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# IDEAL- INCLUSIVE DIGITAL EDUCATION FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE LEARNING

Project nº - 2021-1-ES01-KA220-VET-000033204

## SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (2025-2030)

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose of the Sustainability Plan

The purpose of the sustainability plan for the IDEAL Project is to ensure that the project's results, knowledge, and impact continue to benefit autistic individuals and other potential target groups beyond the project's official lifetime. This plan aims to maximize the long-term effectiveness, reach, and replicability of the IDEAL Project by outlining a strategic approach for maintaining, transferring, and expanding its results on a global scale.

Specifically, this sustainability plan will:

- Define the **key project results** that are most suitable for replication, transfer, or expansion to new contexts, including educational institutions, therapy centres, and policy environments.
- Establish a **framework for ongoing collaboration, knowledge transfer, and networking** among partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties.
- Assess the **socio-economic impact of the project** and identify factors that influence its long-term success and transferability.
- Develop different **sustainability scenarios** that explore various combinations of knowledge transfer, institutional support, and funding opportunities.
- Propose **concrete actions for maintaining the IDEAL platform**, repository, and methodology as a cost-effective and inclusive resource for digital education for autistic individuals and other groups, such as those with intellectual disabilities.

By focusing on knowledge transfer, collaboration, and the establishment of long-term support structures, this plan will ensure that the IDEAL Project's impact extends far beyond its original timeline, creating a lasting positive effect on inclusive digital education and fostering new opportunities for future initiatives and partnerships.

## 1.2. Importance of Long-Term Impact

Ensuring the long-term impact of the IDEAL Project is essential to sustaining the progress made in enhancing access to digital education for autistic individuals. The project's innovative approach, including its **inclusive methodology, digital platform, and curated repository of tools**, has the potential to benefit a wide range of users beyond the initial implementation phase. However, without a clear strategy for maintaining and expanding these results, the impact may be limited to the project's duration.

A strong long-term impact is crucial for several reasons:

- **Continued Accessibility for Users:** The IDEAL platform and repository provide essential digital education resources for autistic individuals, their families, and professionals. Maintaining and updating these resources ensures **ongoing accessibility and relevance**.
- **Scalability to Other Target Groups:** The methodology developed within IDEAL is **highly adaptable**. By ensuring its long-term sustainability, it can be **transferred to other cognitive and learning disabilities**, such as intellectual disabilities, ADHD, and dyslexia.
- **Institutional Integration:** Embedding IDEAL's resources and approaches within **educational institutions, vocational training centres, and policy frameworks** will ensure **permanent adoption** and wider recognition of digital accessibility needs.
- **Policy Influence and Advocacy:** Sustained project results can serve as a **reference model for digital education policies**, influencing decision-makers at **national and EU levels** to promote inclusivity in digital learning.
- **Collaboration and Future Projects:** A long-term perspective allows for **new partnerships**, research opportunities, and potential funding for further development, ensuring IDEAL's methodology continues evolving.
- **Cost-Efficient Maintenance:** Instead of developing new solutions from scratch, the long-term maintenance of IDEAL's platform and tools is **cost-effective**, requiring only periodic updates rather than large-scale redevelopment.

By prioritizing the **long-term impact**, the IDEAL Project can **extend its reach, support ongoing digital education advancements**, and **empower a growing number of autistic individuals and educators** worldwide. This sustainability strategy ensures that IDEAL remains a **living resource**, continuously adapted to the needs of future users.

### 1.3. Project Context and Scope

The IDEAL Project (**Inclusive Digital Education for Autistic People Learning**) was developed in response to the growing need for **accessible, inclusive, and effective digital education solutions** for autistic individuals. The rapid expansion of digital learning environments has created both **opportunities and challenges** for neurodiverse learners, particularly those on the autism spectrum, who often face **barriers in accessibility, usability, and engagement** with standard digital tools.

#### Context: The Need for Inclusive Digital Education

Autistic individuals often experience **difficulties in digital learning environments** due to:

- **Complex or non-intuitive interfaces** that are not adapted to their cognitive needs.
- **Lack of structured and predictable learning pathways**, which can cause anxiety and disengagement.

- **Limited personalization** of digital education tools, failing to accommodate **different communication styles** and sensory preferences.
- **A lack of educator training** on how to integrate digital resources effectively for autistic students.

The IDEAL Project was designed to **tackle these challenges** by developing a **user-centred digital learning approach** that enhances accessibility, improves digital learning experiences, and provides educators with the necessary tools to **support autistic learners effectively**.

### Scope: Project Goals and Implementation

The scope of IDEAL extends beyond just providing a **platform and digital repository**—it aims to create a **sustainable framework** for inclusive digital education. The project encompasses:

- **Development of an accessible and adaptable Learning Management System (LMS)**, available in six European languages.
- **Evaluation of digital education tools**, ensuring they meet the needs of autistic learners.
- **Knowledge transfer and collaboration**, engaging **research institutions, policymakers, and digital education stakeholders**.
- **Scalability beyond autism**, allowing methodologies to be **adapted for individuals with other cognitive and learning disabilities** (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities).

By ensuring that **digital education becomes more inclusive**, the IDEAL Project is **not only improving educational opportunities for autistic individuals** but also **paving the way for broader changes in digital learning accessibility** across multiple target groups. This **global and long-term vision** forms the foundation for its sustainability strategy.

## 2. Identification of Project Results for Sustainability

### 2.1. Key Outputs of the IDEAL Project

The IDEAL Project has produced several **high-impact outputs** aimed at improving access to digital education for autistic individuals. These outputs provide **practical tools, methodologies, and resources** that ensure **sustainability, transferability, and scalability** beyond the project's official duration.

#### 1. IDEAL Learning Management System (LMS) and Digital Repository

- A **multilingual, user-friendly digital platform** designed to support **autistic learners, educators, and professionals**.
- Includes **curated and evaluated digital tools** tailored for **education, communication, social skills, functional skills, health management, and entertainment**.
- Accessible at <https://tools.idealearning.eu/>.

## 2. Evaluation Framework for Digital Education Tools

- Developed a **structured assessment methodology** to evaluate **digital learning tools** based on **accessibility, usability, and effectiveness** for autistic users.
- Ensures that new and existing digital tools **align with the needs of neurodiverse learners**.
- The methodology can be applied **beyond autism** to assess tools for **other cognitive and learning disabilities** (e.g., ADHD, intellectual disabilities).

## 3. Training Modules for Educators and Professionals

- A **comprehensive training program** providing guidance on how to use and adapt digital education tools for **autistic learners**.
- Supports **educators, therapists, and caregivers** in integrating technology into **inclusive teaching and support strategies**.
- Available in multiple formats, including **online resources, webinars, and practical workshops**.

## 4. Knowledge Transfer and Collaboration Strategies

- Organized **multiplier events, workshops, and academic publications** to spread knowledge and increase awareness.
- Built a **network of experts, educators, and policymakers** to support **long-term adoption** of IDEAL's methodologies.
- Strengthened links between **academia, industry, and the public sector** to **ensure ongoing collaboration** beyond the project's duration.

## 5. Scalability and Adaptability Framework

- Designed the **methodology to be transferable** across different contexts, allowing **replication and adaptation** for:
  - Other neurodiverse groups (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities).
  - Different educational levels (primary, secondary, higher education, vocational training).
  - Various professional fields (education, therapy, healthcare, employment training).
- Established **guidelines for integrating IDEAL's methodology** into future digital education initiatives.

