VM grantee: **Milica Solarević**, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Novi Sad Faculty of Sciences

VM grant title: **Desk research report on the state of the art and good practices in digital innovation and implementation of SHAFE solutions**

VM duration: 11/12/2023 to 29/12/2023

Main research objective of VM was to synthesize existing knowledge and to critically assess the practices of digital innovation and implementation of SHAFE solutions in line with defined WG3 Task 3.1: Synthesize and improve the state of the art and good practices to enrich the D8. Working Group's final report on the digital innovations and implementation. This involved conducting comprehensive desk research to address background and challenges, define scope and purpose, identify target stakeholders, analyze the existing knowledge base, and augment it with new data, thereby contributing to the framework's conclusive Module on digital innovations and implementation. Report was structured in main parts/phases as follows:

- Background and Challenges
- Scope and Purpose
- Targeting Stakeholders
- State of the art and good practices (conducting a comprehensive review of existing reports and case studies related to digital innovation and implementation of SHAFE solutions - SHAFE Framing paper; overview of general insights of EU framework and relevant actions; analyzing the existing knowledge base; extending, updating and improving data collection with contemporary information to gather current and relevant information on digital innovation related to SHAFE areas)
- Recommendations for framework's conclusive Module on digital innovations and implementation.

Main scope of the digital innovations and implementation of the SHAFE approach is focusing on the integration of digital technologies to enhance the well-being and quality of life for older individuals. The scope encompasses various areas and industries, strategically addressing real-world challenges faced by ageing populations. In this report we identified following key areas: healthcare, social services, community engagement, urban environments, financial inclusion, education and digital literacy. Digital innovations and implementation of SHAFE solutions module aim to achieve the following impactful outcomes:

- Improved well-being and quality of life for older individuals through targeted digital interventions.
- Enhanced accessibility to healthcare, social services, and community resources.
- Fostering a sense of connectivity and reducing social isolation among older adults.
- Facilitating active participation in urban life and promoting age-friendly urban environments.
- Empowering older individuals through digital literacy initiatives, fostering independence and inclusion.
- Contributing to the creation of a sustainable, smart, and healthy environment for ageing populations.

Beside the research in scientific literature, European funded projects are identified based on topics such as 'eHealth', 'mHealth', 'telemonitoring', 'age-friendly environments', 'independent living', 'ageing in place', executed for or suitable for people with chronic diseases and/or impairments. European funding programmes are FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020 and databases: CORDIS and INNORADAR. It provides the update and improves data collection with contemporary information to gather current and relevant information on digital innovation related to SHAFE areas.

Digital innovations in the context of Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments (SHAFE) have demonstrated a transformative impact on the well-being and quality of life for the aging population. By fostering social connectivity, promoting mental health, and providing personalized experiences, these innovations contribute to a more fulfilling and engaging life for older people. The integration of technology aligns with the principles of active aging, empowering individuals to maintain a sense of purpose, social connectedness, and overall well-being. However, challenges such as the digital divide and technological anxiety need to be addressed to ensure inclusivity and widespread access, ensuring that the benefits of digital well-being interventions are realized by all. Challenges include addressing disparities in technology access, tailoring solutions to diverse needs, and ensuring that the digital tools enhance, rather than replace, human interactions. Continuous efforts to bridge the digital divide and promote user-friendly technologies will be crucial in maximizing the positive impact on the well-being and quality of life for seniors.

