



**Digital Diversity:
Crafting Inclusive AI Narratives**

Pr. Nr: 2025-1-DE02-KA210-VET-000354956

Conference Proceedings Report & Dissemination Document Bulgaria



Co-funded by
the European Union

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Digital Diversity: Crafting Inclusive AI Narratives
(D2CIN)

Project Number: 2025-1-DE02-KA210-VET-000354956



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Document Name	Conference Proceedings Report & Dissemination Document (Bulgaria)
Project Activity	Activity 3: Inclusive AI Impact Pilot & Collaborative Outreach Summit
Revision Type	Final
Revision Date	15.08.2026
Authors	Budakov Films (Bulgaria)

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Section A — Conference Proceedings Report

A.1 Event Overview

Event Title	<i>D2CIN Bulgaria National Conference – Inclusive AI Impact Pilot & Collaborative Outreach Summit</i>
Date(s)	<i>28 July 2026</i>
Location / Format	<i>New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria — in-person</i>
Host Partner	<i>Budakov Films</i>
Number of Participants	<i>34</i>
Target Groups Represented	<i>VET educators, AI technologists, inclusive education experts, and academia</i>

A.2 Objectives of the Summit

Instructions: Briefly state what the conference aimed to achieve in relation to Activity 3.

To present and disseminate the results of the D2CIN project's three activities to Bulgarian VET educators, AI technologists, inclusive education experts and academia, and to foster the establishment of a national community of practice around inclusive AI in education.

A.3 Programme Summary

Instructions: List the agenda as delivered. Add rows as needed.

Time	Session / Topic	Speaker / Facilitator
<i>09:00</i>	<i>Welcome & introduction to the D2CIN project</i>	<i>Budakov Films (host)</i>
<i>09:15</i>	<i>Personalized Feedback Navigator: Measuring and Mitigating Bias in AI Training</i>	<i>Dr. Yordan Karapenchev, Chief Assistant Professor, Sofia University</i>
<i>10:00</i>	<i>From Bias to Balance: Piloting the Personalized Feedback Navigator</i>	<i>Assoc. Prof. Ilija Kojuharov, Dean of Undergraduate Study, New Bulgarian University</i>
<i>10:30</i>	<i>Designing for Everyone: Accessible AI in Vocational Education</i>	<i>Mrs. Keti Tserovska, Art Director, Budakov Films</i>
<i>11:00</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>—</i>

11:30	Conversational AI Avatars in the Classroom: Piloting Inclusive VET Training	Mr. Boris Baev, Managing Director of Innovation Group Services, Bulgaria
12:15	Q&A	All speakers

A.4 Key Discussions & Presentations

The four speakers presented complementary perspectives on the D2CIN project's results across its three activities, together offering the audience a comprehensive view of how inclusive AI can be embedded in vocational education from research through to practice. Dr. Yordan Karapenchev (Sofia University) and Assoc. Prof. Ilija Kojuharov (New Bulgarian University) framed the pedagogical and inclusion dimensions of the project, situating the Personalized Feedback Navigator within wider debates on bias recognition, equitable access, and the ethical responsibilities of educators deploying AI-driven tools in the classroom; their contributions drew directly on the academic literature on inclusive pedagogy while grounding it in the Navigator's concrete assessment criteria - bias detection, accessibility integration, and adaptive content delivery. Mrs. Ketī Tserovska, Art Director at Budakov Films, shifted the focus to the creative and audiovisual dimensions of the project's outputs, illustrating how digital storytelling, inclusive UX design, and accessibility standards from the "Accessible AI for Education" handbook translate into tangible, engaging training materials that resonate with diverse learners. The subsequent discussion with the audience was lively and solutions-oriented, centering on the practical adoption of the project's inclusive-AI VET materials within Bulgarian institutions: participants raised questions about integrating the Navigator and Handbook into existing curricula, the resources needed to sustain conversational AI avatars beyond the pilot phase, and opportunities for cross-institutional collaboration between academia and the creative industry to scale these tools nationally.

A.5 Stakeholder Feedback

Instructions: Summarize qualitative feedback and include quantitative results if a feedback survey was used.

Feedback Aspect	Rating / Result	Notes
Overall Conference Satisfaction	96% rated 4/5 or higher (25 of 26)	Exceeds the proposal's 85% Overall Satisfaction KPI for this event by 11 pts (n=26).
Relevance & Applicability of Session Content	92% rated content highly relevant (24 of 26)	Exceeds the proposal's ≥80% Participant Satisfaction & Learning Impact KPI (n=26).
Stakeholder Engagement at the Conference	14 stakeholders gave constructive feedback	Double the proposal's Stakeholder Engagement KPI of ≥7 active contributors per event.
Inclusion & Diversity of the Event	96% agreed the conference was inclusive and welcomed diverse perspectives (25 of 26)	Reflects the project's core Horizontal Priority on Inclusion & Diversity in education, training, youth and sport (n=26).