## Impact and Long-Term Use

These key outputs **lay the foundation for sustainable growth** by ensuring that the **tools, training, and methodologies developed within IDEAL** remain relevant and accessible **beyond the project's official end date**. Their adaptability across different **educational, professional, and policy-making environments** enhances their **long-term impact and international scalability**.

## 2.2. Knowledge and Tools for Replication

One of the core objectives of the IDEAL Project is to ensure that its **knowledge, methodologies, and digital tools** can be replicated, transferred, and adapted beyond the project's original framework under a Creative Commons licence (CC BY-NC 4.0). The sustainability of IDEAL relies on the ability to **apply its findings to different contexts, stakeholders, and user groups** while maintaining its core principles of **accessibility, inclusivity, and digital education innovation**.

### 1. Transferable Knowledge from IDEAL

The IDEAL Project has generated a **wealth of knowledge** that can be replicated and expanded in different environments:

- **Inclusive Digital Education Methodology**
  - A structured framework for **evaluating, selecting, and implementing** digital learning tools for autistic individuals.
  - Can be adapted for **other neurodiverse groups** (e.g., ADHD, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities).
  - Ensures **universal design principles** that support a **wide range of learners**.
- **Assessment Criteria for Digital Learning Tools**
  - A standardized methodology to **evaluate the accessibility, usability, and effectiveness** of digital education resources.
  - Can be applied to **newly developed tools** or adapted for **different disabilities and educational needs**.
- **Guidelines for Educators and Professionals**
  - Lessons learned for **integrating digital tools into inclusive education strategies**.
  - Training models that can be replicated for **educators, therapists, caregivers, and policymakers**.
- **Scalability Strategies for Digital Education Platforms**
  - A roadmap for **adapting and expanding** digital education platforms for various educational institutions and professional sectors.
  - Guidelines for integrating IDEAL's resources into **national and European-level digital learning policies**.

## 2. Replicable Tools and Resources

The IDEAL Project has developed **practical, ready-to-use tools** that can be **adapted and transferred** to various settings:

- **IDEAL Learning Management System (LMS) and Digital Repository**
  - A **structured online platform** with accessible educational tools for autistic individuals.
  - Designed to be **expanded and updated** with new resources over time.
  - Can be **implemented in different languages, institutions, and sectors**.
- **Digital Tool Evaluation Framework**
  - A **validated model for assessing digital tools** based on accessibility, usability, and effectiveness.
  - Usable by **educators, researchers, and technology developers** to improve digital accessibility.
- **Training Materials and Online Courses**
  - Ready-to-use **modules for professional training** in inclusive digital education.
  - Adaptable for **teacher training programs, vocational training, and higher education curricula**.
- **Knowledge Dissemination Models**
  - Templates for **multiplier events, workshops, and academic publications** that can be used to **spread project knowledge** to new audiences.
  - Strategies for engaging **public and private stakeholders** in digital inclusion initiatives.

### Ensuring Effective Replication

To facilitate successful replication, IDEAL's knowledge and tools will be:

- **Open and accessible** to allow broad adaptation.
- **Customizable** to fit specific educational, cultural, and professional environments.
- **Continuously updated and maintained** to ensure long-term relevance and usability.

By focusing on **replicability, adaptability, and transferability**, IDEAL's impact will extend well beyond its original scope, **contributing to long-term improvements in digital education accessibility** at a **national and international level**.



## 2.3. Adaptability to Other Contexts (e.g., Intellectual Disabilities)

The IDEAL Project was designed with a **flexible and inclusive methodology**, ensuring that its **tools, resources, and training models** can be adapted beyond the specific needs of autistic individuals. By applying **universal design principles**, the project's outcomes can be **effectively transferred to other neurodiverse groups and individuals with intellectual disabilities**.

### 1. Expanding Beyond Autism: Why Adaptability Matters

- While the IDEAL Project focuses on **enhancing digital education for autistic learners**, many of the **barriers and challenges** addressed by the project are also experienced by individuals with:
  - **Intellectual disabilities (ID)**
  - **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**
  - **Dyslexia and other learning disabilities**
  - **Cognitive impairments due to brain injuries or neurodevelopmental disorders**
- Ensuring **broader adaptability** increases the **impact and long-term usability** of IDEAL's results.

### 2. Key Areas of Adaptability

The following aspects of the IDEAL Project can be **transferred and adapted** to support **other groups**:

- **Digital Learning Management System (LMS) and Repository**
  - The platform can **accommodate diverse learning styles** by including additional **customization features** for users with intellectual disabilities.
  - New tools and resources can be **added or modified** to address **specific accessibility needs**.
  - The **interface and navigation** can be further simplified for users with cognitive impairments.
- **Evaluation Framework for Digital Tools**
  - The methodology for assessing **accessibility, usability, and effectiveness** of digital tools can be **extended to other disabilities**.
  - Additional **evaluation criteria** can be integrated to address **specific cognitive and sensory needs**.
- **Training Modules for Educators and Caregivers**
  - The **training framework** can be **expanded** to include **adapted teaching strategies** for students with **intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties**.

- Educators can be trained to **modify digital tools** based on individual needs.
- **Personalized Learning Approaches**
  - The **IDEAL methodology** already supports **structured, predictable, and adaptable learning environments**, which are beneficial for learners with **varied cognitive abilities**.
  - By incorporating **additional accessibility features**, the system can be **extended to wider educational and vocational settings**.

### 3. Practical Applications in Other Contexts

- **Special Education Schools:** The IDEAL LMS and training modules can be integrated into **special education curricula** to support teachers working with students with **intellectual and developmental disabilities**.
- **Vocational Training for People with Disabilities:** The repository of digital tools can be adapted for **job-related training and life skills education**, improving **employment opportunities** for neurodiverse individuals.
- **Assistive Technology Development:** The IDEAL framework can support **tech companies and software developers** in creating more **inclusive and accessible digital learning tools**.
- **Healthcare and Therapy Centres:** The project's outcomes can be used to **support therapists, psychologists, and caregivers** working with individuals with **cognitive and learning disabilities**.

## 3. Target Institutions and Environments for Replication

### 3.1. Educational Institutions (Schools, Universities, VET Centres)

Educational institutions play a **crucial role** in ensuring the long-term sustainability and replication of the IDEAL Project's results. By integrating **accessible digital education tools and methodologies** into formal education systems, IDEAL can continue to benefit autistic students and **other neurodiverse learners** beyond the project's duration.

#### 1. Schools (Primary and Secondary Education)

- **Why Schools?**
  - Schools are the **first point of contact** for many autistic learners, making them a **key environment for implementing accessible digital education strategies**.
  - Ensuring that **teachers and students** have access to **inclusive digital tools** improves engagement and learning outcomes.

- **How IDEAL Can Be Integrated**
  - **Teacher Training:** Schools can **train educators** using IDEAL's modules to implement **inclusive digital teaching strategies**.
  - **Classroom Implementation:** Schools can incorporate **digital tools from the IDEAL repository** into **daily teaching practices** to support **autistic and neurodiverse students**.
  - **Special Education Support:** IDEAL resources can be used in **Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)** and **Special Education Needs (SEN) programs**.
  - **Parental Guidance:** Schools can provide parents with **resources and training** on how to support their child's digital learning at home.

