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<b>GOOD PRACTICES</b>	
<b>Title of the project, programme</b>	Digital Participation: Engaging Diverse and Marginalised Communities
<b>Duration</b>	2019-2021
<b>Name of the organisation/service responsible for the intervention, with reference to country and location (specific)</b>	Partners of Digital Participation are: FUNDACJA AUTOKREACJA (Warszawa, Poland) in cooperation with Upstream Stories (Aarhus, Denmark) and Mine Vaganti (Sassari, Italy)
<b>Scope (local/regional/national/international)</b>	Local and international
<b>Area</b>	Digital Participation
<b>History of the project how it was conceived, development and context strategies;</b>	<p>Digital Participation was a two year KA2 project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and consisted of three partners from Poland, Italy and Denmark.</p> <p>The idea for the project was initially born as a response to one of the main challenges the European Union is facing, which is digital exclusion. It is a widespread and growing phenomenon that leaves a great number of people not able to benefit from the chances and opportunities that living in digitised European societies have to offer. People with low digital competences are less likely to find and maintain stable income jobs, access educational offers that could increase their qualifications and face a growing risk of permanent marginalisation.</p>



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**General description of project/programme**

*Objectives, actions, main actors and challenges, organisations involved, beneficiaries and n° of beneficiaries involved, partners and stakeholders, budget available, implementation period and other relevant information useful to understand its nature and results);*

The partners of the project focused on developing tools for educators to support them in the process of providing adult learners with innovative yet simple tools that would help them look at the digital world from a new perspective. The project investigated how using the resources adult learners already have access to (mobile phones, internet) can lead to improving their life conditions and also contribute to the positive change in the local communities they live in and thus contributing to the prevention of permanent social exclusion.

The project was targeted at

- adult people at risk of exclusion due to various factors, such as low education/low skills level; unemployment/low income jobs; living in geographically disadvantaged areas (either distant rural or deprived urban communities); having migration/refugee/minority background.
- educators and personnel working with adults at risk.

Activities in this project included local participatory media workshops for adults at risk of exclusion. The workshops were based on the methods of participatory photography and digital storytelling.

Furthermore, an online training course was created, making it easy for educators to complete a digitalised training in the participatory media methods of participatory photography and digital storytelling.

**Outcomes of the practices, relevant results, impact**

The **Digital Participation** project began just as COVID-19 lockdowns started in early 2020. Originally planned for in-person workshops, partners quickly adapted by moving participatory media sessions online without changing the project's goals — and with unexpected benefits.

In Denmark, **Upstream Stories** partnered with **Gallo Huset** to run online workshops for adults at risk of exclusion, particularly those facing mental health challenges. For some participants, it was their first online workshop, offering a safe and creative space during lockdown. Many reported increased confidence and a renewed sense of possibility.

The project's key output is a **free, online training course** designed for educators to learn Digital Storytelling and Participatory Photography. Flexible and accessible, it can be completed individually or in teams, making it widely available to support inclusive education practices.



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<p><b>Transferability</b></p>	<p>The digitalised training course is <b>free and accessible for everyone interested</b> in learning how to facilitate participatory photography and digital storytelling. The material can be accessed online, which makes it easy for other organisations to incorporate the two methods in their work with target groups that are similar or even different from adults at risk of exclusion.</p> <p>The method could also be transferred to activities for <b>seniors</b>. While the project focuses on digital inclusion for adults at risk, a senior adaptation would emphasize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Combating loneliness and isolation.</li> <li>- Empowering older adults to voice their stories and perspectives.</li> <li>- Building digital confidence for everyday use.</li> <li>- Improving intergenerational understanding and social participation.</li> </ul> <p>Some recommendations for adaptations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offer in-person and hybrid options with tech support on-site.</li> <li>- Keep group sizes small and allow flexible pacing.</li> <li>- Provide printed handouts, visual instructions, and one-on-one guidance.</li> <li>- Ensure activities are physically accessible and held in familiar, safe community spaces.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sustainability</b></p>	<p>The core of participatory media is to empower people to find and use their own voice to express their views and needs. All the participants from the local workshops used their own computer/tablet/phone and were introduced to open-source editing programmes enabling them to continue using their own voice through the creation of photography and film.</p>
<p><b>Links and Sources</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Films</a> from the local Danish workshop that the participants agreed to share.</p> <p><a href="#">Interview</a> with an expert on mental illness about the use of participatory media</p> <p><a href="#">Interview</a> with a participant from a local digital storytelling film workshop in Denmark</p> <p><a href="#">Digital Participation</a> project website</p> <p><a href="#">Digitalised training course</a></p> <p><a href="#">Article</a> on using media-based tools for need assessment and project evaluation</p> <p>Partners of Digital Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upstream Stories <a href="http://upstreamstories.org/">http://upstreamstories.org/</a></li> <li>- The Autokreacja Foundation <a href="https://autokreacja.org/">https://autokreacja.org/</a></li> <li>- Mine Vaganti <a href="https://minevaganti.org">https://minevaganti.org</a></li> </ul>