



DigitalScouts

ENHANCING THE DIGITAL LITERACY
AND PARTICIPATION IN EUROPE



PRESS RELEASE

The COVID19 pandemic highlighted the importance of digital technologies and competences for participation in all areas of society. Although the digital divide between younger and older generations in Europe is tending to narrow, the need for support continues unabated, in particular amongst people of very old age and with lower formal educational levels.

This is why ...a new Erasmus+ project was launched. The kick-off was on 19 - 20 January 2023, in a hybrid meeting held in Gouda, Netherlands.

DigitalScouts aims to **train people who like to support older people in using digital tools, empowering them to benefit from the opportunities for health promotion and digital participation.** By digital participation we refer to citizens that use digital tools (such as internet, social media, etc.) to take part in personal relevant areas of life, whether they are social, cultural, political or regarding the promotion of health.

From December 2022 until July 2025, DigitalScouts will be implemented by 6 organisations in 5 countries:

- ISIS Institut für Soziale Infrastruktur gGmbH (Germany) | *International Coordinator*
- BerufsWege für Frauen e.V. (Germany)
- AFEdeMy, Academy on Age-Friendly Environments in Europe (Netherlands)
- SHINE 2Europe (Portugal)
- Asociatia Grupul de Educatie si Actiune pentru Cetatenie (Romania)
- Austrian Red Cross (Austria)

The DigitalScouts partners will develop a **European Compendium** that will highlight the relevance of the promotion of the digital participation of older citizens. It will present illustrative examples from the participating countries of how older people can benefit from using digital tools in the areas of health promotion as well as to enhance their cultural, political and social participation.

The main focus of the project is an educational offer that qualifies 'digital scouts' to support older people in using digital tools to let them benefit from the opportunities of digitalisation. For this purpose, a digital training is being developed as an independent self-learning course. It focuses on the diverse possibilities of digital participation and health promotion, enabling the digital scouts to acquire comprehensive knowledge for supporting people 60+ with the use of digital tools according to their individual interests.

A **Toolkit for Trainers** will support adult educators in embedding the **Digital Training** into a blended learning offer.