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# Empowering Healthcare: From Research to Practice in Intellectual Disability Health Assessment

## Why this research matters?

- Individuals with intellectual disabilities experience health disparities and a reduction in life expectancy
- People with intellectual disabilities often express dissatisfaction with healthcare encounters
- Higher rates of care delivery in community settings have resulted in higher engagement with local healthcare professionals
- Many practitioners lack sufficient understanding and training in addressing the unique needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities

## What has changed as a result of this research?



### Knowledge Creation

Massive Open Online Course [MOOC]



### Human Capacity

Training of healthcare professionals



### Practice and Services

Improvement of care practices and new health assessment tool

## How was the research translated into impact?

The creation of a bespoke MOOC was an effective way to connect the research to healthcare professionals. This MOOC, 'Improving Health Assessment for People with Intellectual Disability', focused on intellectual disability nuances, communication challenges, reasonable adjustments in health assessment, and health disparity.

The MOOC is embedded in 'Principles of intellectual disability nursing across the lifespan', a module on the undergraduate intellectual disability nursing programme. It constitutes 40% of the overall module assessment.

## The Facts

Completion of the MOOC by 7,500 healthcare professionals from around the world

MOOC participants who reported a change in perspective



MOOC participants who noted a shift in perceptions



MOOC participants who have applied their learning in daily practice



MOOC participants who reported gaining new knowledge



The project informed the 'My Head-to-Toe-Health Check' initiative, widely adopted in HSE and Voluntary Bodies Intellectual Disability Service Providers.

*"I am profoundly grateful for all the knowledge I got with this course. I feel a lot more comfortable about communicating with someone who has an intellectual disability. Thank you!"*  
MOOC Participant

Good Health

Reduced Inequalities

UN Sustainable Development Goals

[More information here](#)