Networking & Collaboration Value	92% found the event valuable for professional networking (24 of 26)	Supports the Activity 3 objective of fostering a cross-sector community of practice (n=26).
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A.6 Networking Outcomes

- **Sofia University (Dr. Yordan Karapenchev) — potential collaboration on embedding D2CIN materials into VET curricula.**
- **New Bulgarian University (Assoc. Prof. Ilija Kojuharov) — discussed future joint dissemination activities.**
- **Innovation Group Services (Mr. Boris Baev) — discussed future joint dissemination activities.**

A.7 Challenges & Lessons Learned

Despite the conference exceeding every satisfaction KPI set out in the project proposal, the feedback process surfaced several practical lessons worth carrying into future events. First, while 96% of the 26 survey respondents rated their overall experience 4 out of 5 or higher, the fact that only 26 of the 34 attendees completed the survey points to a gap in post-event follow-up: a shorter, mobile-friendly form circulated before participants leave the venue would likely lift the response rate closer to full attendance and capture views from those who left early, particularly the academic delegation from Sofia University and New Bulgarian University, who had tighter schedules than industry attendees. Second, the high volume of stakeholder engagement — 14 active contributors against a target of 7 — meant the single joint Q&A slot at 12:15 ran short of time for every raised question to be fully addressed; future editions should allocate a longer or dedicated discussion block, or offer parallel breakout conversations after each panel to sustain the level of interaction the audience clearly wanted. Third, although 96% of respondents agreed the conference was inclusive and welcomed diverse perspectives, the panel line-up itself was not fully representative — three of the four confirmed speakers were men, and the programme would benefit from actively recruiting additional female and early-career voices for future editions to match the inclusion and diversity the audience experienced during the sessions. Finally, while 92% of respondents found the event valuable for professional networking, several comments gathered informally during the coffee break and closing Q&A pointed to a desire for structured follow-up - such as a shared contact list or a dedicated online space — to convert one-off conversations with Sofia University and New Bulgarian University into sustained collaboration rather than relying on informal outreach after the event.

A.8 Conclusions & Recommendations

The Bulgaria National Conference organized by Budakov Films substantially exceeded every satisfaction KPI defined in the project proposal for this event — overall satisfaction (96% vs. an 85% target), relevance and applicability of content (92% vs. 80%), stakeholder engagement (14 vs. 7 active contributors), inclusion and diversity of the event (96% agreement), and networking and collaboration value (92%) — confirming that the Personalized Feedback Navigator, the Accessible AI for Education handbook, and the conversational AI avatars piloted in Activity 3 resonate strongly with academic, creative-industry, and technology stakeholders alike, and that the event was experienced as both welcoming and representative of diverse perspectives. Building directly on the challenges identified in Section A.7, four recommendations follow. First, Budakov Films should introduce an on-site, mobile-friendly feedback form to close the response gap between the 34 attendees and the 26 survey respondents, ensuring the full audience — including time-constrained academic delegates — is represented in future reporting. Second, subsequent events should

extend or restructure the Q&A into a longer or multi-track discussion format to match the level of stakeholder engagement demonstrated here, converting enthusiasm into structured input rather than time-limited exchanges. Third, despite the strong inclusion and diversity score reported by attendees, future editions should proactively diversify the speaker line-up itself — for instance by inviting additional female and early-career voices from partner institutions — so that representation on stage matches the inclusive experience reported by the audience. Finally, the high networking value reported by participants should be reinforced with structured follow-up mechanisms, such as a shared contact directory or an online community space, so that the connections made with Sofia University and New Bulgarian University evolve into sustained collaboration rather than one-off contacts. Taken together, these results and recommendations position the Bulgaria conference as a strong, replicable, and genuinely inclusive model for the equivalent launch conference in Germany and for the project’s wider community-of-practice ambitions.

