their culture, we encourage them to think about food, traditions, holidays, clothing, languages, etc.

As students submit their entries, the word cloud will populate in real-time, creating a visual representation of the diverse cultures within the classroom. (10 min.)

Afterwards, we create a series of poll questions about different cultural practices. for example:

- "What is a common greeting in your culture?"
- "Which traditional food do you enjoy the most?"
- "What is a significant holiday in your culture?"

Each question should have multiple-choice answers or an option for students to write in their responses. (5 min.)

Use Mentimeter's Q&A feature for students to anonymously submit questions about their peers' cultures. select a few questions to discuss.

Polls and word clouds: start the class with a poll or word cloud activity where students can share their thoughts or experiences on a given topic. This can help build a sense of community and make students more comfortable.

Cultural mosaic activity (20 minutes):

- Introduction (3 minutes): explain the purpose of the activity, highlighting cultural diversity and inclusivity.
- Word cloud: "describe your culture" (7 minutes): students use Mentimeter to submit words or phrases describing their culture, creating a real-time word cloud showcasing classroom diversity.
- Poll: "cultural practices" (5 minutes): conduct polls on cultural practices with questions about common greetings, favourite traditional foods, and significant holidays, using multiple-choice or written responses.
- Q&A: "ask about cultures" (5 minutes): students anonymously submit questions about their peers' cultures using Mentimeter's Q&A feature, and selected questions are discussed in class, promoting dialogue and curiosity.

Energizer 4 | Kahoot! - Team Building

<https://kahoot.it/>

Kahoot! is a dynamic game-based learning platform that revolutionizes traditional educational and training methods by transforming them into interactive, engaging experiences. Launched in 2013, Kahoot! has quickly become a favourite in classrooms, corporate training environments, and beyond. The platform allows users to create, share, and participate in multiple-choice quizzes, discussions, and surveys, making learning both fun and effective. Key features include an easy-to-use interface, customizable quizzes with themes and media integration, and various modes such as live, self-paced, and team modes. Kahoot! also emphasizes accessibility, offering screen reader compatibility, keyboard navigation, adjustable text sizes, colour contrast options, and multilingual support, ensuring inclusivity for all participants.

The platform's benefits are manifold, enhancing engagement and retention through gamification and interactive content. It provides real-time feedback and detailed analytics, enabling educators and trainers to assess performance and identify areas for improvement. Kahoot!'s versatility makes it suitable for various educational levels and professional settings, easily integrating with learning management systems like Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams. Security and privacy are also prioritized, with strict data protection measures in place. Overall, Kahoot! fosters a fun and inclusive learning environment, helping participants of all ages and abilities connect, collaborate, and learn effectively.

MAIN TOPIC: Introduction to the class or workshop / team building activity

OBJECTIVES:

- Energize participants.
- Foster a sense of community and connection.
- Introduce participants to each other in a fun and engaging way.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10-20 participants

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- A device with internet access for each participant (smartphone, tablet, or computer)
- A projector or screen (for displaying the quiz if in a physical setting)
- A prepared Kahoot! quiz

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

The activity called "Quick fun facts quiz" is designed to be an inclusive and engaging way for participants to get to know each other. It uses Kahoot! to facilitate interaction and ensure that everyone's voice is heard, regardless of their abilities or comfort level in traditional settings.

We start by setting up a Kahoot! quiz with 5-7 light-hearted questions about participants' preferences and experiences, such as favourite ice cream flavours and dream vacation destinations. As participants join using a game pin, they can answer in real-time, creating an interactive and fun atmosphere. (10 min.)

After the quiz, we review the questions and answers together. This includes highlighting interesting or funny responses and encouraging participants to share more about their choices. This step promotes discussion and helps build connections among participants. (5 min.)

Use Kahoot!'s discussion features to allow participants to submit questions or comments during the activity. Select a few to discuss, promoting further interaction and engagement.

Quick fun facts quiz activity (20 minutes):

Introduction (3 minutes): Explain the purpose of the activity, emphasizing community building and inclusivity.

- Quiz: "get to know you" (5 minutes): Participants use Kahoot! to answer fun questions about their preferences and experiences, creating a lively interactive session.
- Discussion: "share and connect" (10 minutes): Review quiz results together, highlighting interesting answers and encouraging sharing, to foster connections and build community.
- Q&A: "ask and learn" (2 minutes): Participants submit questions or comments about the activity, which are discussed to promote dialogue and interaction.

