

EMPOWER will train executive functions and emotional self-regulation of students with neurodevelopmental disorders

 **The Institute on Robotics and Information and Communication Technologies (IRTIC)** is coordinating the project "**EMPOWER: Design and evaluation of technological support tools to empower stakeholders in digital education**", which aims to develop over the next three years a technological platform for the evaluation and training of executive functions and emotional self-regulation.

The initiative aims to help students with neurodevelopmental disorders, who along with teachers, psychologists and developers will co-design this platform, which will use eye-tracking technologies together with other sensors.

In this sense, the project research team works with the hypothesis that the above mentioned skills are key for educational inclusion and academic learning. In addition to developing the platform, the project will create different training materials and carry out several scientific studies aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposed solution.

The consortium is formed by the **University of Valencia**, which coordinates this action from **IRTIC**, along with the **Babes-Bolyai University in Romania** and the **University Research Institute of Lisbon in Portugal**, two research centres specialised in special education and psychology; as well as with the **University of Stichting Radboud in the Netherlands**, the **Institute of Systems and Computer Engineering in Portugal**, the **Hogskulen pa vestlandet University in Norway** and the **Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania**, which are four university departments in the technological area specialising in artificial intelligence, eye-tracking and biosensors.

The company from Romania **IT Data Telecom**, in charge of the creation of training contents, also participates in the project. The **Autism Europe Association**, an organisation based in **Brussels, Belgium**, that gathers a hundred of organisations from more than 30 European countries, completes this consortium leading the dissemination of the project results.

The members of the **EMPOWER** consortium held their first meeting on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th October at the **IRTIC** facilities. During the meeting, the participating entities have discussed technical issues to be developed, the preparation of the necessary reports and the promotion of the initiative.

The project is co-funded by the **European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA) through the Horizon Europe Programme**, having been selected in the "**Inclusion in times of change**" call under the "**Transformations**" call of the programme.