

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**
- **Ana Nikodinovska Krstevska**, Vice Rector for International cooperation, Goce Delcev University, North Macedonia

Prof . Maria Potes Barbas extends a warm welcome to all participants in this collaborative meeting between the representative of the **Goce Delcev University, North Macedonia** and the **Research 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.

Ana Nikodinovska Krstevska 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 of Goce Delcev University.

Goce Delcev University, located in North Macedonia, is dedicated to providing high-quality education, fostering academic excellence, and contributing to the development of knowledge and skills in various fields. The university is committed to promoting research, innovation, and community engagement, aiming to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving global landscape. With a focus on inclusivity and collaboration, Goce Delcev University strives to be a hub of intellectual growth, cultural understanding, and social progress.

Goce Delcev University prioritizes the delivery of high-quality education, ensuring that students receive a comprehensive and rigorous academic experience. The university actively engages in research activities, fostering innovation and contributing to advancements in knowledge across diverse disciplines. Goce Delcev University is committed to playing a role in the development of local and global communities, emphasizing social responsibility and community engagement.

With an eye on the global landscape, the university seeks to prepare students for success in an international context, encouraging a global perspective in education and research. The university promotes inclusivity, aiming to create a diverse and welcoming academic environment that values equality and embraces students from various backgrounds.

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

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

The emphasis on digital literacy from the Research Hub aligns well with Goce Delcev University's commitment to preparing students for success in a global context. Collaboration in this domain could involve joint projects, workshops, and initiatives to enhance digital literacy skills.

The Research Hub's focus on research and innovation resonates with Goce Delcev University's dedication to academic excellence. Joint research endeavors could leverage the strengths of both institutions and contribute to advancements in various fields.

Both entities express a commitment to community development. Collaborative efforts could include outreach programs, community projects, and initiatives that address societal challenges related to digital inclusion.

Goce Delcev University's emphasis on a global perspective aligns with the Research Hub's interest in inclusive digital practices. Collaborative projects could incorporate international perspectives, fostering cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.

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

Ana Nikodinovska Krstevska, Vice Rector for International cooperation, Goce Delcev University, North Macedonia