Energizer 5 | Sing a Song

MAIN TOPIC: Inclusion

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop teamwork and communication skills.
- Raise awareness of the importance of inclusion in a relaxed and playful way.
- Promote creativity.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 2 persons per group

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- Paper
- Pencil

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

- Assign students partners and have them sit facing each other.
- The partners will work to create a song about inclusion and how students learn from each other. It can include specific examples of how students help each other in the inclusive classroom or generic ways they can include others in activities.
- Have the teams decide on a song they both know the tune to such as “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” or “Happy Birthday.”
- Then teams will alternate creating lines of the song until it is complete.
- Give a few, or all, of the teams the opportunity to share their songs with the class.

(Duration aprox. 30-45 min.)

Example:

Here is an example of how you can introduce the activity to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.”

*All of you,
Yes, all of you.
Will work together,
To compose a song,
About how we can all get along,
and work as a team all the day long,
Please start now,
Working together.*



Energizer 6 | Invisible Clay

MAIN TOPIC: Non-verbal communication, Inclusion

OBJECTIVES:

Foster group dynamic.

Develop communication skills through body language and gestures.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Up to the classroom size

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Clay/modelling clay

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

General information:

Players 'mould' invisible clay and the other players guess what the object is.

This game introduces non-verbal communication such as gestures and facial expression for people who are unable to communicate through spoken language.

Participants will understand that communication is about much more than words.

Implementation:

- Sit your group in a circle and explain that you have an 'invisible' lump of clay.
- Hand one player the invisible lump of clay and ask them to silently and quickly mould the clay into an object.
- Then, using facial expression, gestures, and body language only, silently act out how to use the object. The rest of the group can put their hands up when they think they know what the object is.
- Once guessed, the person with the clay passes it to the next player in the circle.
- The next player takes the invisible clay and sculpts a new object. The activity continues around the circle.
- Encourage players to make increasingly unusual objects after the obvious ideas have been used up.
- Let your players experiment with the game to see what they come up with.

Duration: 45 minutes

Energizer 7 | Voices of Youth - Global Youth Engagement and Advocacy

MAIN TOPIC: Global Youth Engagement and Advocacy

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a safe, inclusive space for young people to express themselves on issues like climate change, gender equality, and human rights.
- Enhance digital literacy and communication skills by encouraging youths to create and share digital content.
- Build a global youth movement that amplifies voices from underrepresented communities and drives social change.
- Connect youth from diverse backgrounds, fostering understanding, empathy, and solidarity.
- Encourage critical thinking and informed opinions by providing resources and educational materials.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Primarily designed for individual use, but can be integrated into group activities in schools, youth organizations, or community groups. Suitable for groups wanting to collaborate on joint storytelling or advocacy campaigns. Facilitators can use the platform for classroom activities or community-based youth engagement projects, encouraging participation and group reflection on shared topics.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- Digital Tools: Access to a computer, smartphone, or tablet with internet connectivity.
- Content Creation Tools: Guidance on writing blogs, producing videos, taking impactful photographs, and using social media for advocacy.
- Learning Resources: UNICEF-provided guides on advocacy techniques, storytelling tips, and media literacy.
- Supportive Community: Access to a global network of peers, mentors, and youth activists for collaboration and feedback.
- Platform Features: Blogs, multimedia submissions, discussion forums, and mentorship opportunities.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

- Registration and Orientation: Youth participants create an account on the platform and explore available resources and examples of impactful youth stories.
- Content Development: Participants develop their own content—stories, videos, articles, poems, or photographs—focusing on issues they are passionate about.

- **Submission and Publication:** Submitted content undergoes review to ensure it aligns with the platform's guidelines, and approved content is published, reaching a global audience.
- **Engagement and Feedback:** After publication, participants engage with the community by commenting, sharing feedback, and participating in discussions to expand their perspectives and learn from others.
- **Ongoing Advocacy:** Participants are encouraged to continue creating content and to engage in advocacy efforts, using the platform's resources to plan campaigns, workshops, or events.
- **Recognition and Growth:** Outstanding contributions may be highlighted on the platform or social media, providing recognition and inspiring further youth involvement.

Energizer 8 | Human Knot

MAIN TOPIC: Teamwork and Communication Skills through a Physical and Collaborative Activity

OBJECTIVES:

- Foster teamwork and inclusion in a supportive environment.
- Enhance communication and problem-solving skills.
- Build confidence and trust among participants.
- Promote empathy and collaboration in a playful context.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 15-20 PERSONS

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

No physical materials required.

