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ISSUE 1

√ VISUALITY

MAGAZINE

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VISUALITY!

Kick-off in
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www.visualityproject.eu



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Welcome to VISUALITY!

We are delighted to share the **first newsletter of VISUALITY - a European cooperation project** working to make teaching more visual, more inclusive, and more effective for everyone.

Across higher education and adult learning, too many learners still struggle with text-heavy materials that do not match how they process and retain information.

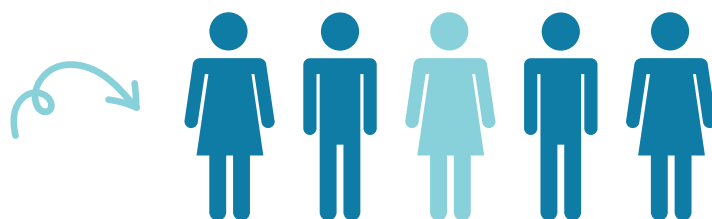
This is especially true for people facing language barriers, low literacy levels, or neurodiversity. VISUALITY was born from a simple but powerful idea: when visuals are used with clear teaching intent, learning becomes clearer, more engaging, and more accessible for everyone.

Why Does This Matter?

The numbers tell a clear story. Across Europe, adult participation in education and training sits at just 10.8%, well below the EU target of 15%. Among low-skilled adults, participation drops even further, to 4.3%. At the same time, OECD data shows that nearly 1 in 5 adults lack basic literacy and numeracy skills, making text-heavy learning environments particularly difficult to access.

Research confirms that visuals, when used thoughtfully as part of a structured teaching approach, can significantly support understanding, retention, and engagement, particularly for learners facing barriers linked to language, literacy, socio-economic background, or cognitive differences. Yet in many classrooms, visuals are still treated as decoration rather than core learning tools. VISUALITY is here to change that.

1 in 5 adults lack basic literacy and numeracy skills



About this Project

VISUALITY is a 30-month European cooperation project (October 2025 – March 2028) connecting research, training, and real-world teaching practice across higher education and adult education. Here is what we are building:

A Cross-national Research Report

Visual teaching practices and learner needs

A Certified Online Course

Visual pedagogy with a recognised micro-credential outcome for educators

A Pilot Study

30+ educators and 200+ students testing the approach in real classrooms

Overall, VISUALITY aims to equip 90+ educators with practical visual pedagogy skills and strengthen inclusive teaching practices across Europe through an open, accessible digital hub and structured dissemination.



Who Can Benefit?

VISUALITY is designed for a wide range of people who want to make teaching and learning more inclusive:

Educators

Educators in higher education and adult education looking for practical, evidence-based tools.



Learners

Learners who face barriers related to language, literacy, or cognitive differences.



Heads of Department & Institutional Leaders

Interested in supporting inclusive teaching



Education Stakeholders, Networks & Policymakers

Working on participation and inclusion



Kick-off in Copenhagen!

In November 2025, the **VISUALITY consortium** came together in Copenhagen for its kick-off meeting, hosted by Aalborg University. Partners travelled from Ireland, Italy, Spain, and Germany to meet in person for the first time, and what a start it was!



The highlight was a hands-on visual facilitation workshop led by the Aalborg University team, where partners worked in groups to visually map out the project results they are responsible for leading. Working with sketches and visual tools made for a truly energising session, and it really helped everyone visualise the plan ahead.

The meeting in Copenhagen was a wonderful opportunity for partners to get to know one another and align on shared goals, agree on ways of working, and leave with a clear plan to begin the research phase. The energy in the room was a great sign of what this project can achieve together.



“Using visual tools to map out our work as a group was surprisingly powerful. By the end of the session, we could all literally see where we were headed.”