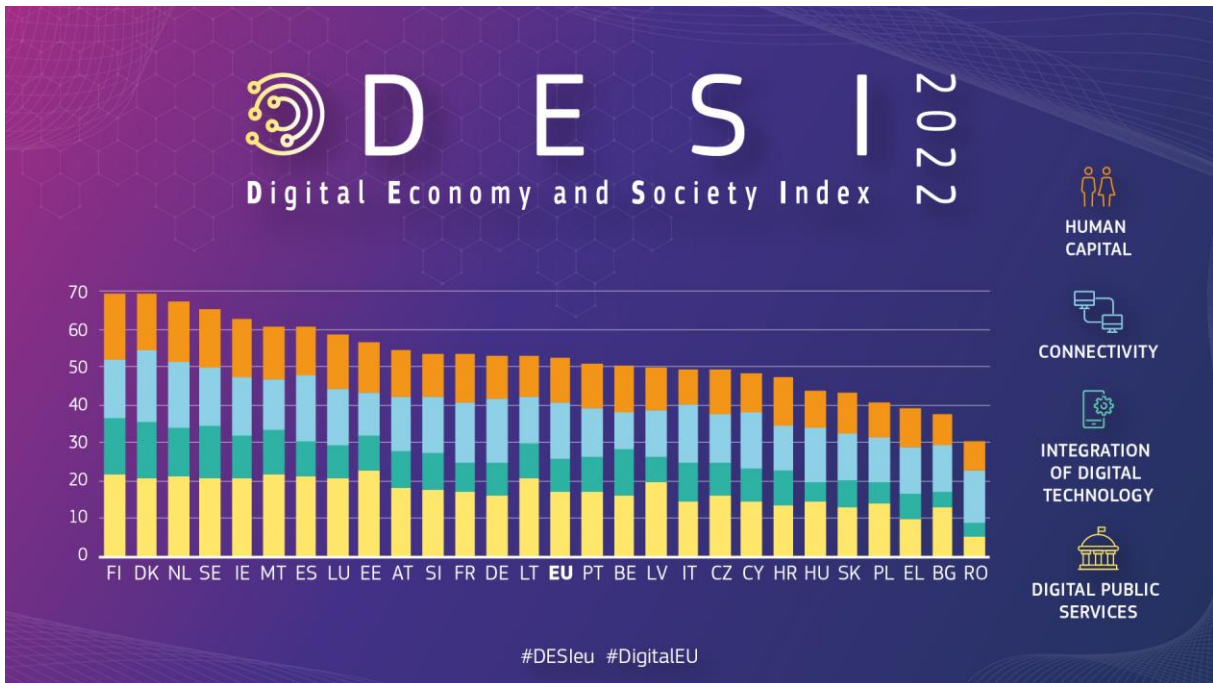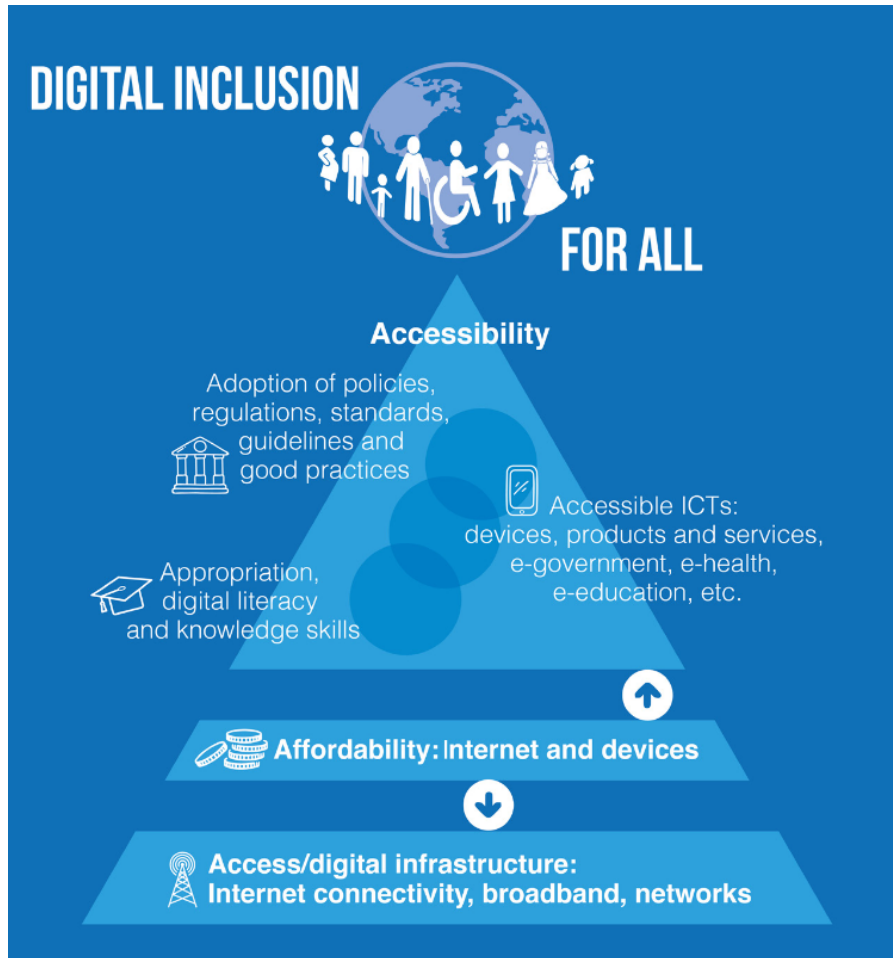Final and full report on was prepared in 78 pages, to be implemented into D8 and published.

Figure Digital Economy and Society Index, 2022

Figure Digital inclusion explained