# Knowledge Hub Report



EASPD

Knowledge Hub

**EASPD**

European Association of Service providers
for Persons with Disabilities

# EASPD Knowledge Café:

# Knowledge Hub: What's new?

On 8 March 2023, EASPD hosted the Spring Knowledge Café to launch the new and updated e-learning platform, the Knowledge Hub.

E-learning is the fastest growing market in the education industry. One of the reasons behind this is the increase of the digital use for education and learning.

Opportunities for training and learning are key to staff retention in the social sector today. E-learning comes as a great tool to enable staff upskilling and professional development. Statistics show that E-Learning can be completed within about 40% to 60% less time than traditional learning. It also provides learners with more fun, convenient, and engaging ways to learn.

E-learning tools are a great option for education and training as they offer more accessible options. Online training courses can be undertaken at any time and participants can set their own schedule when it comes to taking the training course.

Presenting EASPD's approach to E-Learning was the key objective of this Knowledge Café!

**What is the Knowledge Hub and how does it work?**

Sasha Leone, EASPD E-Learning Officer, presented the newly updated EASPD online learning platform: the Knowledge Hub, where we put learners first. The platform contains two main sections: one section hosting online training courses and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), and another section, the e-Library, gathering resources, such as studies, reports, and policy papers, developed in collaboration with EASPD, and relevant to the social and disability sector.

The EASPD Knowledge Hub ensures the sustainability of project outputs: it can host different types of resources such as trainings and publications, which anyone will be able to access at any time upon free registration on the platform. All resources available on the Knowledge Hub are free of use: let's not miss out on this opportunity!

**How to use the Knowledge Hub?**

If it is your first time on the Hub, you will have to start by creating an account here. Once this is done, you will be all set to navigate on the platform and make the most of the resources available. On the welcome page you will be able to see the e-learning courses and resources we have recently uploaded or that we currently promote. You can scroll through the list of e-learning courses as well as resources available. The platform also offers options for more accessibility: changing the size of the text, the contrast, etc. so it can be more user-friendly.

**How do participants use the online courses hosted on the Knowledge Hub?**

Ondrej Botek, Professor at the University of Trnava (Slovakia), shared his experience of creating a training course about inclusive education in collaboration with partners, and using it to teach students. Introducing the online course created as part of the Improving Assistance in Inclusive Educational Setting project, Pr. Botek explained the different possible uses of the course. The training course contains five thematic modules each including diverse videos, PowerPoint presentations and quizzes. Pr. Botek recognised it is an easy and quick way for his students to develop knowledge and enhance competences which they will be able to use at work.

Pr. Botek shared feedback from students who currently use this training course: while students point out there can be a lot of materials to study and they sometimes missed the possibility to ask questions about the course, they enjoyed being able to manage their time of learning by themselves and they appreciated the variety of examples and resources provided in the training course.

While combined forms of teaching can be considered more beneficial, the Knowledge Hub gives teachers the possibility to act as such on the platform and be in touch with students when they have questions, as well as assess their work.

**How do organisations work with EASPD to develop online training courses on the Knowledge Hub?**

Katri Hänninen, from KVPS (Finland), brought a different perspective, that of an organisation which has developed a Massive Open Online Course along with project partners and EASPD. KVPS was involved in the To Inclusive Education and BEYOND project which created and released a MOOC. Katri explained how the partnership worked on creating an online training course from scratch:

- Agreeing on the topics that will be addressed in the training course
- Sharing tasks among partners according to each partner's expertise and thematic knowledge
- Defining the structure of the training (number of modules, type of resources used, etc.)
- Piloting and evaluating: going through the materials created and testing activities
- Uploading the training course on the platform
- Translating the materials: it is important to have the documents translated by persons knowledgeable about the topic of the course
- Testing the MOOC, once it has been uploaded and translated: all languages have to be tested. It is important to have external testers to also ensure the clarity and straightforwardness of the course.
- Marketing and sustainability: once the MOOC has been tested and finalised, it is important to promote it to relevant audiences to also ensure its visibility and sustainability

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**How to adapt an in-person training course to an online course: the example of the European Care Certificate**

Finally, Shirley Potter and James Churchill from Social Care Training (United Kingdom) shared with participants how they worked to adapt an in-person training course to an online course. The European Care Certificate is an entry-level certificate for staff in the health and social care sector, ensuring they have the basic knowledge to work in this setting.

Usually delivered in person, this training course is being adapted into a MOOC so it can eventually become more accessible to more staff. Shirley Potter explained the key aspects and challenges to keep in mind when adapting training materials to an online format. Keeping the learners' attention is one key aspect to consider when creating an online course: ensuring the learner is engaged in the course will have a positive impact on their learning and what they will remember from the course.

How to make sure the learner does not feel isolated during their learning and how to ensure the online training course offers all information needed to make the most of their training experience? In order to meet different learning styles, different types of resources and activities have been created for the online format of the course, eg. videos, reflection activities, research-based activities and quizzes. One also has to consider how to keep the learner's attention: when in-person, it is easy for a trainer to notice when a learner is losing interest so the trainer can then use strategies to bring the learner's focus back. Keeping videos short and including infographics in presentations is one of the ways to help ensure we will keep learners engaged in online courses.

This launch is a key step in EASPD's ambition to drive innovation in our sector and in ensuring that our members and partners have access to up-to-date resources for their organisation and their staff.

The Knowledge Hub is waiting for you, we hope to see you there!

**Useful links and contacts**:

- You can access the EASPD Knowledge Hub here.

- You can contact our new Knowledge and E-Learning Officer, Kalianne Farren; at: kalianne.farren@easpd.eu

- For any technical question about the Knowledge Hub, you can contact our team at: knowledgehub@easpd.eu

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**EASPD is the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities. We are a European not-for-profit organisation representing over 20,000 social services and disability organisations across Europe. The main objective of EASPD is to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities through effective and high-quality service systems.**