# Newsletter (May 2026)

## DigiGap DIGI-RECIPES Pilot Testing

The DigiGap project has successfully completed its transnational pilot testing phase, known as DIGI-RECIPES, bringing together students, parents, and grandparents across four European countries to bridge the digital divide - one family at a time.

### About the Pilot

The DIGI-RECIPES pilot was implemented by partner organisations in Poland, Spain, Greece, and Romania, involving a total of 72 students and their family members. Rather than following a traditional classroom approach, the methodology placed students in the role of digital facilitators, guiding adult family members through practical, everyday digital tasks in the comfort of their own homes.

The concept is rooted in intergenerational learning: young people, who are often confident and fluent with digital technologies, act as guides and mentors for parents and grandparents who may benefit from personalised, non-formal support. By reversing the traditional teaching role, the pilot not only helped adults build digital confidence but also strengthened communication, empathy, and responsibility among students.

### What Was Tested?

Partners selected a range of DIGI-RECIPES tailored to practical aspects of digital life. While each country adapted its selection to local needs and contexts, several common themes emerged across all four countries:

- Information management and organisation: using Google Search and Google Calendar for everyday planning and information retrieval.
- Digital communication: exploring Gmail, digital etiquette, and responsible online interactions.
- Online safety: identifying phishing emails, recognising secure websites, and managing app permissions.
- Creative digital skills: using Canva, creating short videos, and experimenting with AI tools for content creation.
- Digital wellbeing: reflecting on screen time, attention management, and healthy engagement with technology.

The diversity of topics ensured that activities were relevant and motivating for participants of all ages and experience levels.

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## Results and Impact

The overall outcomes of the pilot were highly positive across all four countries. Students developed greater patience, empathy, and communication skills through their role as facilitators. Adults gained confidence, overcame fears around new technologies, and enjoyed meaningful quality time with younger family members.

Across all countries, a consistent finding emerged: the pilot generated benefits well beyond digital skill acquisition, contributing to stronger family relationships and greater intergenerational understanding.

## Challenges and Lessons Learned

The most frequently observed difficulty concerned differences in digital confidence among adult participants, particularly grandparents, who often required additional support and more time. Technical barriers such as slow internet connections and older devices occasionally interrupted activities, though families generally overcame these together. Scheduling and the completion of family evaluation questionnaires also presented challenges in some cases.

## Recommendations for Future Implementation

Based on the pilot experience, partners recommended several improvements for future rounds:

- Introduce two levels of task difficulty to accommodate varying levels of digital experience.
- Add short instructional videos or visual demonstrations to support different learning styles.
- Incorporate structured reflection activities after task completion, both at home and in the classroom.
- Implement reminder messages to increase family questionnaire completion rates.
- Make minor improvements to the visual design of materials for greater clarity and usability.

## Looking Ahead

The DIGI-RECIPES pilot has demonstrated that intergenerational, family-based digital learning is not only effective but deeply meaningful. The DigiGap partnership will carry these lessons forward as the project moves into its next phase, continuing to develop tools and approaches that empower students and communities to close the digital gap together.

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