ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

In the last twenty years, **society has adapted** to many **technological breakthroughs** such as computers, mobile phones, email, the Internet, telecommuting and **artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools.**

Digitalization has progressed at **such a fast pace** that the population's digital skills must be updated, but there are various factors (socioeconomic level, education, age, gender) that make **access, use, and knowledge of technology inequitable.**

The digital divide is the inequality between those who can keep up digitally and those who cannot, **posing an access barrier** to **fundamental rights** such as education, employment, and banking and healthcare services.

To narrow the divide, it is essential to guide individuals in **comprehensive, critical, responsible, ethical, and secure digital education.**

Visit our **"Recommendations for the propper use of Artificial Intelligence-based tools"** on URL's website

VULNERABILITY SITUATION

People at risk of exclusion face difficulties in both **accessing technology** and **obtaining digital skills** due to **lack of resources.** On the other hand, households with higher incomes have access to paid versions of AI-based tools, **resulting in more inequalities**.

"In 2023, 2,1% of Catalan households (more than 121.000), the most part of which with monthly incomes lower than 1.600€, didn't have access to the Internet"
(Idescat, 2024)

GENERATIONAL CONSTRAIN

The elderly have it **more difficult to attain digital skills** compared to younger generations. Moreover, in **rural areas digital transition** is slower, and its **population older**. **Formative and informational** programmes must be implemented in an open, adapted and inclusive way.

"96% of the population aged between 16 and 74 are Internet users. For the population aged between 65 and 75, only 79%, and for those older than 75, only 42%"
(Idescat, INE, 2022)

STUDENT-TEACHER DIGITAL GAP

Often, students have more digital and AI know-how compared to their teachers and parents, which **can be challenging for professors and families.**

"52% of vulnerable households can't give digital educational support to minors in charge"
(Digital divide study in Catalonia, 2023)

The digital divide impacts on people's HEALTH, AUTONOMY, and employment OPPORTUNITIES