

MEETING MINUTES

Date:December 12, 2023

Location: Polytechnic Institute of Santarém, Portugal

Participants:

- **Prof . Maria Potes Barbas , Coordinator of the Research Hub Digital Literacy and Social Inclusion**
- **Amalia Venera Todorut, Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu, Romania**
- **Tirca Diana Mihaela, Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu, Romania**

Prof . Maria Potes Barbas extends a warm welcome to all participants in this collaborative meeting between the representative of the **Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu** and **the Reasearch Hub** from the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém, Portugal. It is a pleasure to gather at The Research Hub 'Digital Literacy and Inclusion', based at the Polytechnic Institute Santarém.

The Research Hub, established on February 5th, 2020, serves as an extension of the research unit, Centre for Research in Arts and Communication (Algarve), which has earned the classification of Very Good by the Foundation for Science and Technology.

This meeting takes place within the framework of the working group initiated by The Research Hub in Santarém. The group is dedicated to advancing and promoting research mechanisms, particularly in the areas of digital literacy and the inclusion of disadvantaged individuals in the labor market. This initiative addresses the societal challenges prevalent in these domains of activity.

The overarching objectives of the Research Centre: Digital Literacy and Inclusion are:

- To enhance knowledge derived from Scientific and Technological Research in Digital Literacy and the Inclusion of disadvantaged individuals in the labor market.
- To strengthen excellence in digital literacy as an effective strategy for labor market inclusion.
- To assess the effectiveness of innovative resources and methodologies through empirical scenarios, aiming to promote the employability of this target group.

- To prototype a holistic inclusion support model, tailored for people with disadvantages, that can be globally replicated (e.g., companies, HEI's, NGO's, etc.). This model incorporates practices, resources, methods, linkages, and correlations in the digital literacy domain, with the ultimate goal of achieving successful and sustainable social and labor inclusion.

Tirca Diana Mihaela, the director of the Research Department, said thank you for sharing the mission and activities of the Research Hub. To facilitate the identification of common research objectives, she provides a summary of the key points and research strategy of the Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu and of the Center of Fundamental and Applied Economic Studies (CSEFA) – the research center of the Faculty of Economics.

Constantin Brâncuși University is an accredited higher education institution of public interest, with legal personality and non-profit character, established following the legal provisions, according to the Romanian Government Decision no. 288 / 01.06.1992, and operates based on the principles of university autonomy and academic freedom, under the coordination of the Ministry of National Education - central specialized authority. Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu is a university concerned, especially, with offering young people the chance to choose various study programs, following the requirements of the highly qualified labor market.

Since the establishment of the university, the educational offer has experienced a marked diversification, in order to meet the training needs of young people, as well as the requirements identified for the professional insertion of graduates. Thus, Constantin Brâncuși University today has 23 study programs for the undergraduate and 21 master's degree programs. The significant efforts made to diversify the educational offer have been corroborated with those for the development of the material base, the institutional infrastructure, and the human resource, to ensure competitive and qualitative conditions, related to the requirement of European standards.

The university is organized in four faculties and two departments:

- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Education, Law and Public Administration
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Health and Behavioral Sciences
- Department of Teacher Training
- Research And Development Department

Considering the mission of the 'Digital Literacy and Inclusion' Research Hub and that of the Constantin Brâncuși University, there are several common areas of interest where the two entities could collaborate effectively.

Prof. Amalia Venera said some words about the quality of education and the core values highlight the importance of cooperation and work in a team. Also, she proposed to introduce the concept of well-being in education.

In conclusion, today's discussions have unveiled potential areas of common interest between the 'Digital Literacy and Inclusion' Research Hub and Constantin Brâncuși University in Târgu Jiu. The commitment to advancing knowledge and promoting societal development is evident on both sides.

Key common interests include the exploration of digital literacy strategies, collaborative research initiatives, and the development of educational programs. The expertise and resources brought by the Hub, coupled with the academic rigor of Constantin Brâncuși University, create a fertile ground for fruitful collaboration.

Moving forward, we envision joint projects that leverage the strengths of both entities to address challenges related to digital inclusion, educational advancement, and community development.

I encourage further dialogue and exploration of specific avenues for collaboration. Together, we can make a significant impact on the intersection of digital literacy, education, and societal progress.

Thank you for your engagement and participation, and I look forward to the prospect of a mutually beneficial collaboration.



Prof . Maria Potes Barbas , Coordinator of the Research Hub Digital Literacy and Social Inclusion

Amalia Venera Todorut, Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu, Romania

Tirca Diana Mihaela, Constantin Brâncuși University of Târgu-Jiu, Romania