Space: A spacious and safe area, free of obstacles, to allow comfortable movement for participants.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

The "Human Knot" is a team-building activity designed to foster communication, collaboration, and problem-solving in a fun and engaging way. Adapted for students with special needs, this activity focuses on developing social and emotional skills in a safe, inclusive environment where everyone can participate at their own level.

Activity Procedure:

1. Preparation:
 - Divide the group into smaller teams of 6-8 participants to facilitate interaction.
 - Provide clear instructions, using visual aids (e.g., diagrams or demonstrations) if necessary to ensure everyone understands the task.
2. Starting the Activity:
 - Have each team form a circle and ensure all participants are comfortable with the dynamics.
 - Explain that the goal is to untangle a "human knot" by holding hands with two people who are not adjacent.
3. Adaptations During the Activity:
 - Allow participants with reduced mobility to join by holding a rope or ribbon, simulating hand connections.
 - Provide extra time if needed to ensure everyone can participate without feeling rushed.
 - Offer verbal or physical support to participants who may need it, while minimizing interference to maintain the challenge.
4. Closing the Activity:
 - Facilitate a group reflection on how participants felt during the activity, emphasizing the value of collaboration and mutual support.

Specific Adaptations for Special Needs:

- Visual support: Use cards with clear steps or instructions.
- Flexibility: Allow some participants to observe or provide verbal guidance if they prefer not to be physically involved.
- Sensory support: Create a calm environment, free of loud noises, for participants sensitive to external stimuli.
- Additional facilitator: Have an extra educator available to assist during key moments.

Duration:

10-15 minutes (flexible depending on the group's needs).

Expected Outcomes:

- Enhanced confidence and teamwork skills.
- Increased participation and enjoyment in an inclusive environment.
- Improved social and emotional skills.

Notes for the Facilitator:

- Be flexible and adjust the pace according to the group's needs.
- Provide positive reinforcement for each team's efforts, focusing on collaboration and effort rather than the final outcome.
- Continuously observe and adapt the activity to ensure everyone's participation.

Web: <https://www.theatrefolk.com/blog/collaboration-games-the-human-knot>



Inclusive intercultural activity 1 | VR - Natural and social environments

NAME OF THE TOOL: Using Virtual Reality in the Classroom for Students on the Autism Spectrum

MAIN TOPIC: Natural and social environments

OBJECTIVES:

- Explore a virtual reality environment to enhance social skills, sensory integration, and subject-specific knowledge.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Depending on the number of VR headsets available

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- VR headsets
- VR-compatible devices (tablets, smartphones, or computers)
- VR applications (educational and sensory-friendly apps)
- Comfortable seating
- Noise-cancelling headphones (optional)
- Visual schedules

Resources: NSTA Guidelines on Using Virtual Reality

Recommended VR Apps:

- Nature Treks VR: A calming exploration of different natural environments.
- Autism XR: Designed specifically for social skills training and sensory-friendly experiences.
- Google Expeditions: Offers a wide range of educational VR experiences.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Preparation:

- Ensure all VR equipment is charged and functioning.
- Choose appropriate VR applications that are calming, educational, and sensory-friendly.
- Set up a comfortable and safe space for students to use the VR headsets.
- Prepare a visual schedule to help students understand the sequence of activities.

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Greet students and introduce the lesson topic.
- Explain what virtual reality is and how it will be used in the lesson.
- Show a short demo of a VR experience to give students a preview.

2. Sensory Warm-Up (5 minutes)

Engage students in a brief sensory activity to help them relax and prepare for the VR experience. This could be deep breathing exercises, gentle stretching, or using fidget toys.

3. VR Exploration (30 minutes)

Activity 1: Sensory-Friendly Environment (15 minutes)

- Students will explore a calming VR environment, such as a virtual nature walk or an underwater adventure.
- Encourage students to describe what they see, hear, and feel in the VR environment.
- Discuss how the experience makes them feel and any favourite parts.

Activity 2: Social Skills Practice (15 minutes)

- Use a VR app designed to practice social interactions, such as role-playing different social scenarios (e.g., ordering food at a restaurant, greeting a friend).
- Pause after each scenario to discuss the interaction and appropriate responses.

4. Discussion and Reflection (10 minutes)

- Gather students in a circle to discuss their VR experience.
- Ask guiding questions such as: What did you like about the VR activity?; How did it feel to be in the virtual environment?; What social skills did you practice today?
- Encourage students to share their thoughts and listen to their peers.

