

## 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**
- **Researcher Corina Dragan, The Institute for Quality of Life Research**

**Prof . Maria Potes Barbas** extends a warm welcome to all participants in this collaborative meeting between the representative of the **Institute for Quality of Life Research** within the Romanian Academy 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.

Researcher Corina Dragan said thank you for sharing the mission and activities of the Research Hub. To facilitate the identification of common research objectives, she provide a brief summary of the key points of ICCV.

The Institute for Quality of Life Research (IQLR) was amongst the first institutes newly established after the December 1989 Revolution by Governmental Resolution on January 2, 1990. IQLR is included in the research network of the Romanian Academy. With its 64 employees, from among which 51 scientific researches, 9 research assistants and 4 technical-administrative staff members, the Institute for Quality of Life Research is one of the most important research institutes in the social field from Romania.

As of its establishment, IQLR has opened new research directions in Romania and brought essential contributions to developing several research fields. IQLR was involved at the same time in drafting the legislation in the social field.

### IQLR Mission

1. Developing scientific knowledge. In the context of the Romanian transition, emphasis was laid on developing knowledge about the Romanian social realities.
  - a. **Books**
  - b. **Studies**
  - c. **IQLR Social Reports**In the context of the Romanian transition, emphasis was laid in developing knowledge about the Romanian social reality undergoing swift change processes.
2. Contributions to drafting legislation in the social field and of some social policy papers.
3. Providing expertise in the specialty fields on demand from various national and international bodies.
4. Dissemination of research outcomes:
  - a. The **Quality of Life, Social Policies Review** [www.revistacalitateavietii.ro/](http://www.revistacalitateavietii.ro/)
  - b. The **Romanian Sociology Review** in collaboration with the Romanian Association of Sociology [www.revistasociologieromaneasca.ro](http://www.revistasociologieromaneasca.ro)
  - c. The online journal **Social Innovation** [www.inovatiiasociala.ro](http://www.inovatiiasociala.ro)
  - d. The **online opinion/debate platform Social Romanian** <https://www.romanasociala.ro/>
  - e. Organisation of national and international scientific **conferences**/participation to conferences.
  - f. Developing **social culture**: presence in the mass media, editorials, participation to debates.
5. Contributions to the development of the Romanian scientific community

- a. *The Virtual Sociology Library*: free online dissemination of sociological publications [www.bibliotecadesociologie.ro](http://www.bibliotecadesociologie.ro)
  - b. Higher professional training forms: **doctorate studies in sociology**
  - c. *Data bases*: QV and publications
6. Developing programmes and partnerships together with experts from Romania and abroad.

Considering the mission of the 'Digital Literacy and Inclusion' Research Hub and that of the Institute for Quality of Life Research, there are several common areas of interest where the two entities could collaborate effectively:

**Social and digital inclusion:**

IQLR has expertise in understanding social realities, and the Hub focuses on digital inclusion. Collaboration could involve identifying and implementing digital inclusion strategies for disadvantaged groups to improve overall quality of life.

**Development of scientific knowledge:**

Both partners share similar objectives in developing scientific knowledge. Collaboration could involve the exchange of resources and experiences to enhance understanding of rapid social changes and their impact on quality of life.

**Training and education:**

The Research Hub is involved in strengthening digital literature, and IQLR offers higher education in sociology. Collaboration could focus on developing educational and training programs in the digital domain to support inclusion and socio-economic development.

**Dissemination of research results:**

Both institutions place a strong emphasis on disseminating research results. Collaboration could involve knowledge and resource exchange to increase the visibility of results and more effectively impact social policies.

**Contributions to social policies and legislation:**

Both IQLR and the Hub are involved in contributing to social legislation. Collaboration could involve joint discussions and research to formulate more effective policies and legislation supporting social and digital inclusion.

**Collaboration in these common areas of interest could bring significant benefits to both parties, generating practical outcomes and contributing to the sustainable development of communities.**

***Conclusion:***

In closing, prof Maria Barbas express her gratitude to all the participants for their valuable contributions and insightful discussions during this meeting. Today's deliberations have shed light on key areas of common interest between the Institute for Quality of Life Research and the 'Digital Literacy and Inclusion' Research Hub.

As we move forward, there is a clear opportunity for collaboration in fields such as social and digital inclusion, knowledge development, and contributions to social policies and legislation. The shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life through research and practical initiatives is a strong foundation for future partnerships.

I encourage all participants to continue the dialogue and explore potential joint projects. Let's leverage our respective strengths and expertise to make a meaningful impact on the challenges faced by our communities.

Thank you once again for your active engagement, and I look forward to the prospect of fruitful collaboration.



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

Researcher Corina Dragan, The Institute for Quality of Life Research