Francesca Uras, EUCEN

Where We Are Now: Research Underway

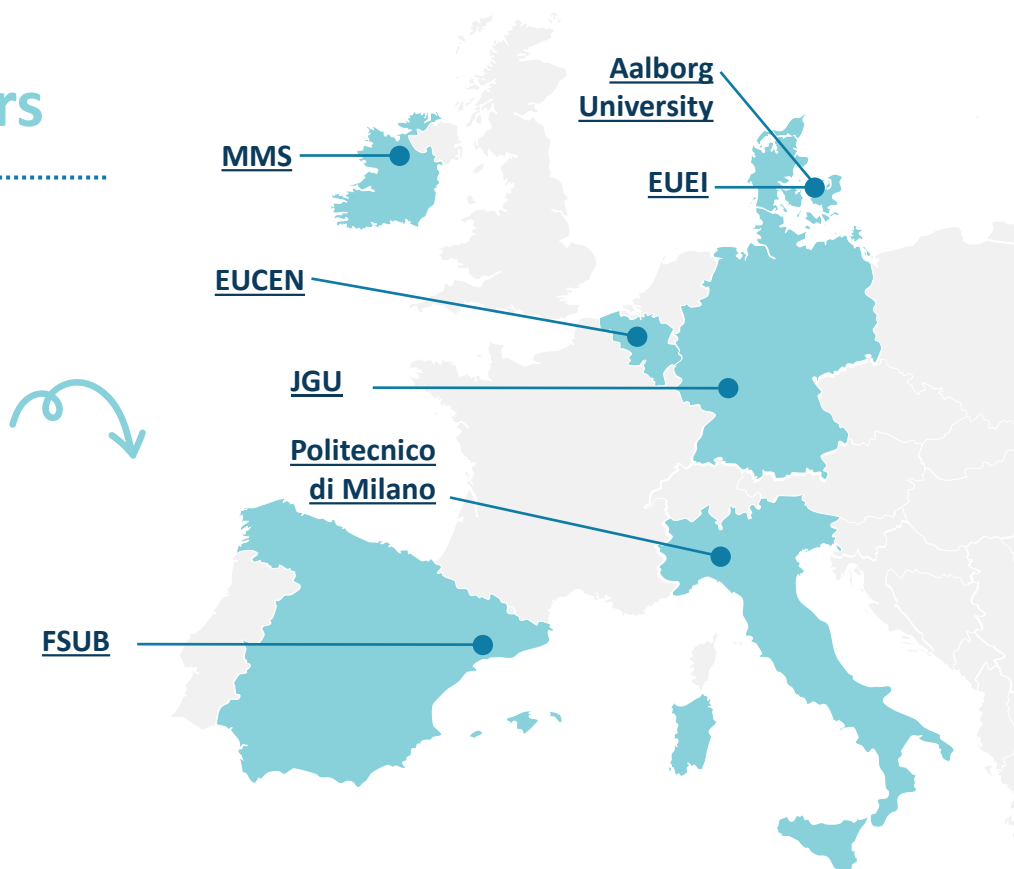
With the kick-off behind us, **VISUALITY** has now moved into its first active phase: research.

The consortium is currently mapping how visuals are used, and underused, across higher education and adult education in our partner countries, through surveys, interviews, and focus groups with educators and learners.

We are engaging directly with over 90 educators and more than 120 learners, particularly those who experience disadvantages, to understand where visual pedagogy can make the biggest difference. This evidence will be the foundation of the practical tools and training we develop in the next phases.

Meet the Partners

VISUALITY brings together seven organisations from six European countries, combining expertise in research, higher education, adult learning, instructional design, inclusion, and dissemination.



Aalborg University - Denmark (Lead Partner)

A research-intensive institution with strong expertise in visual studies, learning design, and problem-based learning. AAU leads the research direction of VISUALITY and builds the evidence base for visual pedagogy across education contexts.



**AALBORG
UNIVERSITY**

Johannes Gutenberg -Universität Mainz (JGU) - Germany

JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



JGU brings deep experience in continuing education through its Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Lifelong Learning (ZWW), strengthening connections to adult learning practice and supporting educator training pathways.

Fundació Solidaritat Universitat de Barcelona (FSUB) - Spain

A non-profit working through the University of Barcelona with expertise in inclusion and support for vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees. FSUB contributes practical insight on inclusive teaching and learner barriers.



Fundació Solidaritat
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Momentum Marketing Services Limited - Ireland



An education organisation with extensive experience in adult education and community outreach. Momentum supports dissemination and communication.

European E-Learning Institute (EUEI) - Denmark

Specialising in digital instructional design and accessible online learning. EUEI leads the project website and supports accessible digital access to the course and project resources.



Politecnico di Milano - Italy



Contributing research and applied expertise in digital learning, data visualisation, and technology-supported learning accessibility, strengthening the link between evidence and teaching innovation.

EUCEN (European University Continuing Education Network) - Belgium

An international network linking universities active in lifelong learning. EUCEN supports scaling and sustainability by connecting VISUALITY outputs to higher education networks and policy and institutional dialogue.



What's Next?

The coming months will be focused on completing the **research phase and turning insights** into action:

01 Research & Assessment:

Completion of the visual pedagogy research report and learner needs assessment.

02 Curriculum Development

Start of course design and development for the certified online training.

03 Strategic Collaboration:

Next consortium meeting in Ireland to review findings and plan ahead.

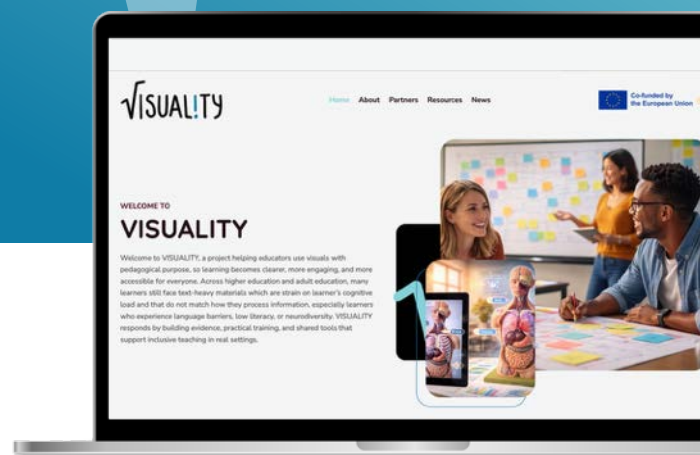
Our next newsletter will share the first findings from the research, stay tuned!



Stay Connected

Follow **VISUALITY** to learn more about how visual approaches can support inclusive education across Europe.

www.visualityproject.eu



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