5. Closing Activity (5 minutes)

- End with a calming activity, such as listening to soft music or a guided meditation.
- Provide students with a visual schedule of the next steps in their day to help with transition.

Assessment:

- Observe students' engagement and participation during the VR activities.
- Note any improvements in social interactions and sensory responses.
- Collect feedback from students about their VR experience.

Adaptations and Modifications:

- Provide additional support and guidance for students who may need extra help with the VR equipment.
- Adjust the VR content based on individual sensory preferences and tolerance levels.
- Use noise-cancelling headphones if the audio in the VR environment is overwhelming for some students.



Inclusive intercultural activity 2 | AP - Sign Language

NAME OF THE TOOL: Learning Sign Language with a Sign Language App

MAIN TOPIC: Sign Language

OBJECTIVES:

- Learn basic sign language skills using a Sign Language Learning App, promoting communication and inclusion.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Depending on the number of students – groups of 2 or 3.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Material

- Tablets or smartphones with a Sign Language Learning App installed (e.g. The ASL App, Lingvano, etc.)
- Projector and screen (for group demonstrations)
- Visual aids (posters with signs, flashcards)
- Notebooks and pens for note-taking

Resources:

- European Deaf Association for information and additional resources.
- Recommended sign language learning apps and websites for further practice.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Preparation:

- Ensure all devices are charged and the app is properly installed.
- Familiarize yourself with the app's features and content.
- Prepare visual aids to reinforce learning.
- Arrange the classroom to facilitate group activities and individual practice.

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Greet students and introduce the lesson topic.
- Explain the importance of sign language and its role in promoting communication and inclusion.
- Show a brief introductory video about sign language and the EDA.

2. App Introduction and Navigation (10 minutes)

- Demonstrate how to navigate the Sign Language Learning App.
- Highlight key features such as tutorials, practice exercises, and the sign dictionary.
- Ensure all students can access and navigate the app on their devices.

3. Learning Basic Signs (20 minutes)

Activity 1: Greetings and Common Phrases (10 minutes)

- Guide students through the app to learn basic greetings and common phrases (e.g., hello, thank you, please).
- Demonstrate each sign using the app and practice as a group.
- Encourage students to pair up and practice signing to each other.

Activity 2: Everyday Objects and Actions (10 minutes)

- Use the app to learn signs for everyday objects and actions (e.g., book, eat, drink).
- Show visual aids to reinforce the signs learned.
- Conduct a quick quiz using flashcards where students sign the corresponding word.

4. Group Practice and Role-Playing (15 minutes)

- Divide students into small groups.
- Assign each group a simple dialogue or scenario to practice using the signs they have learned (e.g., introducing themselves, ordering food).
- Encourage groups to perform their dialogues for the class, promoting peer learning and confidence.

5. Discussion and Reflection (5 minutes)

- Gather students to discuss their experience using the app and learning sign language.
- Ask guiding questions such as: What signs did you find easy or challenging to learn?; How do you think knowing sign language can help in everyday life?; What did you enjoy about using the app?
- Encourage students to share their thoughts and listen to their peers.
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6. Closing Activity (5 minutes)

- End with a fun group activity, such as a sign language song or game.
- Provide students with additional resources for further practice (e.g., websites, books).

Assessment:

- Observe students' engagement and participation during the activities.
- Note their ability to accurately perform the signs learned.
- Collect feedback from students about their experience using the app and learning sign language.

Adaptations and Modifications:

- Provide additional support and guidance for students who may need extra help with the app.
- Adjust the pace of the lesson based on students' learning needs and comfort levels.
- Use larger visual aids or sign videos for students with visual impairments.

Inclusive intercultural activity 3 | Storybird - Creative Vocabulary

NAME OF THE TOOL: Storybird

MAIN TOPIC: Creative vocabulary application

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote collaboration and creativity in vocabulary learning.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10/20 students (smaller groups of 4/5 students)

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Storybird user account, computer, internet access

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Purpose: explain how storytelling can be a powerful tool for vocabulary learning. Discuss the role of creativity in language acquisition and how it can make learning more engaging.
- Group formation (5 minutes)
- Organize groups: divide the class into groups of 4-5 students. Assign roles such as writer, illustrator, editor, and presenter.
- Tool demonstration (20 minutes)
- Demonstration: provide a step-by-step guide on how to create stories on Storybird. Show how to choose themes, add text and images, and publish stories.
- Exploration: allow students to explore Storybird's features and interface. Answer any questions they might have.

