



European Monitoring Centre  
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

# The future for Digital Addictions Services. An update from the DigitAS-DADE Project

Chair -Marica Ferri, MSc, PhD

Head of Sector Support to Practice – HEA Unit - EMCDDA

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# Speakers

Joe Tay is an honorary research fellow at St Andrews University in Scotland, Clinical Director of Forward Leeds and Project Lead for DigitAS. His interests are in addiction services design and improvement, digital health interventions, harm reduction, service user participation and patient advocacy.



*Developing a functional taxonomy for Digital Health Interventions in Addiction Services*

Human Media Interaction, University of Twente,  
NETHERLANDS

*Immersive Virtual Reality in the Assessment and Treatment of Addictive Disorders: Current Status and Future Perspectives*

Dr Roya Vaziri Executive Medical Director and Responsible Officer at [Humankind Charity](#), which deliver community drug and alcohol services across England.

Roya has worked in a variety of clinical specialities, focusing on GP work with a special interest in addiction over the past 16 years. Her passion is bringing the expertise of the system together, inclusive of lived experiences, to create services and harm reduction approaches that work in the real world.



# Discussion

Are Digital Health Interventions for Addiction Services more likely to widen or narrow **inequalities**?

## Glossary

**Social exclusion** = “certain people cannot fully participate in key societal activities”; “inability to exercise control over the environment or resources in various dimensions of a person’s life” (Saunders, Naidoo, & Griffiths, 2007)

**Digital exclusion** = “lack of access or inability to use digital technologies.” “new form of social inequality” with “long term consequences for widening existing social inequalities” (Park, 2018)

**Inequalities** = in access to, and use of, digital technologies and content (Unwin, 2009)

# Discussion

Are Digital Health Interventions for Addiction Services more likely to widen or narrow **inequalities**?

## Dimensions

**Structural inequalities:** *replication of inequalities in the virtual space, patterns of use are transmitted/replicated in the family*

**Exclusion/Power:** *exclusion of some social groups from the design, consultation, needs analysis; increasing surveillance, traffick of data, profiling (...)*

**Affordability: resources and competing priorities:** *digital literacy, digital self-confidence*

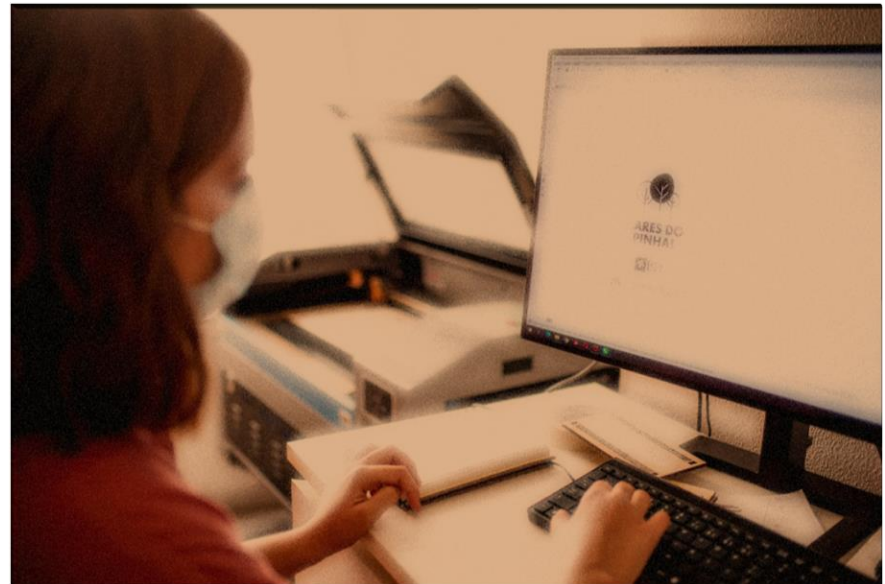
**Digital benefits:** *categories of studied benefits include, political, economic, social, cultural and personal, all areas at risk of manipulation, exclusion and exploitation.*



# Discussion

Are Digital Health Interventions for Addiction Services more likely to widen or narrow **inequalities**?

And how can we reduce the risk?





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# Marica Ferri

Marica.ferri@emcdda.europa.eu

[emcdda.europa.eu](http://emcdda.europa.eu)

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