## 2. Universities and Higher Education

- **Why Universities?**
  - Higher education institutions **train future educators, psychologists, and professionals** who will work with autistic individuals.
  - Universities are **hubs for research and innovation**, making them **ideal partners for expanding IDEAL's methodologies**.
- **How IDEAL Can Be Integrated**
  - **Integration into Teacher Training Programs:**
    - IDEAL's **training modules** can be embedded in **education degree programs** to prepare future teachers in **inclusive digital education**.
  - **Research and Development Opportunities:**
    - Universities can use IDEAL's **evaluation framework** to **analyse and improve digital education tools**.
    - Collaborations with **psychology, neuroscience, and education departments** can enhance **understanding of digital accessibility for neurodiverse learners**.
  - **Student Accessibility Services:**
    - Universities can adopt the IDEAL platform to **support autistic students** in higher education settings.
    - Digital tools from the repository can help improve **study skills, communication, and time management**.

### 3. Vocational Education and Training (VET) Centres

- Why VET Centres?
  - Many autistic individuals **struggle with employment access**, making vocational training an **essential pathway** for independence and workforce inclusion.
  - Digital tools can be **used for skill development, workplace simulations, and online training**.
- How IDEAL Can Be Integrated
  - Career Readiness Programs:
    - VET centres can use **IDEAL's digital learning tools** to help autistic individuals develop **workplace skills**.
  - Training for VET Educators:
    - IDEAL's teacher training materials can be adapted for **VET instructors**, helping them integrate **inclusive digital teaching methods**.
  - Collaboration with Employers:
    - VET programs can use IDEAL resources to **prepare businesses and employers** for **supporting neurodiverse employees**.
  - Digital Skill Development:
    - The IDEAL repository can provide **accessible technology training** for students needing **digital literacy and workplace technology skills**.

### 3.2. Therapy and Rehabilitation Centres

Therapy and rehabilitation centres play a **critical role** in supporting autistic individuals and others with cognitive or developmental disabilities. These centres provide **specialized interventions** that help individuals develop essential **communication, social, and functional skills**. The IDEAL Project's **digital tools, methodologies, and training resources** can be seamlessly integrated into therapeutic and rehabilitation settings to enhance therapy effectiveness and accessibility.

#### 1. Why Therapy and Rehabilitation Centres?

- Many autistic individuals and those with intellectual disabilities receive **ongoing therapy and rehabilitation** to develop daily life skills.
- Digital tools can serve as **assistive technologies** that improve **learning, communication, and social interaction**.

- Therapists and rehabilitation professionals often **lack structured training** on how to use digital education tools effectively for neurodiverse populations.

## 2. How IDEAL Can Be Integrated into Therapy and Rehabilitation Centres

### a) Digital Tools for Therapeutic Interventions

- The IDEAL repository offers **pre-selected digital tools** that can assist in:
  - **Communication therapy** (augmentative and alternative communication [AAC] apps).
  - **Cognitive training** (memory, problem-solving, and executive function apps).
  - **Social skills development** (interactive simulations and gamified learning).
  - **Emotional regulation and sensory management** (apps for anxiety reduction and self-regulation).
- Therapists can **personalize digital tools** based on the individual's needs, ensuring **customized therapy plans**.

### b) Training for Therapists and Rehabilitation Specialists

- IDEAL provides **structured training modules** that teach therapists how to:
  - Select the **most suitable digital tools** for different therapy goals.
  - Integrate **digital learning strategies** into existing therapy programs.
  - Monitor and assess **progress using digital interventions**.
- The training can be implemented through **in-person workshops, online courses, and professional development programs**.

### c) Assistive Technology in Rehabilitation Programs

- IDEAL's methodology can be adapted to **assistive technology training**, allowing rehabilitation centres to:
  - Train individuals on how to use **digital communication aids** effectively.
  - Implement **virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR)** tools for rehabilitation and skill-building.
  - Use **adaptive and gamified learning** for **motor skills, cognitive development, and life skills training**.

### d) Parent and Caregiver Involvement

- Rehabilitation programs often involve **parents and caregivers** in therapy sessions.

- IDEAL resources can provide **guidance and training** to families on how to use **digital tools at home** to **reinforce therapy outcomes**.
- The IDEAL repository can serve as a **self-learning tool** for caregivers seeking **evidence-based digital strategies** for at-home support.

### 3. Potential for Expansion and Sustainability

- **Institutional Partnerships:** Collaborations between IDEAL and **therapy centres, hospitals, and autism-focused organizations** can enhance the platform's visibility and application.
- **Integration into Existing Therapy Protocols:** By aligning with **rehabilitation frameworks**, IDEAL's digital tools can become **standardized therapy resources**.
- **Ongoing Research and Development:** Universities and research centres can partner with therapy institutions to **analyse and improve digital interventions**.

### 3.3. Policy and Advocacy Organizations

Policy and advocacy organizations play a **crucial role** in ensuring that the **IDEAL Project's digital education resources and inclusive methodologies** influence decision-making at **regional, national, and European levels**. By engaging with **policymakers, disability rights advocates, and educational reform groups**, IDEAL's long-term sustainability can be strengthened through **legislative support, funding opportunities, and policy integration**.

#### 1. Why Policy and Advocacy Organizations?

- **Systemic Change:** Policies shape **how digital education is implemented and funded** for neurodiverse learners.
- **Scalability and Adoption:** By integrating IDEAL into **educational policies**, digital accessibility can be **institutionalized and widely adopted**.
- **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Advocacy ensures **inclusive education rights** for autistic individuals and **aligns IDEAL with national and international accessibility standards**.

#### 2. How IDEAL Can Be Integrated into Policy and Advocacy Efforts

##### a) Influence on National and EU Digital Education Policies

- Promote IDEAL's **methodology and tools** as a **best-practice model** for **inclusive digital education**.
- Advocate for **universal accessibility standards** in educational technology across **school, university, and vocational training policies**.

- Collaborate with **EU institutions** (e.g., the European Commission, European Disability Forum) to **embed IDEAL resources into European digital learning initiatives**.

#### b) Partnerships with Government and Policy Bodies

- Establish collaborations with **Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, and Digital Transformation** to:
  - Promote **government-backed training programs** for educators on using digital tools for autistic students.
  - Integrate IDEAL's **learning platform into national online education frameworks**.
  - Secure **funding and grants** for expanding IDEAL's impact beyond the project's lifespan.

#### c) Advocacy for Legal and Educational Reforms

- Work with **disability rights organizations** to push for **policy changes** that support **inclusive digital learning**.
- Align IDEAL's resources with international frameworks such as:
  - **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.
  - **EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030**.
  - **Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)**.
- Support initiatives that **mandate accessibility standards** for educational platforms and learning management systems (LMS).

#### d) Awareness Campaigns and Public Engagement

- Organize **policy dialogues, roundtables, and public forums** to discuss the importance of **digital accessibility** for autistic individuals.
- Publish **policy briefs, position papers, and reports** highlighting the impact of IDEAL on **education and employment** for neurodiverse individuals.
- Leverage **multiplier events** to showcase the success of IDEAL and advocate for **wider policy adoption**.

### 3. Long-Term Sustainability Through Policy Integration

- **Institutional Endorsements:** Gain official recognition of IDEAL as an **educational resource** within **national digital education frameworks**.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Work with **corporations, EdTech companies, and accessibility advocates** to sustain IDEAL's **growth and funding**.