Activity (30 minutes)

- Story creation: each group writes a story incorporating their assigned vocabulary words.

They should:

- Develop a narrative that naturally includes the vocabulary words.
- Use creative illustrations to enhance the story and aid comprehension.
- Ensure the story is clear and engaging, with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Editing: groups review and edit their stories to ensure they are well-written and free of errors. Encourage them to consider the flow and coherence of the story.
- Sharing (20 minutes)
- Story sharing: groups share their stories with the class. They should explain how they incorporated the vocabulary words and the creative choices they made.
- Feedback: provide constructive feedback on the stories, focusing on vocabulary usage, creativity, and clarity.

Inclusive intercultural activity 4 | Canva - Sense of Belonging

MAIN TOPIC: Collaborate on a classroom/group flag that fosters a sense of belonging

OBJECTIVES:

- Enable students to work together
- Boost creativity while working with an interactive tool
- Enhance communication skills
- Team-building

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Small classroom, group split in smaller groups (4-5 people)

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Tablet or Laptop, Internet, Canva account

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Introduce the activity to students and encourage them to work online with Canva to design the Flag.
- If necessary, introduce the Canva tool and its features to the classroom.

Setup (20 minutes): Engage students in a discussion, writing their ideas on a visible board or using the Whiteboard directly on Canva: Describe a familiar flag and its elements. Why was it created?; How would you describe our class? What makes us proud?; What values are important to our class, like kindness and respect?; What type of community do we want to create and inspire?; How can we represent these qualities in our class flag? What symbols, colours, words, or patterns should we include?; Should we include any local landmarks or features in our class flag?

Group formation (5 minutes)

- Divide students into small groups or pairs.
- Activity (30 minutes)
- Assign each group a specific part of the flag. They can collaborate on Canva to design the elements.
- Once each group has completed their part, gather everyone to present their ideas and explain their choices. Encourage questions and feedback from peers.
- Based on the discussion, work together to combine the elements into a cohesive design (e.g., by holding a class vote). Ensure everyone contributes ideas and feels included in the process. Once the group agrees on the elements, create the actual flag on Canva and present it to the classroom.

Reflection (10 minutes)

Discussion: reflect on the collaborative experience and the use of Canva as collaborative tool. Discuss how they felt when choosing representative elements and about the importance of inclusive representation.

Inclusive intercultural activity 5 | Padlet - Collaborative Vocabulary Building

MAIN TOPIC: Collaborative vocabulary building

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote collaboration and creativity in vocabulary learning.
- Enable students to express themselves using different tools: words, pictures, colours.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10/20 students (groups of 4/5 students).

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Padlet user account, computer, internet access

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Purpose: explain how Padlet can be used for collaborative learning. Discuss the importance of teamwork and how sharing knowledge can enhance vocabulary learning.
- Group formation (5 minutes)
- Organize groups: divide the class into groups of 4-5 students. Assign roles such as researcher, writer, editor, and presenter.
- Setup (20 minutes)
- Board creation: create a Padlet board for each group. Demonstrate how to add posts, images, links, and comments.
- Exploration: allow students to familiarize themselves with Padlet's features. Answer any questions they might have.

Activity (30 minutes)

Content creation: groups add words, definitions, images, and examples to their Padlet boards.

They should:

- Research and select vocabulary words relevant to a chosen theme or subject.
- Provide clear and concise definitions and examples.
- Add visual aids such as images or videos to enhance understanding.

Collaboration: encourage groups to review each other's boards and provide constructive feedback. This promotes peer learning and ensures the accuracy of the information.

Collaboration and feedback (20 minutes)

Peer review: groups explore each other's Padlet boards and provide feedback. They can leave comments and suggestions for improvement.

Discussion: facilitate a class discussion on the vocabulary words and the collaborative process. Highlight the importance of accuracy and clarity in vocabulary learning.

Reflection (10 minutes): reflect on the collaborative experience and the use of Padlet as a learning tool. Discuss how working together can enhance understanding and retention of vocabulary.

