

## 'MAP-Mapping Digital Methods Applied in Adult Education in Partnership'

We are going through a period of transitions, and the dual green and digital transition requires changes in skills development to harness their full potential. Labor markets are changing due to population aging, rapidly advancing digitization and automation, supply chain dynamics, and labor mobility.

Digitalization is important because it brings significant benefits in terms of efficiency, accessibility, innovation, economy, and addressing global challenges. It transforms our lives and society as a whole and is a major force in our ongoing evolution.

In an increasingly digitized world, digital knowledge and skills are essential for active participation in society. They increase the chances of finding and retaining jobs.

Digitalization has transformed the way education is conducted. With access to online resources and learning platforms, people can acquire new skills and improve their knowledge at a pace convenient for them.

The Erasmus+ project "MAP (Mapping Digital Methods Applied in Adult Education in Partnership)," in which the Covasna County Employment Agency (AJOFM Covasna) is a partner alongside organizations from Hungary, Germany, Estonia, and Spain, focuses on the exchange of best practices in digitalization. The project aims to ensure that partner organizations can expand their tools and methods for developing digital competencies and digital awareness among adults. The consortium organizations share the methods they use in providing services/guidance for adults with low digital competencies, in determining the level of digital competencies, and in recognizing them in studies. They also share their experiences in the widespread use of digital tools in adult education, in preparing trainers for digital education, and in different teaching methods.

During September 12-13, AJOFM Covasna hosted the 5th international meeting within the framework of this project. Over the course of these two days, elements of the digitalization of components of the adult education system were presented. These components work together to provide adults with diverse opportunities for learning and continuous skills development.

This meeting served as an important platform for sharing knowledge and experiences among the project partners, contributing to the enhancement of digital competencies and the advancement of adult education in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The entities that provided elements of good practice included private vocational training providers, educational institutions, the county library, the Teacher's House, AJPIS (an institution responsible for authorizing and monitoring adult education activities), as well as the Public Employment Service. These diverse organizations and institutions are actively involved in contributing to the improvement of adult education and the development of digital competencies within the framework of the project. Their expertise and experiences are valuable for enhancing the overall effectiveness of adult education programs.

The representative from Hamor Soft illustrated the state of digitalization at both the national and regional levels, highlighting its impact on human capital and the expenditures of companies dedicated to digitalization. Emphasizing that there are certain limits and challenges in the development of digitalization from the perspective of Information Technology and Communications (ITC), as well as from the corporate side, the organization presented its involvement and actions taken to guide ITC experts towards local digital transformations and promote lifelong learning.

This proactive approach is essential in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by digitalization, ensuring that experts in IT and communication technology are well-equipped to contribute to local digital transformations, and emphasizing the importance of continuous learning throughout one's life.

As adult education providers, Gruman Consulting and Incubator House presented to the project consortium the impact of digitalization on adult education through the lens of projects and programs they have implemented. They emphasized that digital competencies open doors to

lifelong learning, granting adults access to a diverse range of educational resources, scheduling flexibility, online interaction, and opportunities for continuous self-improvement. Both presentations covered aspects related to legislation as well as practical techniques and methods applied in the context of digitalization in adult education.



The representative of the Teacher's House, an organization responsible for organizing continuous training courses for teachers, provided information on the use of digital technology and online resources to facilitate the process of learning and skill development. The emphasis in the presentation was on digital teaching methods and integrated innovation in digital education. It was highlighted that teachers are encouraged to adopt innovative methods, be aware of the impact of digital technologies and services on the environment and climate, in order to collaboratively use the most sustainable options. They are also encouraged to engage in mutual learning and share their experience, as the right combination of digital platforms and methodologies creates efficient and interactive learning environments for both students and adults alike.

The representative of the Bod Péter Library highlighted, through examples, the importance of digital libraries as invaluable resources for education, research, personal development, and the preservation of cultural heritage. They emphasized its role as a fundamental pillar in the process of digitalization, providing access, preservation, and promotion of digital information.



During the meeting, elements of integrated methodologies at the Puskas Tivadar High School level were presented. These elements aim to optimize the learning process, increase student interaction and engagement, and develop digital skills. Additionally, the platforms and online teaching tools used were showcased, including software solutions that facilitate the administration, distribution, and evaluation of online learning content.

From the presentation of the Technical Secretariat of the County Commission for the Accreditation of Training Providers, key reasons for the importance of digitalization in the self-improvement process of adult training providers were highlighted. The presentation detailed the simplification and digitalization of the authorization and monitoring processes for adult vocational training providers.



During the meeting, it was emphasized that the Public Employment Service and digitalization are closely linked in the context of the modern labor market. Digitalization has brought significant changes in how services operate and assist individuals in job searching. Online platforms have been developed to help people search for jobs, create their profiles, and match them with suitable job opportunities based on their experience and skills, increasing their chances of employment.

It was also mentioned that the Public Employment Service plays a role as a training provider, offering both digital skills training to help individuals become more comfortable with using technology in their job search and access to online training courses for individuals to develop their skills and become more competitive in the job market.

In today's rapidly changing world, the ability to adapt to new technologies and the digital environment is becoming increasingly important for individuals and organizations. Therefore, one of the main outcomes of the project will be the Best Practices Brochure, which will present the methods used by partner organizations, as well as their experiences and operational results. The experiences of integrating these methods into institutional functioning will be presented in a summary study at the end of the project.



**The group in front of the AJOFM Covasna**

**Partnership:**

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