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Welcome to the second DDSkills newsletter

An initiative of the project consortium to provide information on DDSkills activities and deliverables.

The DDSkills project, launched in January 2020, aims to develop training courses to enhance digital competences of professional caregivers, so they can make better use of new technologies, and support persons with disabilities & their families in the use of those technologies.
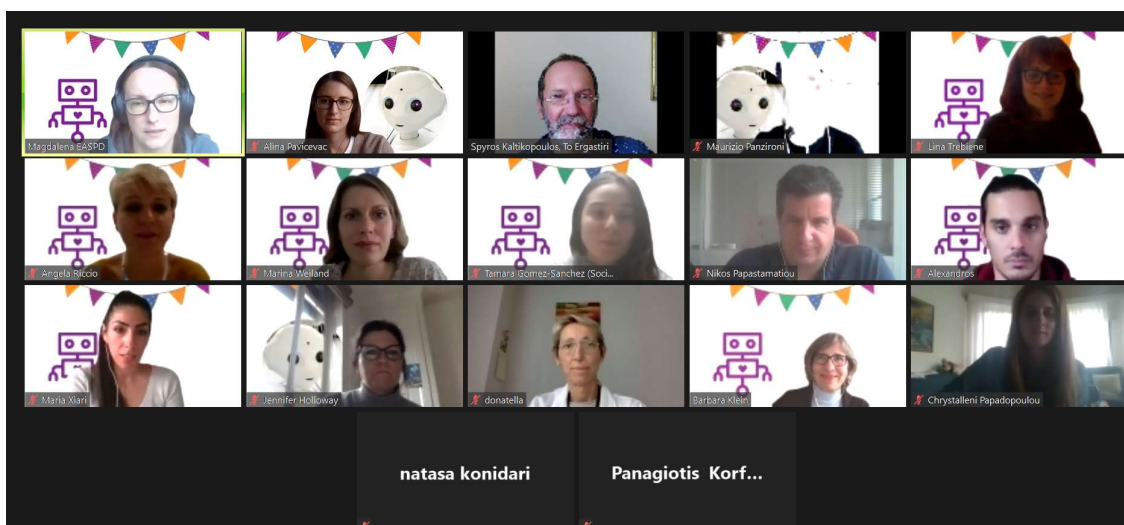
Project news

The DDSkills project consortium is currently working on a handbook on cutting-edge digital skills targeting specifically professionals who support persons with disabilities and mental

health problems. The content of the handbook can also be relevant for health care professionals in general.

The partners working on the unit of New Technologies, one of the four focus areas of the handbook, provided some key information through short interviews on **Assistive Technology and Aids, Smart Home and Robotics; Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality; and Brain Computer Interfaces**. The interviews are available below.

The aim of the unit is to provide learners with background knowledge on new technologies in health and social care. This knowledge should enable learners to identify areas of application in their own working environment and support decision-making to best support clients and promote their participation.

The finalised handbook will be soon published and available on the DDSkills website.

Interviews

- **Assistive Technologies and Aids, Smart Home and Robotics**

  Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences. Read the interview **here**.

- **Virtual reality and augmentative reality**

  National University of Ireland Galway. Read the interview **here**.

- **Brain Computer Interface**

  Fondazione Santa Lucia. Read the interview **here**.

Related news & Highlights

In addition to the DDSkills project news, the project consortium selected articles and other research materials to provide information on new technologies and social services. Find below the available materials.

Teaching Social Skills for Workplace Inclusion using Virtual Reality
DDSkills project partner from the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) has been working with 10 young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder to pilot a social skills curriculum in the framework of the **Working Through project**.

The project focuses on using virtual reality combined with the science of learning, to enhance the learning experience and teach 6 core social skills.

How is digital transformation revolutionising the education of healthcare professionals?
The Careum Fondation, a non-for-profit foundation committed to education in health and social services, published a working paper in German on the "Health - Education - Digitalisation" intersection. This working paper focuses on the digitalisation of the healthcare system, adequate training and continuous health education. A short version in

Exploring governance tensions of disruptive technologies: the case of care robots in Australia and New Zealand

This article explores the use of robots within disability and elderly care settings in the context of Australia and New Zealand. The paper focuses on three in particular governance tensions that illustrate the challenges surrounding the use of robots in a care service: **independence and surveillance**, the **re-shaping of human interaction**, and **who can care**.

Study on Ambient Assisted Living: Identifying New Challenges and Needs for Digital Technologies and Service Innovation

Thieme, an award-winning international medical and science publisher serving health professionals and students published an exploratory case study aiming to capture information about older adults' demands for ambient assisted living (AAL) services and examine the challenges and needs of the AAL market using a needs based approach.

WIPO Technology Trends 2021: Assistive Technology

The World Intellectual Property Organization published a report looking at patenting and technology trends in innovation in assistive technology. It identifies the prominent technologies, top players and markets for patent protection across seven domains – mobility, cognition, communication, hearing, the built environment, self-care and vision.

What is the DDSkills Project

Duration, objective and funding

- January 2020 – December 2022
- Aim: to develop training courses for digital skills of professional caregivers to better respond to the needs of care service users and take advantage of the opportunities offered by new technologies.
- Co-financed by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

The foreseen results of the project

- **A Multidisciplinary Curriculum** in the field of new technologies and their usage and application to the disability domain (e.g. assistive Technologies, Digitalization, Smart Home, Robotics, Augmented and Virtual Reality, Brain Computer interfaces).
- **Digital Toolkits**, to increase the cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises, to jointly develop innovative curricula and support the development of innovative ICT-based training tools.
- **Certification Scheme** containing principles and requirements for the certification of Training Materials and the DDSKILLS Curriculum.

curriculum in a way that it will be attractive and relevant and will form communities of learners for the further dissemination and communication of project outcomes.

More about the DDSkills Project.
Twitter: #DDSkills

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