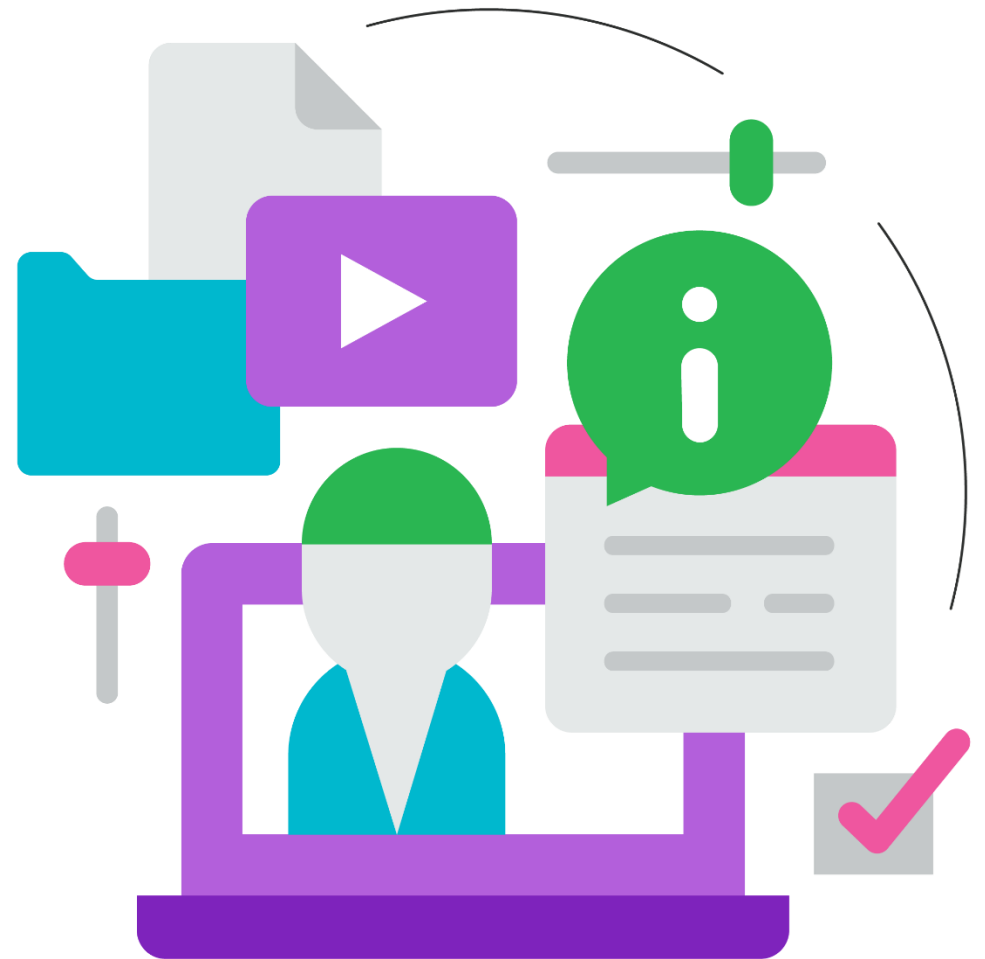


DIGITAL
4ALL

BUILDING A DIGITAL
WORLD FOR ALL



Module 1. Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies



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Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies

Welcome to Module 1!

In this module you will understand which challenges young migrants face when using digital tools, namely to search for information, and what strategies you can use to find reliable informations online.

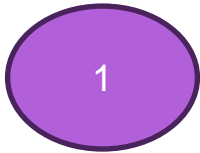
Let's Start!

Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies

What are the main digital challenges and necessities of young migrants? Conclusions of a Group Discussion with young migrants

29 young migrants participated in discussions developed in five countries: Cyprus, Ukraine, Austria, Sweden, Germany, and Portugal.

2 main themes emerged from the discussions: The Challenges and the Strategies to face them. Let's see them both in more detail.



Challenges young migrants face in accessing to reliable information

Difficulties and Lack of Motivation: Difficulty in understanding online information and lack of motivation and interest to evaluate information online.

“Sometimes it is whatever if it is true or false...”

Inaccessible, ineffective and lengthy reliable infrastructures: Outdated, unorganized and unstructured information, inclusively from formal sources

“It was scary, not understanding what I would be living on”

Scams, Digital Influencers and the Dream Ideology: Scams in email, telephone and social media channels. Unrealistic expectations and the dream ideology spread by digital influencers.

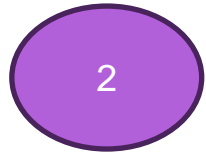
“I, at least, agree that the idea of influencers is to gain money by showing that Portugal is amazing, that everything is inexpensive, that houses are for free, that there is place for everyone, that people don't have to be worried about looking for a bedroom because it is easy, right?”

Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies

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Strategies to avoid untruths online

Digital Literacy and Safeness: Double-check the informations we find online, try to identify reliable elements in websites and of any missing information; block and report; think about what we read in a critical way.

