



Our Digital Village

3rd Newsletter

Our Digital Village project aims to intervene in rural areas by promoting the acquisition of digital and transversal skills, preparing people to face the challenges of the future. It will do so by co-creating high-quality educational content that responds to the needs of the local context, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term transformation towards digitalisation through active awareness raise on all levels of society.

Dear Reader,

As we wrap up the third year of *Our Digital Village* and finalised the project, we are proud to share the **key highlights** of this final project period:

- A rich series of new events (courses, info sessions, info desks, workshops, webinars, and conferences) that continued to strengthen *Our Digital Village*.
- Growing participation numbers, reflecting an expanding and engaged digital village community.
- Major achievements that have generated strong and lasting real-life impact of many citizens in rural areas across Europe.

We invite you to visit our [website](#) to explore the latest project resources, and to continue following us on [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date with all the latest news from **Our Digital Village!**

What happened in Our Digital Village in 2025?

Many diverse events and workshops were organised over the project's last year by the project's partners.

ICT Training and Courses

To test and evaluate the *Our Digital Village Activity Kit* with teachers and trainers, partners organized **training activities** and **ICT courses** in February across educational institutions, local organisations and community hubs in the targeted rural areas.

Each implementing country organised local training sessions involving at least 15 teachers and trainers. The training provided basic skills of **coding**, **robotics**, **microcontrollers**, **3D modelling** and **printing**, and **web-development**. Through these activities, learners acquired the digital knowledge needed to carry out the activities proposed in the Activity Kit and adapt them to local needs and contexts.

Moreover, each implementing country delivered 4 **ICT courses** with the aim of increasing the digital and transversal skills of at least 60 learners per country based on the ICT challenges presented in the Activity Kit. To further strengthen learners' skills, at least 25% of each ICT course was dedicated to developing a **personal digital project**, where learners used technology or coding to solve a problem relevant to themselves or their community. All projects were then showcased at the subsequent ODV community events, and in each implementing country the best project was awarded.

Following the ICT courses, each implementing partner organized three **co-evaluation meetings** (two in person and one online) to assess the local impact of the project's activities and gather feedback to improve future initiatives.

On site, at these ICT locations, partners set up **ICT Info Desks** to bring digital support directly to the community. Skilled staff from partner organisations provided face-to-face digital assistance to people seeking guidance. Overall, 7 info desks (+one online, always available, to find [here](#)) were installed and 40 people were supported thanks to this initiative.

In addition, two further **info sessions** were organized on key topics related to digital literacy and technology to promote open dialogue and knowledge sharing.

All Digital Weeks

In March, *Our Digital Village* landed at All Digital Weeks. During a **webinar**, the project coordinators Giulia D'Annibale and Alberto Biondo from Centro per lo Sviluppo Creativo Danilo Dolci thoroughly explained how the **Reciprocal Maieutic Approach (RMA)**, tested by the sociologist and educator Danilo Dolci starting in the 1950s, fosters education and impactful change through a direct exchange, participation and self-analysis of the people concerned. Furthermore, Giulia and Alberto demonstrated practical strategies to engage rural communities in digital upskilling and shared lessons learned and real impact stories from the field.



Digital Empowerment in Rural Communities through Our Digital Village

In June, the University of Alicante released a new **research paper** by Rosabel Martínez Roig on how the *Our Digital Village* project applies the RMA to enhance digital skills and promote inclusion in rural communities across Europe.

Drawing on the experiences of 278 participants, including teachers, students, and adult learners from the implementing countries, it provides valuable perspectives on digital obstacles faced in rural areas and the significant impact of participatory digital learning.

The **results of the study** underline the importance of improving digital infrastructure, strengthening teacher training, and supporting individualized learning pathways, while also enabling communities to grow through cooperation, creativity, and autonomy.

Finalisation of Our Digital Village Activity Kit

The **Activity Kit** developed during the project was finalised and published in September on the [project's website](#). It is intended for teachers and trainers working in both formal and non-formal education. Specifically, it is subdivided into **four sections**:

1. Introduction: This section underlines the importance of digital skills in today's digitalised world.
2. A collection of 50 ICT activities: The collection proposes learning paths for different technologies as there are specifically 10 challenges for each technology, and they are subdivided into levels of difficulty. The aim is to strengthen the digital and transversal skills of teachers, trainers and learners. The activities are codesigned by RMA experts, ICT experts, teachers and trainers in rural areas, and are easily adaptable to different educational and geographical contexts.
3. General pedagogical guidelines: They support teachers and trainers in implementing the above-mentioned activities based on the local needs, desires and context.
4. Extra resources for more self-study.

Our Digital Village interactive workshops

At the end of September and October, ALDA, a partner of *Our Digital Village*, organised two **interactive online workshops** on digital education in rural communities.

In the **first workshop**, participants learned about the project overall, and partners shared the main takeaways from the self-reflection workshops they had carried out in their countries. Next, learners engaged in an interactive exercise in which they had to map digital challenges in their own communities and identify the people most affected by these gaps. Finally, they discussed how to overcome common challenges in stakeholders' cooperation.

As a follow-up, in the **second workshop** participants explored the Activity Kit and Training Outline created within the project. They learned from pilot actions led by *Our Digital Village* across Europe, which helped them to define concrete first steps to implement digital skills training in their local communities.

This was a unique opportunity for participants to exchange ideas with peers working similarly on digital transformation and to explore together how ICT challenges can be adapted locally for youth, adults and seniors.

Bridging the Gap: Digital Education in Rural Areas

In October, *Our Digital Village* organised the International Online Summit *Bridging the Gap: Digital Education in Rural Areas*.

The Summit provided participants with the opportunity to engage with **European digital education policy** and discuss core issues related to the **digital divide in Europe**.

