Assistive Technology: Is the application of organised knowledge and skills related to assistive products, including systems and services.

Assistive Products: Any external product (including devices, equipment, instruments or software), especially produced or generally available, the primary purpose of which is to maintain or improve an individual’s functioning and independence, and thereby promote their well-being. Assistive products are also used to prevent impairments and secondary health conditions.

Domains:
- Mobility
- Vision
- Hearing
- Communication
- Cognition
- Environment & personal care

Examples:
- Wheelchair, adjusted footwear
- Glasses, magnifiers
- Hearing aids, alarm signallers with light
- Communication boards and cards
- Shower chair, incontinence products

We present a framework for understanding the complex interaction between intellectual disability, health and wellbeing, and assistive technology.

Factors related to the use of Assistive Technology by People with Intellectual Disabilities

Aspect of Intellectual Disability that may be associated with need for Assistive Technology
- Intrinsic to intellectual disability: Impairments in cognitive functioning, e.g. epilepsy, dementia
- Intrinsic to adaptive functioning: Impairments in motor skills, e.g. cerebral palsy
- Consequences: Neurological impairments, sensory impairments, motor impairments
- Multidisciplinary: Communication, cognitive and adaptive functioning impairments
- Frailty: Presence of multiple impairments
- Misdiagnosis: Presentation of symptoms not linked to intellectual disability
- Underdiagnosis: Presence of multiple impairments
- Common impairments: Not necessarily associated with intellectual disability

We call for a greater focus on the needs of people with ID within the GATE initiative.

Challenges:
- Impairments in cognitive and adaptive functioning intrinsic to ID
- Communication
- Instruction and support
- Multidisciplinary approach

Literature
A systematic review on current scientific evidence of factors, including specific cultural, political, social and economic considerations, influencing adequate access to assistive products for people with ID.

Objectives:
- To identify facilitators and barriers for people with ID to effectively access assistive products and how effective access and use can be promoted across high, medium and low resource settings.
- To examine potential opportunities and barriers to assistive products availability, use and deployment for people with ID.

Methods:
- Focus groups
- Interviews
- Literature review

Participants:
- People with ID
- Providers of assistive products
- Health professionals
- Suppliers
- Policy makers