Inclusive intercultural activity 6 | Ceteris Paribus - Economic Literacy - Inclusion

MAIN TOPIC: Economic Literacy - Inclusion

OBJECTIVES:

- Introduce and explain fundamental economic concepts such as supply and demand, market equilibrium, and economic cycles.
- Use interactive and engaging gameplay to make learning economics enjoyable and accessible.
- Challenge players with problem-solving scenarios that reflect real-world economic situations, thereby enhancing critical thinking skills.
- Offer a narrative-driven experience that helps players relate abstract economic concepts to everyday life.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Single-player format, allowing personalized learning experiences tailored to the individual's pace and understanding. Potential for use in a classroom setting where each student plays individually, followed by group discussions on the concepts learned.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- The game requires a computer running Windows 10 or higher.
- 2 GB of available storage space for the game installation.
- A monitor or display that supports the game's resolution, along with a keyboard and mouse for navigation.
- The game can be downloaded from Steam, so an internet connection is necessary for the initial download and updates. It is also available in a zip file on <https://www.ceteris-paribus.eu/simulation-game>

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

- The player begins the game by assuming the role of the character Kai, who navigates through different levels that represent various economic environments.
- Each level presents a new economic concept, such as inflation, market dynamics, or economic crises, which players must understand and apply to progress.
- The gameplay involves point-and-click mechanics where players gather information, solve puzzles, and complete mini-games that reinforce the economic lessons being taught.
- As players advance, they encounter more complex scenarios that require deeper understanding and application of economic principles.
- The game is designed to be both educational and entertaining, ensuring that players remain engaged while learning.

Inclusive intercultural activity 7 | Youth Engagement and Storytelling

MAIN TOPIC: Youth Engagement and Storytelling

OBJECTIVES:

- Engage young people in meaningful discussions on topics such as social inclusion, youth work, and other social issues.
- Build empathy, active listening, and communication skills by encouraging participants to share personal stories and perspectives.
- Create a fun, dynamic, and safe environment where young people feel comfortable expressing themselves and learning from others.
- Support youth workers in utilizing storytelling as a tool to foster deeper connections with young people.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Ideal for groups of 4 to 12 players, which can be adjusted to fit smaller or larger groups. Suitable for ages 14 and above, making it a versatile tool for youth work, schools, or community centres. Can be adapted for different group dynamics, such as mixed-age groups or diverse cultural backgrounds.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- Instructions for Players and Facilitators: Available online, to be printed or accessed digitally.
- Board of the Game: Printable in A2 format to visually guide the gameplay.
- Mission Cards: Sets of cards that provide different challenges or storytelling prompts for each game session, focusing on various topics like "Unemployment," "Social Inclusion," and "Youth Work."
- Keyword Cards: Essential terms related to the game's main topics, which players use to build their stories.
- Challenger Cards and (Un)Opportunity Cards: Designed to make the game more unpredictable and dynamic by introducing new scenarios or challenges.
- Joker Cards: Special cards that can alter the course of the game; a minimum of 10 should be printed.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

Begin by printing all necessary materials and familiarizing yourself with the instructions. Gather the players and provide a brief introduction to the game's goals and rules. Players take turns drawing cards (Mission, Keyword, Challenger, or (Un)Opportunity cards) and use them to build their stories around chosen topics. Each round, players must incorporate the keywords from their cards into their storytelling, which encourages creativity and critical thinking. The game is designed to be flexible, with the facilitator able to adjust the length and complexity based on the group's dynamics. After the game, a debriefing session is held where players discuss their experiences, share feedback, and reflect on the topics covered.

Inclusive intercultural activity 8 | Pictosonidos

MAIN TOPIC: Creating spaces of trust through words and sound

OBJECTIVES:

- Design of launching and confidence building activities through the use of words and their sounds, especially for people with special needs.
- Foster creativity, critical thinking, and sound design skills through a project-based activity using Pictosonidos.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10/20 students. The idea is to make groups of 4/5 students.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Computer / internet access

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL

1. Introduction (10 minutes):
 - Begin with a discussion about the power of sound and its role in shaping our perception of the world.
 - Introduce Pictosonidos and its potential for sound design and storytelling.
 - Briefly introduce the concept of soundscapes, which are environments created through a combination of sounds.
2. Project Brainstorming (20 minutes):
 - Divide the students into groups of 2-3.
 - Challenge each group to redesign a familiar environment (e.g., classroom, school cafeteria, park) into a unique soundscape using Pictosonidos.
 - Encourage them to consider the purpose and mood they want to evoke with their soundscape (e.g., calm and relaxing, energetic and stimulating, mysterious and suspenseful).
3. Sound Exploration and Selection (30 minutes):
 - Provide students with dedicated time to explore the diverse sound library of Pictosonidos.
 - Guide them to experiment with different sound combinations and layering techniques to achieve their desired soundscape effect.
 - If desired, introduce additional online sound resources that students can incorporate into their projects with proper attribution.