- **Continued Research and Development:** Establish IDEAL as an **ongoing initiative** that influences future digital inclusion policies and programs.

### 3.4. Private Sector and Technology Companies

The **private sector** and **technology companies** play a vital role in ensuring the **long-term sustainability, innovation, and scalability** of the IDEAL Project. By collaborating with **EdTech companies, assistive technology developers, corporate training programs, and digital education providers**, IDEAL can continue to evolve, improve accessibility, and expand its reach beyond the initial project framework.

#### 1. Why Engage the Private Sector and Technology Companies?

- **Sustainability and Funding:** Partnerships with private companies can provide **financial support** and resources for **maintaining and expanding IDEAL's platform**.
- **Technological Innovation:** Collaboration with **EdTech developers** ensures the **continuous improvement** of digital tools, making them more **accessible and inclusive**.
- **Workforce Inclusion:** Businesses can integrate IDEAL's methodologies into **corporate training and hiring processes** to support **neurodiverse employees**.

#### 2. How IDEAL Can Be Integrated into the Private Sector

##### a) Collaboration with EdTech Companies and Digital Learning Platforms

- **Technology Partnerships:**
  - Engage with **EdTech firms** to **enhance and expand** the IDEAL platform with new **AI-driven, adaptive learning technologies**.
  - Integrate IDEAL's **digital accessibility framework** into **existing learning management systems (LMS)** and online courses.
- **Assistive Technology Innovation:**
  - Partner with **assistive technology developers** to improve **communication apps, cognitive training tools, and gamified learning experiences**.
  - Support research on **adaptive user interfaces** and **voice-assisted learning** for autistic individuals.
- **Accessibility Audits for Digital Education Tools:**
  - Work with tech companies to **evaluate and enhance** the **usability and accessibility** of mainstream digital learning tools.



## b) Corporate Training and Workforce Inclusion

- **Supporting Neurodiverse Employees:**
  - Develop corporate training programs using IDEAL's resources to help companies create **inclusive work environments** for autistic individuals.
  - Offer **digital learning modules for workplace skills training** tailored for **neurodiverse professionals**.
- **Partnerships with HR and Inclusion Teams:**
  - Assist businesses in adopting **neurodiversity-friendly recruitment strategies** by integrating **accessible digital training materials**.
  - Provide companies with **guidelines for adapting digital communication and productivity tools** for autistic employees.

## c) Public-Private Partnerships and CSR Initiatives

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programs:**
  - Encourage companies to **support and sponsor** the IDEAL platform as part of their **inclusion and accessibility initiatives**.
  - Foster industry-wide collaborations to **create accessible digital learning ecosystems**.
- **Tech Grants and Investment in Digital Inclusion:**
  - Secure funding from **private sector grants, foundations, and innovation funds** to maintain and update IDEAL's platform.
  - Engage with **startups and incubators** focused on **digital education for neurodiverse learners**.

## 3. Long-Term Sustainability Through Private Sector Engagement

- **Scalability through Market Adoption:** Position IDEAL's digital tools as **standardized accessibility solutions** for **corporate training, EdTech platforms, and workforce development programs**.
- **Continuous Innovation:** Ensure IDEAL remains at the **forefront of digital accessibility research and development** through ongoing **industry collaborations**.
- **Global Expansion:** Leverage partnerships with multinational corporations to **expand IDEAL's impact internationally**, reaching a **broader audience of learners, educators, and employers**.

## 4. Socio-Economic Impact and Transferability Factors

### 4.1. Expected Benefits for Different Stakeholders

The IDEAL Project generates long-term benefits for multiple stakeholders, including **autistic individuals, educators, therapists, policymakers, and businesses**. By providing inclusive digital education tools and methodologies, IDEAL fosters greater **accessibility, professional training opportunities, and institutional integration**, ensuring sustainable impact beyond the project's duration.

#### 1. Autistic Individuals and Neurodiverse Learners

One of the primary beneficiaries of IDEAL is **autistic individuals and other neurodiverse learners**, who gain improved access to digital education through:

- **Structured and adaptable learning environments** that reduce communication and cognitive barriers.
- **Pre-evaluated digital tools** designed to enhance **social skills, cognitive training, and functional independence**.
- **Support for career readiness and vocational training**, increasing opportunities for **employment and independent living**.

By making digital education more accessible, IDEAL empowers neurodiverse individuals to learn, engage, and develop skills **at their own pace**, improving overall **inclusion in education and society**.

#### 2. Educators and Special Education Professionals

Teachers and trainers benefit from structured digital education resources that support **inclusive teaching practices**. Many educators lack training in digital accessibility, making IDEAL's professional development programs essential. The project provides:

- A **repository of pre-assessed digital tools**, reducing the need for independent research.
- **Guidelines on integrating assistive technology** into mainstream and special education curricula.

With IDEAL, educators can create more engaging, effective, and **inclusive learning experiences**, ensuring that students with diverse needs are fully supported.

#### 3. Therapists, Rehabilitation Specialists, and Healthcare Professionals

IDEAL serves as an evidence-based resource for professionals working in **speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioural interventions, and cognitive training**. The platform offers:

- **Digital tools for therapy sessions**, including apps for communication, emotional regulation, and social interaction.
- **Personalized intervention strategies**, allowing therapists to tailor learning experiences to individual needs.

By integrating digital tools into therapy, IDEAL enhances engagement, progress tracking, and accessibility, making rehabilitation and cognitive training more effective.

#### 4. Policymakers and Advocacy Organizations

IDEAL contributes to policy development and **advocacy by providing data-driven insights** on digital accessibility. The project aligns with key European and international frameworks, including:

- The **EU Digital Education Action Plan** (2021–2027), which prioritizes digital inclusion in education.
- The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD), advocating for accessible learning environments.
- **National education policies**, supporting the integration of assistive technologies and digital learning solutions.

By demonstrating the effectiveness of digital tools for neurodiverse learners, IDEAL influences policymaking, secures funding opportunities, and drives legislative reforms for inclusive education.

#### 5. Technology Companies, EdTech Developers, and Businesses

Beyond education and policy, IDEAL offers significant benefits to the **private sector** by promoting **innovation and accessibility in digital learning**. The project's impact includes:

- Collaboration with **EdTech developers** to create more inclusive learning tools.
- Use of IDEAL's **evaluation framework** to assess the accessibility of existing digital education resources.

By fostering inclusive hiring, training, and workplace accessibility, IDEAL contributes to a more diverse and equitable professional environment, benefiting both employers and neurodiverse employees.

### 4.2. Factors Affecting Replication and Scalability

The ability of the IDEAL Project to be replicated and scaled across different educational, therapeutic, and professional environments depends on multiple interrelated factors. These include **technological infrastructure, institutional commitment, financial sustainability, policy alignment, and socio-cultural readiness**. Addressing these elements effectively will determine the long-term impact and widespread adoption of the project's outcomes.

One of the primary factors influencing scalability is **technological infrastructure**. The IDEAL platform and digital tools require adequate **hardware, internet access, and assistive technologies** to be fully implemented. While many European institutions have integrated digital learning, disparities exist, particularly in regions with **limited access to high-speed internet, specialized software, or assistive devices**. Ensuring that the platform is adaptable to **low-tech environments** and can function in **offline or mobile-friendly versions** will enhance its replicability in diverse settings.