Rely on your common sense but also on your critical thinking: “Too good to be true; “they have everything you want”, “they want money, this shows that they can be a scam”...


Rely on your supportive systems: This include you family, community, institutions. They can help you understand the content that you see online.

“Critical thinking can save us from being blind”.

“College enrollment and the support received by institutions can act as protective factors against untruths online”

“(…) so what needs to be done is making sure that the information does not stay only in the website and that is spread also (...). Maybe talking with influencers and tell them to share, make a video, (...).

Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies



**LET'S EXPLORE SOME IMPORTANT
CONCEPTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND
THIS RESULTS FROM YOUNG
MIGRANTS' DISCUSSIONS!**

Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies

What is Digital Literacy?

Digital literacy is the ability to use digital tools, platforms, and technologies effectively and responsibly. It includes skills like:

- Navigating the internet safely.
- Understanding and evaluating online information.
- Using software and digital tools for communication, work, or education.
- Managing online privacy and data security.

Why is it important?

1. Bridging the Digital Divide: Digital literacy reduces inequalities caused by lack of access to technology, empowering marginalized groups to participate fully in the digital world.

2. Career and Education: Many modern jobs and educational resources require digital skills.

3. Social Inclusion: Digital tools help connect people globally, fostering inclusion and participation in social and civic life.

4. Safety and Security: It equips users to identify scams, protect personal information, and maintain a secure online presence.

Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies

What is Digital Divide?

The **digital divide** refers to the gap between individuals, communities, or countries that have access to modern information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as the internet, smartphones, and computers, and those who do not.

This divide encompasses disparities in:

- 1. Access to technology:** Some people or regions lack the necessary infrastructure, such as internet connectivity or devices.
- 2. Affordability:** High costs for devices, services, or data plans can prevent access to technology.
- 3. Digital literacy:** Even with access, some individuals lack the skills or knowledge to effectively use technology.
- 4. Quality of access:** Variations in internet speed, reliability, and bandwidth also contribute to the divide.
- 5. Socioeconomic factors:** Wealth, education, geographic location, and age often influence who benefits from digital resources.

The digital divide can influence education, job opportunities, healthcare access, and social mobility, making it a critical issue for achieving equitable growth in a digital-first world.

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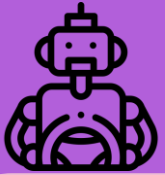
How do we think? Common Sense and Critical Thinking

Common Sense and Critical Thinking are both essential skills so that we can identify reliable information online, but they differ in how they are applied and their underlying processes.

1

CRITICAL THINKING

It comprehends both cognitive and behavioral processes. It involves awareness of own thought processes (**“thinking about thinking”**) and guiding a behavior based on a given goal (Milla, 2019)



Practical, everyday reasoning based on life experience and intuitive understanding.

Relies on instincts and social norms, often immediate and helps navigate routine situations.

Example: Knowing not to touch a hot stove or to dress appropriately for the weather.

Meta
Cognition

Common
Sense

A deliberate process of analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information to make logical decisions or solve problems.

Requires evidence-based reasoning, seeks to understand the “why” behind issues.

Example: Evaluating conflicting news reports to determine the most credible source.

2

COMMON SENSE - AUTOPILOT SYSTEM

Necessary decision-making tool due to its low consuming cognitive resources. HOWEVER, it lacks optimization.



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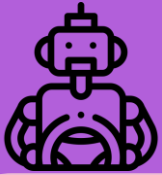
How do we think? Common Sense and Critical Thinking

1

Reflection Questions: Reflect on the following questions above for some minutes.

CRITICAL THINKING

It comprehends both cognitive and behavioral processes. It involves awareness of own thought processes ("**thinking about thinking**") and guiding a behavior based on a given goal (Milla, 2019)



Do you think common sense is universal, or does it vary across cultures? Provide examples to support your view.

How can individuals cultivate better common sense? What practices or experiences might contribute to this?

Meta Cognition

Common Sense

Reflect on a recent learning experience. How did you apply critical thinking strategies to enhance your understanding?

How can you incorporate this kind of thinking into your daily routine to improve your learning outcomes?

2

COMMON SENSE - AUTOPILOT SYSTEM

Necessary decision-making tool due to its low consuming cognitive resources. HOWEVER, it lacks optimization.



Young Migrants' Current Digital Skills and Strategies

In today's fast-paced digital world, misinformation can spread rapidly, impacting our understanding of critical issues. By adopting effective strategies to avoid fake news, we become more informed, responsible, and critical consumers of information.

Key takeaways:

- ✓ **Think critically:** Question the content you encounter and consider the source.
- ✓ **Verify information:** Use reputable fact-checking tools and cross-reference claims with trusted outlets.
- ✓ **Recognize biases:** Be aware of your own biases and those of the content creators.
- ✓ **Promote responsible sharing:** Avoid spreading information unless you're confident in its accuracy.

Well Done! You reached the end of Module 1!