4. Soundscape Development (40 minutes):

- Students work within their groups to create their soundscapes using Pictosonidos.

Encourage them to:

- Organize their chosen sounds in a logical sequence to create a narrative flow.
- Pay attention to sound transitions and use fade-in and fade-out effects for a polished soundscape.
- Consider incorporating sound effects and music alongside the core sounds from Pictosonidos.

5. Presentations and Feedback (30 minutes):

- Each group presents their soundscape creation to the class.
- Play the soundscape and ask the class to discuss:
 - The emotions or feelings evoked by the soundscape.
 - The effectiveness of the sound choices in achieving the intended mood.
 - Areas for improvement or alternative sound options.

Inclusive intercultural activity 9 | ARASAAC - Accessibility

MAIN TOPIC: Accessibility

OBJECTIVES:

Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by conducting an accessibility audit of the school building and proposing improvements using ARASAAC pictograms.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10/20 students. The idea is to make groups of 4/5 students.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL:

- School map or floor plan (digital or physical)
- Markers or pens (if using a physical map)
- Sticky notes
- Selection of printed ARASAAC pictograms relevant to accessibility features (ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms, braille signage, etc.) (ARASAAC pictogram database)
- Additional materials for presentations (poster board, presentation software - optional)

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

Begin with a discussion about accessibility and its importance in public spaces like schools. Introduce the concept of a disability audit and its role in identifying and addressing accessibility barriers. Briefly present ARASAAC pictograms and their potential as a communication tool for accessibility information.

2. Forming Audit Teams (5 minutes):

Divide the class into small groups of 3-4 students, aiming for diverse representation of abilities and backgrounds within each team.

3. Understanding Accessibility Standards (15 minutes):

- Provide students with a brief overview of accessibility standards and regulations (national/regional) for educational institutions.
- This can be done through a handout, presentation, or guided online exploration of relevant resources.

Focus on key accessibility considerations such as:

- Physical accessibility (ramps, elevators, wide doorways)
- Sensory accessibility (visual and auditory aids, proper lighting)
- Information accessibility (signage in multiple formats, clear communication)

4. Conducting the Accessibility Audit (40 minutes):
 - Instruct each group to use the school map or floor plan to conduct a virtual or physical accessibility audit of the school building.
 - Students should use sticky notes to mark areas where they identify accessibility barriers based on the discussed standards.
 - Encourage them to consider the needs of people with various disabilities (mobility, vision, hearing, etc.)
5. Developing Solutions with Pictograms (40 minutes):
 - Provide each group with ARASAC pictograms representing accessibility features.
 - Task them with proposing solutions to address the identified accessibility barriers using the pictograms.
 - This can involve marking the ideal placement of ramps, elevators, signage, etc. on the map/floor plan with the corresponding pictograms.
 - Encourage students to be creative and consider different solutions for each barrier.
6. Presentations and Discussion (40 minutes):
 - Each group presents their accessibility audit findings and proposed solutions using the marked-up map/floor plan and ARASAC pictograms.
 - Facilitate a class discussion about the challenges and opportunities identified during the audits.
 - Encourage students to consider the feasibility and potential impact of their proposed solutions.
 - Discuss the importance of clear and universal communication through pictograms for accessibility information.
7. Wrap-up (10 minutes):
 - Briefly summarize the key takeaways from the activity, emphasizing the importance of accessibility for all members of the school community.
 - Encourage students to reflect on their newfound awareness of accessibility barriers and their potential role in advocating for inclusive design.



Inclusive intercultural activity 10 | KHAN ACADEMY

MAIN TOPIC: Integration of Khan Academy into the classroom to improve learning

OBJECTIVES:

- Familiarise students with digital learning tools: Introduce students to Khan Academy, helping them to become comfortable using digital platforms for learning.
- Improve understanding of core subjects: Using Khan Academy resources to deepen students' knowledge and skills in Maths, Science and Humanities.
- Promote independent learning: Encourage students to take control of their learning by accessing Khan Academy's self-paced lessons and activities.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Students can work independently or in small groups (3-5 students)

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones with Internet access for each student or group of students.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

1. Preparation

Student needs assessment: Identify the subjects and areas in which students need the most support. Khan Academy offers resources in maths, science, economics, humanities and more.

Create a teacher account: Create a teacher account on Khan Academy. This will allow you to manage your classes, assign content and track student progress. Familiarise yourself with the platform: Take some time to familiarise yourself with Khan Academy's features, including the dashboard, student progress tracking and content library.