Another critical factor is **institutional readiness and educator training**. Schools, universities, vocational training centres, and therapy institutions must be **prepared to integrate IDEAL's methodology into their existing structures**. This requires:

- **Comprehensive training for educators and professionals** to ensure they can effectively use and adapt digital tools for neurodiverse learners.
- **Institutional commitment** from decision-makers who **prioritize inclusive digital education** within their policies and programs.
- **Ongoing professional development opportunities** so that educators stay updated on best practices in digital accessibility.

Financial considerations also play a significant role. While IDEAL provides **cost-effective, scalable solutions**, its long-term sustainability depends on **funding mechanisms and institutional investments**.

- In **well-funded education and health systems**, IDEAL can be supported through **government grants, research funding, or integration into existing digital education policies**.
- In **lower-resource settings**, cost-effective models, such as **open-access resources, partnerships with NGOs, or private sector funding**, may be necessary to **maintain accessibility without financial barriers**.

**Policy and regulatory frameworks** are another decisive factor. If IDEAL's methodologies align with **national and European policies on inclusive education and digital accessibility**, it is more likely to be adopted and expanded. Important policy links include:

- **The European Digital Education Action Plan (2021–2027)**, which prioritizes accessibility in digital learning.
- **The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, advocating for equal access to education.
- **National education policies** that define digital inclusion strategies for students with disabilities.

Beyond policy, **cultural attitudes toward digital learning and neurodiversity** can impact scalability. In regions where **inclusive education is a well-established priority**, there is **greater institutional openness to adopting digital accessibility solutions**. However, in areas where **awareness and policies on neurodiversity are still developing**, targeted advocacy and **evidence-based success stories** will be needed to encourage adoption.

Lastly, **long-term sustainability and innovation** are essential for maintaining and scaling IDEAL's impact. This requires:

- **Regular updates to the digital repository and learning platform** to keep content relevant.
- **Collaborations with universities, research institutions, and EdTech companies** to continuously refine and expand the tools.

- **Public-private partnerships** to secure long-term funding and ensure IDEAL remains a **living resource** rather than a static project.

In summary, replication and scalability depend on **technological adaptability, institutional commitment, financial feasibility, policy alignment, cultural acceptance, and ongoing innovation**. Addressing these factors strategically will ensure that the IDEAL Project **continues to grow and evolve**, making **inclusive digital education accessible to a wider audience** across different educational and professional settings.

### 4.3. Cost-Benefit Analysis of Long-Term Maintenance

Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the IDEAL Project requires a **cost-effective maintenance strategy** that balances financial feasibility with continued impact. The total estimated cost for maintaining the project's **platform, digital repository, and resources** is **€3,000 over five years**. This investment covers essential tasks such as **technical upkeep, content updates, and ensuring continued accessibility** for users.

#### 1. Financial Distribution and Responsibility

The financial sustainability of IDEAL will be ensured through a **shared-cost model** among project partners:

- **The University of Burgos (UBU)** will cover **general maintenance costs** using institutional funds, ensuring that the platform remains functional and accessible.
- **Project partners** will contribute to the **specific updating of content and resources**, ensuring that tools, methodologies, and best practices remain relevant.

This distributed funding approach reduces the financial burden on any single institution and ensures that **all partners remain actively involved in maintaining and enhancing IDEAL's impact**.

#### 2. Cost Justification and Breakdown

The **€3,000 budget** is allocated to essential maintenance activities, including:

- **Technical support and hosting fees:** Ensuring that the online platform remains accessible, secure, and operational.
- **Content updates and new resources:** Keeping the digital repository **up to date with the latest research, tools, and best practices**.
- **Quality control and accessibility improvements:** Adapting the platform to meet **evolving digital accessibility standards**.

By distributing costs efficiently, IDEAL ensures that maintenance remains **affordable and sustainable**, without requiring significant external funding.

### 3. Long-Term Value and Return on Investment

The financial investment in maintaining IDEAL's results is **modest compared to the long-term benefits** it provides. The project's impact extends across multiple areas:

- **Sustained access to digital tools for autistic individuals** and other neurodiverse learners.
- **Continued use by educators, therapists, and policymakers** in various professional settings.
- **Potential for extended use beyond five years**, as long as the platform remains relevant and useful.

By keeping maintenance costs low while **ensuring continued functionality and relevance**, IDEAL remains a **cost-effective, high-impact initiative** that supports inclusive digital education well beyond its initial funding period.

## 5. Sustainability Scenarios and Strategic Approaches

### 5.1. Scenario 1: Maintenance by University of Burgos (UBU)

A primary sustainability scenario for the IDEAL Project involves the **University of Burgos (UBU) taking full responsibility for maintaining and updating the platform** after the project's official funding period. This approach ensures **continuity, accessibility, and long-term impact**, particularly given recent developments affecting the original maintenance plan.

#### 1. Transition of Maintenance Responsibilities

One significant change in this scenario is the **unforeseen closure of Catness Game Studios**, one of the project partners responsible for platform updates and technical support. The company will cease operations in **October 2025**, making it necessary to **reallocate maintenance and updating responsibilities**. As a solution, UBU will take the lead in:

- **Managing the technical maintenance** of the platform with support from its **internal IT services**.
- **Ensuring long-term hosting, security updates, and system functionality** to keep the platform operational.
- **Exploring potential contracts with external service providers** if specialized expertise is required for improvements.

UBU's **internal resources** will be able to cover basic maintenance, but additional external support may be sought for further developments or major updates.

## 2. Securing Additional Funding for Enhancements

While general platform maintenance is expected to be covered by **UBU's institutional funds**, there is also an opportunity to **secure additional funding** for:

- **Expanding platform functionalities**, such as improving user experience, accessibility features, or integrating new learning tools.
- **Translating the platform into additional languages** to enhance its reach across Europe and beyond.
- **Developing new training modules or resources** based on feedback from users and evolving best practices in inclusive digital education.

To finance these potential improvements, UBU will seek funding through the **European Social Fund+ (ESF+)**, which offers financial support for:

- **Digital inclusion projects** aligned with IDEAL's objectives.
- **Technological innovation in education and social services.**
- **Accessibility enhancements for digital learning platforms.**

UBU will explore different **ESF+ calls** that support both **platform maintenance and future expansions**, ensuring that IDEAL remains an **evolving, high-quality resource** rather than a static tool.

## 3. Long-Term Feasibility and Institutional Commitment

By **centralizing maintenance responsibilities at UBU**, this scenario ensures a **stable and reliable long-term solution** for IDEAL's sustainability. Key advantages of this approach include:

- **Institutional commitment:** As the project coordinator, UBU has a vested interest in maintaining and developing IDEAL beyond the funding period.
- **Integration with existing university resources:** The platform can benefit from **UBU's IT services, research groups, and accessibility initiatives.**
- **Opportunities for continuous improvement:** With potential ESF+ funding, IDEAL can continue to **grow, adapt, and remain at the forefront of inclusive digital education.**

This scenario provides a **sustainable, structured plan** to ensure that the IDEAL platform remains **accessible, functional, and responsive to user needs**, even after the original project funding ends.

## 5.2. Scenario 2: Integration into European Digital Education Frameworks

Another sustainability scenario for the IDEAL Project involves its **integration into existing European digital education frameworks**, ensuring long-term accessibility and widespread adoption. By embedding IDEAL's **methodology, resources, and platform** into European Union (EU) initiatives, it can continue to

benefit **educational institutions, policymakers, and digital inclusion projects** well beyond its initial funding period.