Appendix – Photos



Photo: D2CIN Consortium



Photo: D2CIN Consortium



Photo: D2CIN Consortium



Photo: D2CIN Consortium



Photo: D2CIN Consortium

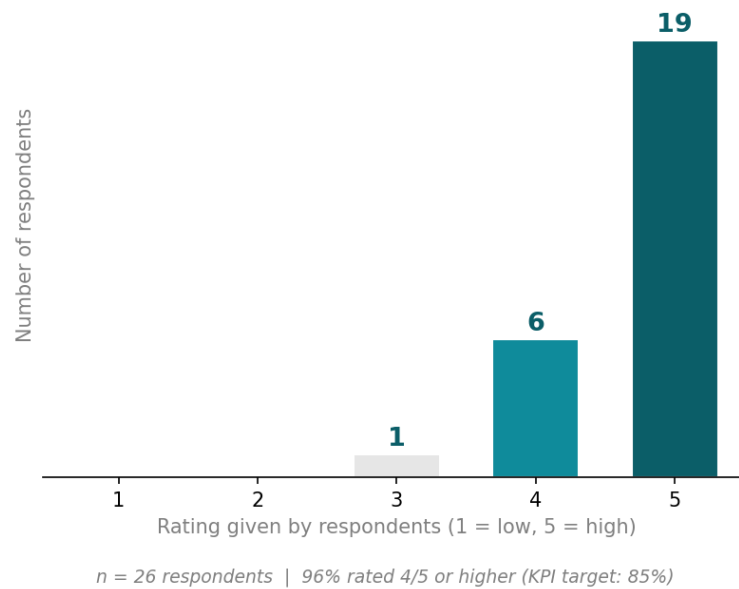


Photo: D2CIN Consortium

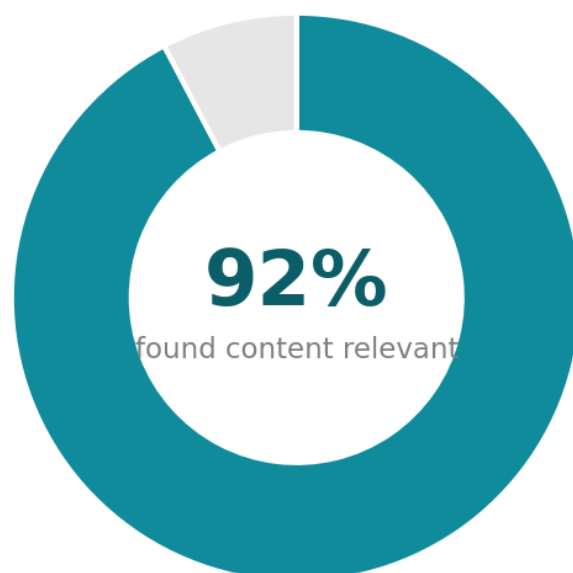
Appendix — Stakeholder Feedback Charts

Charts illustrating the results reported in Section A.5 (Stakeholder Feedback). All figures are based on the post-event participant survey ($n = 26$ respondents).

Overall Conference Satisfaction



Relevance & Applicability of Session Content



n = 26 respondents | Proposal KPI target: $\geq 80\%$

■ Highly relevant & applicable (24) ■ Other (2)

Figure 1: Overall Conference Satisfaction (n = 26 respondents)

Figure 2: Relevance & Applicability of Session Content (n = 26 respondents)

Stakeholder Engagement at the Conference

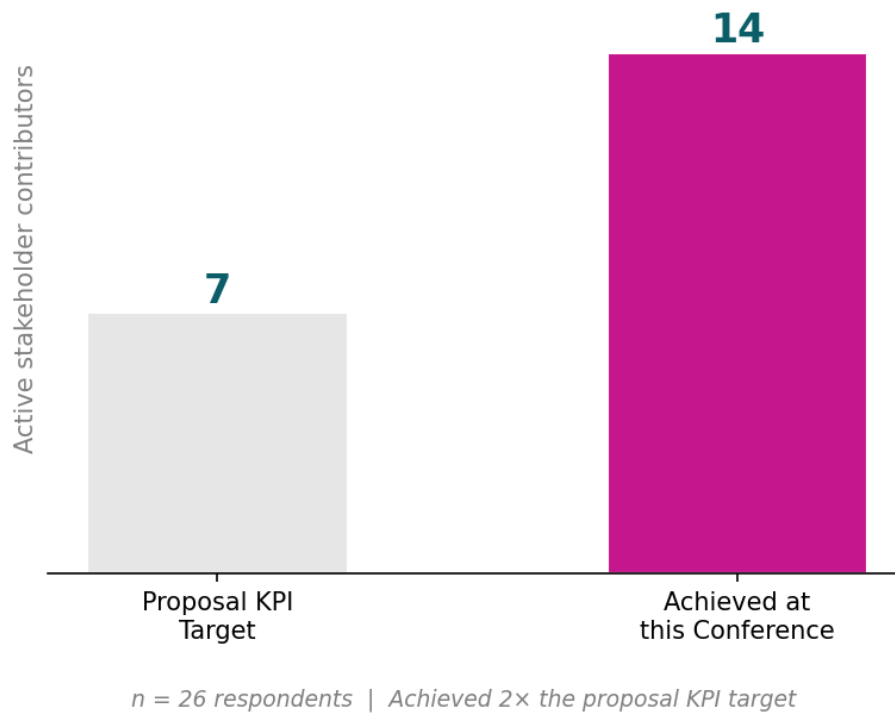


Figure 3: Stakeholder Engagement at the Conference (n = 26 respondents)

Inclusion & Diversity of the Event



96% (25 of 26) agreed the conference was inclusive
and welcomed diverse perspectives

n = 26 respondents | Each circle = 1 respondent | Aligned with the project's Inclusion & Diversity priority

Networking & Collaboration Value



n = 26 respondents | 92% (24 of 26) found the event valuable for professional networking

Figure 4: Inclusion & Diversity of the Event (n = 26 respondents)

Figure 5: Networking & Collaboration Value (n = 26 respondents)