

## **D2.4: List of Research Priorities for Future Translational Research**

### **a-STEP COST Action CA19104**

#### **Working Group 2: Collaborative Evaluation**

##### **Executive Summary**

This report outlines the research priorities identified through expert consultation and thematic analysis, as documented in the research conducted by the a-STEP Working Group 2. The priorities focus on enhancing social inclusion through assistive technologies (ATs) for people with Intellectual Disability (ID) and those on the autism spectrum.

#### **1. Core Research Priority Areas**

##### **1.1. Research on Life Contexts**

Priority research is needed to investigate:

- Barriers to independent living
- Stigma and prejudice in society, particularly in educational contexts
- Lack of accessibility, with emphasis on:
  - Communicational accessibility
  - Physical accessibility adaptations
- Existing provision services and assessment of AT usage
- Intersectionality issues associated with AT provision and usage

##### **1.2. Action Research on Systemic Support Structures**

Priority areas include:

- Research methodology development
- Technological development processes
- Open access dissemination and distribution methods

#### **2. Implementation Research Focus Areas**

##### **2.1. Customization and Accessibility Research**

Research priorities include:

- Critical gap between existing ATs and user needs
- Adaptability of technologies for varied communication styles
- Learning abilities support
- Promotion of independence in daily activities

## **2.2. Policy and Infrastructure Research**

Priority areas include:

- Policy reform effectiveness
- Infrastructure development impact
- AT integration into education and employment
- Funding mechanisms for AT acquisition
- Inclusive educational and work environment creation
- Public space accommodation improvements

## **2.3. User Involvement Research**

Research priorities should focus on:

- Person-centered approach effectiveness
- Co-creation processes
- Decision-making involvement methods
- Family engagement strategies

## **3. Research Methodology Priorities**

### **3.1. Qualitative Research Methods**

Priority should be given to:

- Development of qualitative research methodologies
- Context-driven research approaches
- Personalized technology development studies
- Rehabilitation strategy effectiveness research

## **Conclusion**

The identified research priorities emphasize the need to investigate life contexts, develop systemic support structures, and explore inclusive paradigms. These priorities emerged



directly from expert consultation and aim to address current gaps in AT research and implementation.

### **Reference**

This report is based on: Sousa, C., Tsvetkova, P., Pérez-Fuster, P., Agius, M., Kostova, S., Bolesta, K., Megda Garcia, F., Nanchen, B., & Tkaczyk, A. H. (2024). Social Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disability and on the Autism Spectrum through Assistive Technologies: Current Needs and Future Priorities. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology*.