### 1. Alignment with EU Digital Education Strategies

The European Commission has made **digital education and inclusion** a key priority in recent years. IDEAL aligns with several major EU frameworks that support **accessible and inclusive digital learning**, including:

- **The Digital Education Action Plan (2021–2027)**, which promotes **high-quality, inclusive digital education**.
- **The European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021–2030)**, which emphasizes **equal access to education for people with disabilities**.
- **The European Accessibility Act**, which requires **digital learning platforms to meet accessibility standards**.

By integrating IDEAL into these **policy frameworks and initiatives**, it can be recognized as a **best-practice model** for accessible digital education, increasing its potential for long-term sustainability.

### 2. Potential Avenues for Institutional Adoption

To embed IDEAL within European digital education policies, the project can be incorporated into:

- **EU-funded education platforms**, such as the **European School Education Platform** and **EPALE (Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe)**.
- **National education ministries and inclusion programs**, ensuring that IDEAL's tools and methodologies are recommended for **educators, trainers, and policymakers**.
- **Higher education and vocational training institutions**, integrating IDEAL into **university curricula and teacher training programs** to promote inclusive teaching practices.

Additionally, partnerships with **European research networks** can help IDEAL **contribute to policy recommendations, digital education research, and EU-level discussions on accessibility in learning**.

### 3. Securing EU-Level Support and Funding

To facilitate IDEAL's integration into EU frameworks, project partners will explore:

- **Collaborations with European Commission working groups** focused on **digital education and accessibility**.
- **Joint applications for Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe funding**, which can support **research, training, and policy integration**.
- **Endorsements from EU agencies and expert networks**, ensuring that IDEAL is promoted as a **recommended resource for inclusive education initiatives**.

Furthermore, UBU and other partners will engage in **policy dialogues and networking activities** to advocate for IDEAL's inclusion in **EU-wide digital learning programs**.



#### 4. Long-Term Benefits of EU Integration

Integrating IDEAL into European digital education frameworks ensures:

- **Wider institutional adoption**, reaching a broad audience of **educators, students, and policymakers across multiple countries**.
- **Long-term funding opportunities**, as European programs often support ongoing projects that align with EU priorities.
- **Increased recognition and credibility**, positioning IDEAL as a **reference model for accessible digital education**.

By embedding IDEAL into existing European education strategies and digital learning infrastructures, this scenario guarantees **sustained impact, scalability, and institutional backing**, ensuring that the project's outcomes remain relevant and accessible for years to come.

### 5.3. Scenario 3: Private Sector and Public-Private Partnerships

Another sustainability scenario for the IDEAL Project involves engaging **the private sector and establishing public-private partnerships** to secure long-term funding, technical support, and expanded implementation. By collaborating with **businesses, EdTech companies, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and digital education networks**, IDEAL can benefit from **ongoing financial support, innovation, and broader adoption in various sectors**.

#### 1. Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainability

Public-private partnerships offer a **strategic pathway** for ensuring IDEAL's long-term impact. Key advantages of such collaborations include:

- **Access to additional funding sources**, reducing reliance on institutional budgets.
- **Technical expertise and innovation**, allowing for continued improvements to the platform and digital tools.
- **Wider dissemination and integration into corporate training and workplace inclusion initiatives**.

Potential partners include **assistive technology companies, digital learning providers, and accessibility-focused organizations** that align with IDEAL's mission. These partnerships can provide:

- **Financial support for platform maintenance and updates**.
- **Technological enhancements, such as AI-driven accessibility features**.
- **Integration into corporate training programs for workplace inclusion**.

To facilitate these collaborations, UBU and project partners will actively seek **agreements with companies and foundations that prioritize digital accessibility and inclusive education**.

## 2. Funding Opportunities Through the European Social Fund+

A key resource for securing long-term sustainability is the **European Social Fund+ (ESF+)**, which finances initiatives related to:

- Social inclusion and equal opportunities.
- Digital education and skills development.
- Employment support for individuals with disabilities.

By applying for **ESF+ funding**, IDEAL can **secure financial resources not only for maintenance but also for potential improvements**, such as:

- Enhancing accessibility features within the platform.
- Developing new content and training materials for educators and professionals.
- Expanding the platform's reach through additional language translations.

## 3. Recognition as a Best Practice in Digital Inclusion

Another critical step in engaging the private sector and ensuring IDEAL's longevity is its **recognition as a best practice** in inclusive digital education. One concrete step toward this goal is the **inclusion of IDEAL in *Plena Inclusión's* online repository of best practices** (<https://buenaspracticas.plenainclusion.org/>).

*Plena Inclusión* is one of the most influential organizations in Spain dedicated to **promoting the rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities**. By being featured in its best practices repository, IDEAL can:

- Gain credibility and visibility among organizations working on accessibility and inclusion.
- Attract potential collaborators and funding opportunities.
- Encourage replication of its methodology in new contexts, such as workplace training and professional education.

## 4. Expanding into the Private Sector and Corporate Training

Beyond direct partnerships, IDEAL can be adapted for **corporate training programs**, particularly in sectors that prioritize **workforce diversity and neurodiversity hiring initiatives**. Businesses can use IDEAL's resources to:

- Train employees on digital accessibility and inclusive communication.
- Support neurodiverse professionals in workplace learning and career development.
- Develop corporate policies aligned with EU digital accessibility regulations.

By integrating IDEAL into **CSR strategies, workplace inclusion policies, and corporate training**, private sector engagement ensures that the project's impact extends beyond education into **employment and lifelong learning**.

## 5. Strategic Advantages of Private Sector and Public-Private Collaborations

Engaging with the private sector and public-private partnerships offers multiple benefits:

- **Financial sustainability** through corporate sponsorships, funding programs, and ESF+ grants.
- **Technological advancement** via partnerships with EdTech developers and assistive technology providers.
- **Expanded use cases**, including corporate training, vocational education, and professional development.

By integrating IDEAL into **public-private initiatives, digital accessibility frameworks, and corporate learning programs**, this scenario secures the project's **long-term sustainability, relevance, and potential for continuous expansion**.

## 6. Knowledge Transfer and Networking Strategies

Ensuring the **long-term impact and sustainability** of the IDEAL Project requires a **structured approach to knowledge transfer and networking**. The project consortium is committed to **ongoing dissemination efforts**, targeting **educators, policymakers, therapists, caregivers, researchers, and the general public**. The strategy focuses on three key areas: **multiplier events and conferences, academic and industry publications, and collaboration with international networks**.

The **commitments made by project partners** include a **diverse range of activities**, from **in-person training sessions and annual conferences** to **digital dissemination through newsletters, social media, and research publications**. Each partner will play an essential role in **amplifying the reach of IDEAL**, ensuring that **its tools, methodologies, and platform** remain widely accessible and continuously evolving.

### 6.1. Multiplier Events and Conferences

Multiplier events and conferences will serve as **key opportunities to showcase the IDEAL platform**, share best practices, and engage with **educators, therapists, parents, and stakeholders in autism and digital education**. Each partner has committed to organizing or participating in events to ensure IDEAL's visibility across different sectors and geographical areas.