The event highlighted innovative **best practices** for bridging the digital gap, showcasing **initiatives implemented across partner countries**, and allowed participants to learn about **project results** that had a tangible impact on the daily lives of citizens in the targeted rural communities.

Attendees deepened their understanding of the digital divide in rural areas from both practical and academic perspectives. They also gained **new digital skills** and increased confidence in using technology through **interactive activities**, such as 3D modelling, which had been implemented in the rural communities during the project.

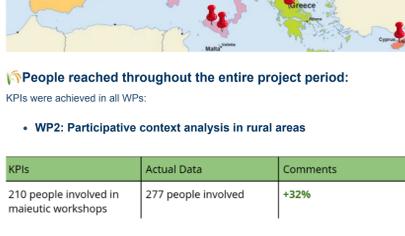
Inclusive Digital Europe Conference

In November, the project's Final Conference, called the **Inclusive Digital Europe Conference**, took place at the Maison des Associations Internationales in Brussels. The event brought together educators, policymakers, civil society organisations, and local authorities to explore one central question: **How can Europe's digital transition become truly inclusive, especially for rural and remote communities?** The conference gathered 63 in-person participants and 231 online participants, of whom 187 attended for more than 30 minutes.



Our Digital Village in numbers

Countries: 8



People reached throughout the entire project period:

KPIs were achieved in all WPs:

- **WP2: Participative context analysis in rural areas**

KPIs	Actual Data	Comments
210 people involved in maieutic workshops	277 people involved	+32%

- **WP3: Co-design of Activity Kit and evaluation tools**

KPIs	Actual Data	Comments
At least 10 teachers or trainers in the brainstorming meeting	67 teachers involved	+99%

- **WP4: ICT training and courses**

KPIs	Actual Data	%
105 teachers or trainers to be trained in ICT	123	+17%
28 courses to be implemented in 7 partner countries	At least 35	+25%
420 people to be involved in the courses	At least 622	+48%

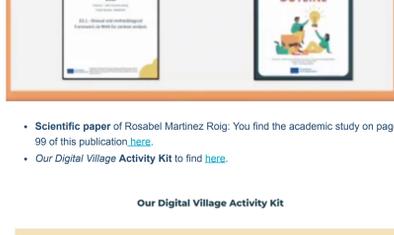
T4.1: Training for ICT and pedagogical skills for teachers

Partner	Number of participants reached
CSC	15 enrolled; 11 full participants
ACDC	16 participants
KMOP	32 participants
CSI	15 participants
Die Berater	15 participants
INOVA+	19 participants
DANMAR	15 participants

Project's results

Project partners collaborated very well throughout the initiative, making *Our Digital Village* a strong local community for enhancing digital skills. Learners were able to significantly improve their digital knowledge. This excellent cooperation has led to the final results of *Our Digital Village*.

- **RMA Manual:** The RMA Manual provides insights into the life of Danilo Dolci, an overview of the Reciprocal Maieutic Approach and practical information on the implementation of the workshops. The Manual served as a reference for all maieutic coordinators during the workshops cycles and it is a resource for future trainers or researchers who want to create change in education and awareness raising through participatory processes and self-analysis workshops outside the project. You can find the Manual [here](#).
- **Training Guideline:** This represents the theoretical core of the project. The Training Guideline describes the theories behind the technology and non-formally participatory approaches used with the Digital Village Communities composed of educational institutions, local authorities and policy makers in the rural areas of implementing countries. You can find the Guideline [here](#).



- **Scientific paper** of Rosabel Martínez Roig: You find the academic study on page 99 of this publication [here](#).
- **Our Digital Village Activity Kit** to find [here](#).

Our Digital Village Activity Kit



What's next?

Partners aim to ensure that the project's innovative approaches to digital education are not just temporary interventions but become **integral components** of educational systems, policy frameworks, and rural communities at large.

For this reason, each deliverable will remain freely accessible following the Open Licence principle. Moreover, key deliverables are available in nine languages (EN, IT, FR, DE, GR, PL, RO, ES, PT) and can be easily downloaded from the project website which will remain active for at least three years after the project's completion.

Furthermore, the partners involved in the project are often actively involved in education and training activities directed towards people with disadvantaged backgrounds and low levels of digital education. They continue using the educational materials developed and the project's approach as working tools in their ongoing efforts to promote the importance of transversal and digital skills in today's world.

In addition, the *Our Digital Village* Activity Kit together with the Training Outline developed to support the implementation of training for ICT and pedagogical skills for teachers and trainers will be further promoted by partners in external contexts in order to be used in other rural areas.

Specifically, the main goals set for mainstreaming and sustaining the project are:

1. **Integration into Educational Systems:** Ensure the project's educational methodologies, tools, and digital strategies become an integral part of national curricula in partner countries.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Influence:** Forge enduring relationships with educational institutions, public authorities, and policymakers to advocate for embedding the project's innovative approaches into digital education policies at local, national, and EU levels.
3. **Capacity Building and Training Continuity:** Initiate an ongoing professional development framework for educators in rural areas, utilizing the project's array of training resources.
4. **Community Engagement and Awareness:** Conduct a perpetual campaign to highlight the significance of digital literacy and inspire community-driven digital endeavors in rural areas.
5. **Sustainability through Funding and Resources:** Actively seek and secure funding for the project's continued activities and the initiation of new digital education projects.
6. **Evaluation and Adaptation:** Establish a comprehensive evaluation framework to assess the long-term impact of the project on rural communities' digital skills development.
7. **Replication and Scaling:** Create a replicable and scalable model of the project's successful initiatives, enabling adaptation and implementation in other rural contexts within and outside the EU.

Thank you for following our journey and for building Our Digital Village with us!



Download [here](#) all ODV materials!

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.