

Activity No 5.1

MODULE	5. Collaboration and Innovation in Informal Support: Networks, Technology, and Future Opportunities
Topic	Building partner networks
Title of the activity	Mapping Our Support Network
Pedagogical objective	The aim of this activity is to help participants identify, analyse and strengthen the support networks surrounding families of children with disabilities. It supports informal advisors in recognising key actors, communication gaps, cooperation opportunities and strategies to build sustainable partner networks.
Target group	Informal advisors for parents of children with disabilities
Duration (minutes)	60 minutes
Settings	Classroom or workshop room suitable for group work
Size of the group	5–10 participants
Methods	Brainstorming, group work, simulation, guided discussion
Tools	Flipchart, coloured markers, sticky notes, A3 paper, role cards

Description of the activity

Step 1: Identifying the existing network (10–15 minutes)

Participants think of a real or fictional family and list all people, institutions, and organisations involved in supporting them.

Step 2: Drawing the network map (15 minutes)

Participants work in groups to draw a network map showing cooperation lines and gaps.

Step 3: Simulation – Multi-actor meeting (15–20 minutes)

Participants role-play a meeting between parent, teacher, advisor, NGO, or social worker to negotiate a joint action plan.

Step 4: Reflection and group discussion (10 minutes)

Groups present their maps and discuss facilitators and barriers of cooperation.

Summary – self reflection

1. What did I learn about building and analysing support networks?
2. What will I take from this activity into my role as an informal advisor?
3. How might this influence the way I support parents in the future?
4. What is one practical action I can take to strengthen cooperation tomorrow?

Activity No 5.2

MODULE

5. Collaboration and Innovation in Informal Support: Networks, Technology, and Future Opportunities

Topic

Harnessing the power of technology and applications

Title of the activity

Digital Tools in Informal Advising

Pedagogical objective

The aim of this activity is to enhance participants' skills in using digital tools (communication apps, online platforms, scheduling tools) to improve efficiency, accessibility and quality of informal support.

Target group

Informal advisors for parents of children with disabilities

Duration (minutes)

60 minutes

Settings

Classroom with internet access and projector

Size of the group

5-10 participants

Methods

Demonstration, individual work, small-group work, guided discussion

Tools

Smartphones or laptops, projector, internet, examples of apps and platforms

Description of the activity

Step 1: Introduction to digital tools (10–15 minutes)

The facilitator demonstrates apps used for communication, planning, organising information, and supporting parents.

Step 2: Hands-on practice (15–20 minutes)

Participants explore chosen tools and discuss how to use them effectively in advising.

Step 3: Scenario-based planning (15 minutes)

Groups design digital-tool support plans based on real advising situations.

Step 4: Discussion and ethical considerations (10 minutes)

Participants discuss privacy, boundaries and responsible digital communication.

Summary – self reflection

1. What did I learn about using technology in informal advising? What will I take from this module into my role as an informal advisor?
2. What new possibilities do digital tools offer in my work? What is one practical step I can take tomorrow based on what I've learned?
3. How will this influence the way I support parents in the future?



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4. What is one action I will take to use technology more effectively tomorrow?