# Outcomes or Impact? When the difficult to measure results appears: The experience in Spain.

## Introduction

**Assistive Technology**
- Resources to improve quality of life
- Facilitating environmental factors

**User - Technology**
- Meet & Match
- Outcomes and Impact
- Well-being, quality of life, inclusion, participation, empowerment, social and economic status

**Improvement**
- Provision and prescription
- Access to the needed AT
- Quality of services
- Research & Knowledge for professionals
- Guide the policies & investments

**Purpose**
- To present the global perspective of the impact and outcome measure in Spain
- To share the results derived from research work in the field of outcome measures to reflect on its usefulness in order to improve the provision of AT

## State of the art: Impact / Outcome Measures

**The situation in Spain**

### Conclusions and Opportunities

- Low research on AT outcome measures
- No data are available to compare results
- Lack of evidence about the outcomes of AT

**Time to improve**
- Convey the importance of the perspective & practice based on the approach of outcome measures in AT
- Long term goal: optimize the resources and services, in equality

**Global proposals for the future**
- To get an international profile of AT practices
- To build knowledge and capacity between countries
- To visualize the outcomes

## Results

### Documented researches

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>Outcome Measures</th>
<th>Main results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Psychosocial impact of communication assistive technology in people with hearing impairment and deaf people(s)</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>All territory in Spain</td>
<td>203 people with hearing impairment / deaf people</td>
<td>FASTS</td>
<td>A positive psychosocial impact is associated with the use of support products for communication. A greater personalized impact was verified in the group of cochlear implant users followed by hearing aids and finally, users of video intermediation systems.</td>
<td>The psychosocial impact was found for those participants who abandoned the support product one year after the evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychosocial impact of wheelchair in the life of people with neuromuscular disorders (7,9)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Region of Galicia</td>
<td>60 participants with Neuromuscular disorders</td>
<td>FASTS</td>
<td>The wheelchair has a positive social impact in terms of the perceived quality of life in persons with NMID. Among the different types of assistive technologies, the wheelchair offers improved competency and adaptability to users.</td>
<td>The wheelchair and the user (affected with NMID) are matched correctly. As the degree of user-device matching is increasingly optimized, the degree of the psychosocial impact associated with the use of the device becomes greater and such a higher positive value.</td>
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<td>Need, predisposition and adjustment for the use of assistive technology in university students with disabilities (8,10)</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>All territory in Spain</td>
<td>155 university students: 57 students without disability and 98 persons with disability</td>
<td>SOTU and ET-PA from the Matching Person and Technology Model (MPT)</td>
<td>A greater perceived impact was verified in the group of cochlear implant users followed by hearing aids and finally, users of video intermediation systems. A positive psychosocial impact is associated with the use of support products for communication. A greater personalized impact was verified in the group of cochlear implant users followed by hearing aids and finally, users of video intermediation systems.</td>
<td>The percentage of students with disabilities in the Spanish University is low, mainly due to lack of adaptations, and the absence of assistive technology. The predisposition to technology use, in general, has been positive. Students with physical and visual sensory disabilities indicated less experience with online learning systems. The virtual learning platforms (Blackboard) aren’t completely accessible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main References**

4. Jimenez Arberas E. “Impacto psicosocial de los productos y tecnologías de apoyo para la comunicación en personas con discapacidad auditiva y personas sordas [Internet]. University of Salamanca; 2016.
9. Thais Pousada1, Estíbaliz Jiménez2, Emiliano Díez3, Laura Nieto-Riveiro1, Betania Groba1

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