

## **KHEIRON – Social Mentoring Without Borders: Advancing Digital Inclusion and Intergenerational Learning in Rural Europe**

Anastasia Pyrini, Despina Sarrigeorgiou and George Sarrigeorgiou, PARAGON-eduTech, Greece; Nuria de Pablo Sánchez and Rubén Vega Gutierrez, Fundación Siglo22, Spain

### **Abstract**

The KHEIRON project reimagines intergenerational mentorship through a digital and community-based lens, addressing the isolation and exclusion often faced by young people in rural European areas. By leveraging the life experience of older adults as mentors and supporting them with inclusive, technology-enhanced pedagogical tools, KHEIRON builds bridges across generations and geographies.

Co-funded by Erasmus+ and developed by partners in Spain, Germany, and Greece, KHEIRON promotes digital equity and lifelong learning through two core outcomes: (1) a multilingual methodological framework for social mentors, and (2) the implementation of a structured online and face-to-face mentoring programme. These outputs are grounded in open educational practices and support the active participation of rural youth in personal, educational, and vocational development.

In line with ICICTE's commitment to inclusive and ethical uses of technology in education, the project foregrounds accessibility, diversity, and sustainability. The training materials—delivered through video, interactive PDFs, and open platforms—equip mentors with digital skills, pedagogical strategies, and a gender-sensitive, culturally aware mindset. Weekly online mentoring sessions and localized engagement ensure contextual relevance and meaningful community impact.

KHEIRON contributes a replicable model of community-based, tech-enabled mentoring that addresses both digital literacy gaps and intergenerational disconnect. It also exemplifies the power of small-scale, cross-border collaboration in reshaping the educational landscape of underserved communities. As such, KHEIRON aligns with ICICTE's vision of education as a vehicle for social innovation and empowerment.