#### Planned Events and Presentations

- **Federação Portuguesa de Autismo (FPDA, Portugal)** will present the IDEAL Connect platform at the **FPDA National Seminar (October 2025)**, a flagship annual event. Additionally, it will be introduced in **training sessions across mainstream schools, vocational institutions, private**

education centres, and autism-related NGOs. FPDA will also host an **online public session** to reach a broader audience.

- **Autism-Europe (AE, Belgium)** will feature IDEAL at major industry and advocacy events, including its **Annual General Assembly 2025** and **European Disability and Autism Conferences**. The platform will also be highlighted during **EDPD (European Day of Persons with Disabilities)** through annual dissemination activities.
- **A Thousand Wishes Foundation (ATWF, Serbia)** will host **demo days** in both **special and mainstream schools**, as well as **annual lectures at the University of Belgrade**, where IDEAL will be integrated into discussions on technology-mediated practices for autistic individuals.
- **Fundación Miradas (FM, Spain)** will promote IDEAL through **Erasmus Days** each year, complemented by **social media campaigns** and **YouTube videos** explaining platform functionalities.
- **Tady to mám rád (TTMR, Czech Republic)** will introduce IDEAL at its **Annual Festival (April)**, targeting **ASD individuals and their families**, with printed **leaflets and banners** to promote the platform. TTMR will also participate in **Erasmus Days (October)** with **digital campaigns**.
- **Universidad de Burgos (UBU, Spain)** will incorporate IDEAL into **lecturing sessions, Erasmus Days posts, and other Erasmus+ multiplier events**, ensuring exposure within the academic and research communities.

These events will be **strategically scheduled** across the project's sustainability period, ensuring that **IDEAL remains visible and relevant to its target audiences**.

## 6.2. Academic and Industry Publications

The IDEAL Project consortium is committed to **disseminating research findings, case studies, and best practices** through academic and industry channels. Publications will target **researchers, educators, policymakers, and professionals working in autism, digital education, and assistive technology**.

### Planned Publications and Media Contributions

- **Autism-Europe (AE, Belgium)** will publish an **article in LINK magazine**, a leading resource on autism-related initiatives. Additionally, an **abstract about IDEAL will be submitted to AE's next Congress (Year 4)**, ensuring engagement with the global research community.
- **Federação Portuguesa de Autismo (FPDA, Portugal)** will integrate IDEAL into its **"Autismo na Escola: Recursos para a Inclusão" Project**, creating a **database of educational resources** at the national and European levels. IDEAL's tools and tutorial guides will be part of this initiative.
- **A Thousand Wishes Foundation (ATWF, Serbia)** will use its **website blog** to publish **testimonies, professional articles, and embedded video tutorials**, making IDEAL's insights widely accessible.

These posts will feature **perspectives from professionals, educators, and parents** using the platform.

- **Universidad de Burgos (UBU, Spain)** will send information to **stakeholder networks** such as the **Life Long Learning Platform and All Digital**, ensuring outreach to European education and technology networks.

By integrating IDEAL into **academic journals, professional networks, and open-access repositories**, the project will establish a **long-term presence in the fields of inclusive education and digital accessibility**.

### 6.3. Collaboration with International Networks

Strategic partnerships with **international organizations, research institutions, and advocacy groups** will ensure that IDEAL continues to evolve and expand beyond its initial implementation. Partner institutions have committed to building these networks through ongoing engagement and cross-promotion with similar initiatives.

#### Planned Collaborations and Networking Efforts

- **Autism-Europe (AE, Belgium)** will **cross-disseminate IDEAL** by featuring it in **related project newsletters, such as Empower**, ensuring that IDEAL reaches a **wider network of autism professionals and educators**.
- **Fundación Miradas (FM, Spain)** will introduce IDEAL to participants in its **annual international training program for professionals from Chile**, extending its impact beyond Europe.
- **Tady to mám rád (TTMR, Czech Republic)** will explore a **collaboration with Masaryk University**, organizing a **workshop on working with the IDEAL platform** as part of **Education Day**.
- **FPDA (Portugal)** will present IDEAL to **other autism-related and non-autism NGOs**, expanding its outreach to a more diverse range of stakeholders.

A significant step in long-term visibility is the inclusion of IDEAL in **Plena Inclusión's online repository of best practices** (<https://buenaspracticas.plenainclusion.org/>). This initiative will position IDEAL as a **leading model for digital accessibility in education**, strengthening its credibility and adoption potential.

Additionally, efforts will be made to **explore EU-level funding opportunities** for further collaborations, including through **Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, and the European Social Fund+ (ESF+)**, ensuring IDEAL's ongoing innovation and impact.

## 7. Financial and Organizational Sustainability

Ensuring the **long-term financial and organizational sustainability** of the IDEAL Project is a priority for the consortium. The approach combines **cost-effective maintenance, strategic funding opportunities, and institutional commitments** to ensure that the platform remains accessible, functional, and continuously evolving. By leveraging **internal resources, European funding mechanisms, and private sector partnerships**, the IDEAL Project will continue to provide value to autistic individuals, educators, therapists, and policymakers beyond its initial funding period.

### 7.1. Cost-Effective Maintenance and Updates

The long-term sustainability of the IDEAL platform has been designed with **cost efficiency in mind**, ensuring that the necessary technical support, content updates, and accessibility improvements can be maintained with **minimal financial burden**. The estimated cost for maintaining the platform over five years is **€3,000**, covering:

- **Basic technical support** to ensure continuous functionality.
- **Content updates and revisions** to keep resources relevant.
- **Security and accessibility enhancements** to comply with evolving digital accessibility standards.

This cost will be **shared among project partners**, with **Universidad de Burgos (UBU) leading the maintenance efforts**. Following the **closure of Catness Game Studios in October 2025**, UBU will assume full responsibility for managing the platform, supported by:

- **UBU's internal IT services**, ensuring cost-effective management.
- **Potential external contracts**, using European Social Fund+ (ESF+) grants for specialized improvements.

Through this model, the IDEAL platform will remain **financially sustainable and continuously updated**, maintaining its role as a **valuable resource for digital inclusion**.

### 7.2. Potential Future Funding Opportunities

To support ongoing maintenance, expansion, and innovation, the IDEAL Project consortium will **actively seek funding from various European and national sources**. These funding streams will allow for **enhancements such as additional functionalities, new training resources, and language expansions**. Key funding opportunities include:

#### 1. European Social Fund+ (ESF+)

UBU will explore funding through **ESF+**, which provides financial support for:

- **Digital inclusion initiatives** targeting individuals with disabilities.
- **Development of inclusive education platforms and training programs**.

- Enhancements in accessibility and user experience for digital learning tools.

## 2. Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe

The IDEAL Project will seek **follow-up Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe grants** to:

- Expand training programs for educators and therapists.
- Develop new research on digital accessibility in education.
- Enhance the platform’s integration into European education frameworks.

## 3. Private Sector and Public-Private Partnerships

Engaging with EdTech companies, accessibility-focused organizations, and corporate sponsors will provide:

- Funding for technological improvements and innovation.
- Opportunities for IDEAL’s integration into workplace training for neurodiverse employees.
- Sponsorship possibilities for maintaining the platform’s digital infrastructure.

Additionally, the consortium will **explore opportunities to monetize specific services**, such as:

- Customized training for educators and therapists.
- Consultation services for institutions seeking to integrate digital accessibility practices.

