

**Digital skills and competences of local communities in rural areas: Nýheimar knowledge center joined an online Kick-off meeting.**

November 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Nýheimar knowledge center took part in the Kick-off Meeting of the project **Digital skills and competences of local communities in rural areas** which usually goes by the name **Digital Communities**. The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Commission, Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices – Strategic Partnerships.

The degree of digitization is steadily increasing in our society. European countries have multiple mandatory digital solutions regarding public services. The increasing reliance on digital technology in people's everyday life necessitates the development of digital literacy skills to enable their continued participation in the Internet information-age. As existing services, such as banking and shopping, move increasingly online, the likelihood of excluding certain demographic groups, such as the elderly and those living in rural areas, increases exponentially.

The project aims to ensure that local communities and rural areas equally get the chance to develop digital skills, try new tools and technologies as well as build communities around this. It will apply an inclusive approach to include the local population of rural areas, not only in training activities but also in developing the activities to be offered.

Nýheimar knowledge center is the promoter of Digital Communities and will be leading all the activities related to management and implementation. Participating also in all the activities of the project;

- Dissemination
- Evaluation
- Research Study
- Handbook for trainers
- Pilot testing at local level
- Multiplier Event at local level

The Kick-off Meeting, originally planned in Rotterdam, was held online due to the COVID-19 restrictions in November 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 and was extremely successful. The participants in the project are experienced in a variety of fields and there is great anticipation within the group to tackle this exciting project that is Digital Communities.

The duration of the project is 24 months between 2020/22. The project will be implemented by a partnership of six organizations from five European countries (Iceland, Bulgaria, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden).

For further information on Digital Communities and other Nýheimar knowledge center initiatives:

- [www.nyheimar.is](http://www.nyheimar.is)
- <https://www.facebook.com/N%C3%BDheimar-%C3%BEekkingarsetur-1580185632248980>