2. Configure classes

Create classes: Use the teacher dashboard to create classes. You can create separate classes for different subjects or grade levels. Add students: Invite students to join your classes. You can do this by sending them a class code or by importing a list of pupils. Make sure each student has set up his or her account correctly. Assign content: Based on your assessment, assign students to specific courses, videos, exercises and quizzes. Make sure the content is in line with the curriculum objectives.

3. Integration into the curriculum

Adaptation to the curriculum: Match Khan Academy resources to your curriculum. Determine which videos and exercises suit your lesson plans. Create a schedule: Develop a schedule to integrate Khan Academy activities into your regular teaching schedule. Determine which days will be dedicated to Khan Academy activities. Set goals: Set clear objectives and expectations for students. For example, determine the number of films.

Inclusive intercultural activity 11 | TEACHFLIX

MAIN TOPIC: Integration of TEACHFLIX videos into the classroom to enhance learning

OBJECTIVES:

Engage students with curated educational videos.

Stimulate thinking and initiating discussion based on video content.

Support lesson plans with dynamic and diverse video materials.

Provide teachers with constant access to new video material in various subjects.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: Students can watch videos as a whole class, in groups or independently.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Computers, laptops, tablets, or smartphones with Internet access. Access to the TEACHFLIX video collection platform.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL:

1. Preparation:

Access TEACHFLIX: Visit the TEACHFLIX platform to explore the video collection.

Select Videos: Choose videos that align with your lesson objectives and curriculum.

2. Lesson Planning:

Integrate Videos: Plan how to incorporate the selected videos into your lesson. Decide whether to use them for introductions, reinforcing concepts, or sparking discussions.

Schedule: Determine the appropriate times during your lessons to show the videos.

3. In-Class Implementation:

Show Videos: Present the videos to the entire class, or have students watch in small groups or independently.

Facilitate Discussion: Encourage students to share their thoughts and reactions to the video content. Use the videos as a springboard for deeper discussions on the topic.

Inclusive intercultural activity 12 | Raising awareness on digital inclusion

NAME OF THE TOOL: Powtoon

MAIN TOPIC: Raising awareness on digital inclusion

OBJECTIVES:

To raise students' awareness about the importance of digital inclusion and promote the design of accessible technological solutions for everyone.

The objective of using powtoon is to make accessible any kind of presentation or didactic material. Powtoon is an online tool that allows you to create animated presentations and explainer videos easily and accessibly, without the need for advanced design or animation skills.

SUGGESTED GROUP SIZE: 10/20 students. The idea is to make groups of 4/5 students.

RESOURCES / MATERIAL: Computer / powtoon account

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE ACTIVITY USING THIS TOOL

Introduction (5 minutes):

Start a brief discussion about the concept of digital inclusion and its importance in today's society. Present examples of people who may face barriers to accessing and using digital technologies. Raise the central question: how can we design a digital world that is accessible to everyone?

Research and analysis (20 minutes):

Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Assign each group a specific disability or condition that may affect access to digital technologies (e.g., visual, auditory, motor, cognitive disabilities). Ask the groups to research the barriers faced by people with the assigned disability to access digital technologies. Encourage students to search for information on the internet, articles, videos, and testimonials from people with disabilities.

Design of solutions (30 minutes):

Instruct each group to design a technological solution that allows people with the assigned disability to access and use digital technologies effectively. Encourage students to be creative and think of innovative solutions that can use different tools and technological resources. Suggest that solutions consider aspects such as usability, accessibility, simplicity, and adaptability to different needs.

Creating powtoon presentations (30 minutes):

Guide the groups in using powtoon to create a presentation that explains the assigned disability, the identified barriers, and the technological solution designed. Encourage the use of attractive visual resources, such as images, animations, icons, and clear and concise texts. Ensure that the presentations are accessible to people with different disabilities, using contrasting colors, subtitles, and audio descriptions.

Presentations and discussion (20 minutes):

Each group presents their powtoon to the rest of the class, explaining the disability, the barriers, and the technological solution designed. Provide a space for questions, comments, and discussion between the groups. Emphasize the importance of collaboration, teamwork, and empathy in the design of inclusive solutions.

Reflection and conclusions (10 minutes):

Conduct a final reflection on the activity, highlighting the learning acquired about digital inclusion. Revisit the central question: how can we design a digital world for everyone? Encourage students to continue reflecting on the topic and seek opportunities to promote digital inclusion in their environment.

