



NEW PUBLICATION IN UNIVERSAL ACCESS IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Usability and acceptance of a digital screening tool for diabetes in four European countries: the DigiCare4You study

Consortium Partners from the DigiCare4You project published a new article in the journal *Universal Access in the Information Society* (November, 2024) on the usability and acceptability of a diabetes screening tool in four European Countries - Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Spain.

Diabetes remains one of the most pressing global health challenges, with the number of people living with diabetes (PwD) worldwide, estimated to be around 537 million (61 million in Europe). Early detection of diabetes is crucial for lowering the risk of serious complications and reducing the strain on healthcare systems' resources. Identifying people at risk and/or those already with the disease is a major challenge though, with 541 million adults (55 million in Europe) living with Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT), which places them at high risk of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and about 30-40% of people living with the disease remaining undiagnosed. Digital tools have emerged as innovative solutions for healthcare systems, offering convenient and scalable approaches to disease prevention and management. Digital health tools can, however, often be difficult to use and integrate into practice. Therefore, researchers from the DigiCare4You consortium aimed to assess the usability and acceptance of a digital screening tool for T2D across four European countries - Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Spain. This study focused on understanding the experiences of healthcare professionals (HCPs) and citizens using this tool and identifying factors that influence its adoption.



The study involved 109 HCPs and 71 citizens who tested the DigiCare4You digital screening tool. Participants engaged in guided activities on the tool, including completing health questionnaires and uploading relevant health data. Usability and acceptance were evaluated using the System Usability Scale (SUS) and additional survey questions examined, for example, perceived usefulness, ease of learning and intention to use the tool. Data were collected through an online.

Key Findings

The study results showed that **both HCPs and citizens found the DigiCare4You tool to be user-friendly, and useful for diabetes screening.**

Usability: the tool received satisfactory usability scores from both HCPs (average SUS score of 73.9) and citizens (average SUS score of 68.06) whereby a score above 68 is considered good. Most participants felt the tool was easy to learn and use.

Acceptance: most HCPs believed in the usefulness of presymptomatic screening tools and were open to using the DigiCare4You system. They also felt that such a system could significantly change their clinic practice.

Regional Differences: some variations were evident across the four countries, which may be due to differences in technology infrastructure and digital literacy. For example, the usability scores were higher for Greece and Bulgaria, and lower for Spain and Albania.

The DigiCare4You digital tool for diabetes screening is a promising solution that has been well-received by both HCPs citizens. The study results suggests that such digital tools can be a great help to HCPs and may empower people to take a more active role in their health. These findings pave the way for the wider adoption of digital health technologies in diabetes care and prevention.



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