Through these diverse funding avenues, IDEAL will remain **financially sustainable**, ensuring continuous updates and improvements for years to come.

## 7.3. Institutional Commitment and Roles

Each partner in the IDEAL Project consortium has **committed to long-term engagement** in maintaining, promoting, and expanding the project’s impact. The sustainability strategy includes **a clear distribution of responsibilities** among partners, ensuring an organized approach to platform upkeep and knowledge transfer.

### 1. Universidad de Burgos (UBU, Spain) – Platform Lead

UBU will take the **primary responsibility for platform maintenance**, ensuring that the IDEAL platform remains accessible, functional, and up to date. This will be supported by:

- UBU’s IT services, providing ongoing technical support.
- Grant applications (ESF+, Erasmus+, Horizon Europe) to secure future funding.
- Integration of IDEAL into academic courses and research initiatives to sustain visibility and institutional engagement.



## 2. Autism-Europe (AE, Belgium) – European Policy and Dissemination

AE will ensure IDEAL's integration into European digital education frameworks by:

- Engaging with EU policymakers to position IDEAL as a best-practice model.
- Presenting IDEAL at European conferences, such as the European Disability and Autism Congress.
- Promoting IDEAL through newsletters, publications, and cross-dissemination in related projects.

## 3. Federação Portuguesa de Autismo (FPDA, Portugal) – Training and National Integration

FPDA will focus on training and national-level implementation by:

- Integrating IDEAL into its “Autismo na Escola” project, developing a national educational resource database.
- Delivering training sessions in mainstream schools, vocational institutions, and private educational centres.
- Organizing an annual seminar to promote IDEAL's tools and methodologies.

## 4. A Thousand Wishes Foundation (ATWF, Serbia) – Knowledge Sharing and Training

ATWF will ensure that IDEAL is effectively implemented in special education and training environments through:

- Annual lectures at the University of Belgrade focused on technology-mediated practices for autistic individuals.
- Demonstration events in special and mainstream schools.
- Ongoing blog posts, video tutorials, and case studies on IDEAL's application in real-world settings.

## 5. Fundación Miradas (FM, Spain) – Digital Outreach and International Expansion

FM will lead efforts to expand IDEAL's reach beyond Europe, particularly in Latin America, by:

- Presenting IDEAL in annual international training sessions with Chilean professionals.
- Leveraging social media, YouTube tutorials, and online campaigns to promote platform accessibility.
- Engaging in Erasmus Days and other visibility events.

## 6. Tady to mám rád (TTMR, Czech Republic) – Community Engagement and Higher Education

TTMR will focus on grassroots dissemination and academic engagement by:

- Introducing IDEAL at its annual festival for ASD individuals and families.



- **Organizing workshops in collaboration with Masaryk University** to integrate IDEAL into teacher training.
- **Ensuring continuous promotion through local networks, NGOs, and higher education institutions.**

Through this **structured distribution of responsibilities**, each partner ensures that IDEAL remains **operational, continuously updated, and widely adopted** across different sectors and regions.

## 8. Conclusion and Future Outlook

The IDEAL Project has established a **comprehensive and sustainable framework** for improving **digital accessibility in education** for autistic individuals and other neurodiverse learners. Through a **strategic approach to maintenance, funding, and institutional commitment**, the project ensures that its impact will continue well beyond its initial implementation. The **collaborative engagement of consortium partners, integration into European digital education frameworks, and potential private sector partnerships** provide multiple avenues for sustaining and expanding IDEAL's reach.

### 8.1. Ensuring Long-Term Impact

The sustainability of IDEAL is built on a **solid foundation of financial, technical, and institutional commitments**. Universidad de Burgos (UBU) has taken responsibility for **maintaining the platform**, with financial coverage ensured through **general university funds and potential European Social Fund+ (ESF+) grants**. Other partners have committed to **ongoing updates, training sessions, and dissemination activities**, ensuring that the platform remains a **dynamic and evolving resource**.

In addition to financial sustainability, IDEAL's **integration into European digital education policies and national-level training programs** will further guarantee its **long-term relevance**. Partnerships with Autism-Europe, FPDA, and national institutions will ensure that IDEAL continues to **contribute to policy discussions on digital accessibility and inclusion**. The presence of IDEAL in **international best practice repositories**, such as Plena Inclusión, reinforces its **credibility and visibility** as a leading model for inclusive education.

By ensuring that **maintenance costs remain low**, securing additional funding for **technical improvements and content updates**, and embedding IDEAL in **formal education and advocacy networks**, the project will continue to provide value to educators, therapists, policymakers, and neurodiverse individuals for years to come.

### 8.2. Expanding Beyond the Initial Scope

While the initial focus of IDEAL has been **supporting autistic individuals**, the platform has significant **potential for expansion** to other neurodiverse groups, such as **individuals with ADHD, dyslexia, intellectual disabilities, or cognitive impairments**. The project's **methodology, digital resources, and**

**evaluation framework** can be adapted to a broader range of educational and professional settings, ensuring that **a more diverse audience benefits from inclusive digital learning solutions**.

Further expansion could also include:

- **Additional language translations**, ensuring accessibility to a **wider European and global audience**.
- **New functionalities**, such as personalized learning pathways, AI-driven accessibility features, or integrations with emerging assistive technologies.
- **Wider application in vocational education and employment training**, helping neurodiverse individuals develop **professional and digital literacy skills** for the workforce.

IDEAL's scalability is further reinforced by its **strong alignment with EU digital inclusion policies** and its **potential for integration into workplace training programs** through private sector partnerships. By expanding its reach and adapting to **new user needs**, IDEAL can become **a long-term reference point for accessible digital learning**.

### 8.3. Final Recommendations

To maximize the **impact, longevity, and adaptability** of IDEAL, the following strategic recommendations should guide future actions:

1. **Ensure Continuous Platform Maintenance and Content Updates**
  - UBU and consortium partners should continue exploring **ESF+ and Erasmus+ funding opportunities** to support updates and improvements.
  - Regular **user feedback and accessibility reviews** should inform ongoing platform enhancements.
2. **Strengthen Policy Integration and Institutional Adoption**
  - Engage with European policymakers to **embed IDEAL into EU digital education strategies**.
  - Work with national education ministries and advocacy organizations to **formalize IDEAL's role in inclusive learning policies**.
3. **Expand Target Audiences and Functionalities**
  - Adapt IDEAL's methodologies to support **other neurodiverse learners**, including those with ADHD, dyslexia, and intellectual disabilities.
  - Invest in **new digital tools and learning pathways** that enhance **personalized and adaptive learning experiences**.
4. **Leverage Public-Private Partnerships for Funding and Innovation**

- Collaborate with **EdTech companies, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, and technology developers** to sustain financial and technical growth.
- Position IDEAL as **a resource for workplace inclusion**, encouraging businesses to adopt **digital accessibility solutions in professional training**.

#### 5. Enhance Knowledge Transfer and Global Reach

- Continue **engagement in international conferences, academic publications, and professional training sessions** to keep IDEAL at the forefront of **inclusive digital education**.
- Expand IDEAL's visibility in **online repositories, research networks, and social media platforms** to ensure **continuous dissemination and user adoption**.

Through these actions, the IDEAL Project will not only **maintain its original impact** but also **grow into a global reference for digital accessibility**, ensuring that neurodiverse learners, educators, and institutions benefit from its innovative and inclusive approach to digital education.