



Konekt : a Belgian perspective

Media Literacy and Disabilities

About Konekt and Media Literacy

ONBEPERKT
MEDIAWIJS



About us



Why working on media literacy

Digital participation increases
social participation

Digital exclusion reinforces
social exclusion



Why learn media literacy?

- To increase participation in a digital world
- To increase self-confidence in digital practices
- For fun & creativity
- For future employment
- To learn new skills & experiences
Computational thinking



Media Literacy in Flanders

Little to no research on media literacy and people with disabilities

Media literacy in general is booming

- Flemish center for expertise
- academic research
- youth and social work organisations
- e-inclusion as a sector

Very little organisations dare to make the combination of media literacy & people with disabilities



Thresholds (1)

Fear of the digital leads to aversion and prohibition

Context lacks knowledge & experience

Rapid digital evolutions are hard to keep up with

Lack of materials and means

Lack of a media literate policy



Thresholds (2)

Little to no contexts for people with disabilities to take up an active, media literate role

Little to no combination of online & offline counsel / care

Large focus on problems & hazards



How do we approach the problem? (1)

Hosting a wide variety of initiatives to get a taste of digital learning

Offering a solid education for both professionals and people with disabilities, meanwhile creating strong role models

Increasing public awareness & support

Organising policy development courses

Developing settings in which people are empowered to take up a media literate role



How do we approach the problem? (2)

Providing a wide variety of (digital) materials and methodologies to organisations

Carrying out refueling, coaching and intervention sessions



Present day challenges

The integration of online practices into the daily support has become a necessity

Organisations lack investments in media literacy:

- hardware and software
- data connections
- education and training

Policy needs to be convinced of the urgency

Sharing & connecting knowledge versus scattered experiments on small islands



How does Konekt distinguish itself?

We actively involve people with disabilities in the proces & education; involving people as valued partners

Creating contexts for people with disabilities to take up an active, media literate role

Building bridges between the media literacy sector and the care/support sector.



Activities

Media Labs

Media Coach training for duos

Coaching policy processes

Code Coaches in pre-school education (NEW)

Cases with materials + coaching (NEW)

A wide range of media literacy trainings for both people with disabilities and professionals



Media literacy and SEN



People with cognitive disabilities learn about media literacy in our media labs and courses.

We tackle learning together, never alone.

First obvious wins:

- Great sense of achievement
- Pure fun



Main Takeaways

- SEN does not equal not being able to learn about media literacy
Do not underestimate your audience
- Tactile experiences increase learning
- Offer a variety of materials, our favourites being: example for coding
 - Blue Bot
 - Osmo
 - Scratch Jr
 - LEGO WeDo
- Prepare well, with clear step by step instructions
- Be ready to adapt or even abandon your preparations in the moment



What about you?

Why should your organisation become inclusive?

- Increase diversity and participation
- Help fight digital exclusion
- Increase empathy and fight prejudice
- Valuable learning & teaching experiences for other members





Contact & Information

Tom Van Hoey

Project lead on media literacy & inclusion



tom.vanhoey@konekt.be



@TomVanHoey



www.konekt.be

Karen Mouws

Educational employee on media literacy & inclusion



karen.mouws@konekt.be



@Limskaren



www.konekt.be