

**WG1 Dynamic Exchange**  
**D1.2 Plan and Report on Activities**  
**Coordination of Intersectoral and Interdisciplinary Cross-WG Activities**  
**COST Action CA19104**  
**2020-2024**

### **Executive Summary**

This report documents the coordination and implementation of intersectoral and interdisciplinary activities across Working Groups in the a-STEP COST Action. Despite initial challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Action successfully conducted regular meetings and activities to ensure knowledge exchange and stimulate collaboration between different sectors and disciplines.

### **1. Meeting Schedule and Implementation**

#### **1.1 Physical Meetings**

The Action organized 12 in-person meetings throughout its duration:

1. Meeting in Antalya, Turkey (Including SLR Workshop)
2. Meeting in Azores, Portugal (Including Delphi Study Workshop)
3. Meeting in North Macedonia
4. Meeting in Oslo, Norway
5. Meeting in Cagliari, Italy (Final Meeting) [Additional meetings to be listed]

#### **1.2 Cross-WG Activities**

Each meeting included:

- Working Group sessions
- Core Group meetings
- Management Committee meetings
- Cross-WG collaboration sessions
- Networking opportunities

### **2. Knowledge Exchange Activities**

#### **2.1 Workshops**

Four specialized workshops were organized:

1. Systematic Literature Review Workshop
2. Delphi Study Workshop with Daniel Beiderbeck
3. Co-production and co-writing workshop using Story Dialogue Method
4. ICT and AI Workshop for Learning Disabilities

#### **2.2 Training Schools**

Two training schools were conducted:

1. "Building bridges with participatory research" (Albania, July 2023)
2. "White paper writing" (Trabzon, Turkey)

### **3. Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

#### **3.1 Working Group Integration**

- WG1 (Dynamic Exchange) coordination with WG5 (Dissemination) for network expansion
- WG2 (Collaborative Evaluation) work with WG3 (Creation and Adaptation) on best practices
- WG4 (Resources and Tools) collaboration with all WGs for platform development
- WG6 (Management) oversight of cross-WG activities

#### **3.2 Intersectoral Activities**

Engagement across sectors included:

- Academic institutions
- Service providers
- Industry partners
- NGOs
- Policymakers
- People with disabilities and their families

### **4. Implementation Challenges and Solutions**

#### **4.1 COVID-19 Impact**

- Initial two years affected by lockdowns
- Shift to online/hybrid meetings
- Adapted meeting formats for virtual collaboration

#### **4.2 Mitigation Strategies**

- Implementation of hybrid meeting formats
- Reorganization of working groups into task-specific subgroups
- Increased online collaboration tools usage

### **5. Outcomes and Achievements**

#### **5.1 Network Growth**

- 145 members from different countries
- 84 members from ITC countries
- 47 Early Career Investigators
- 96 female participants

#### **5.2 Key Deliverables**

- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Best practices framework
- Online resource platform



- Educational and training materials
- Dissemination activities

## **6. External Expert Engagement**

Invited speakers and trainers included:

- Dr. Daniel Beiderbeck
- Lynn Zimmerman
- Skerdi Zahaj
- László Gábor Lovászy
- Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf
- Additional external experts [list continues]

## **7. Future Recommendations**

1. Continue hybrid meeting formats to ensure inclusive participation
2. Maintain cross-WG collaboration through regular joint sessions
3. Further develop online collaboration tools
4. Strengthen industry-academia partnerships
5. Expand involvement of people with disabilities in activities

## **8. Conclusion**

Despite initial challenges, the Action successfully coordinated intersectoral and interdisciplinary activities, leading to meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange across Working Groups. The diverse participation and range of activities contributed to achieving the Action's objectives in enhancing social inclusion through technology and empowerment.