Inclusive eHealth Development and Implementation for People with Intellectual Disabilities

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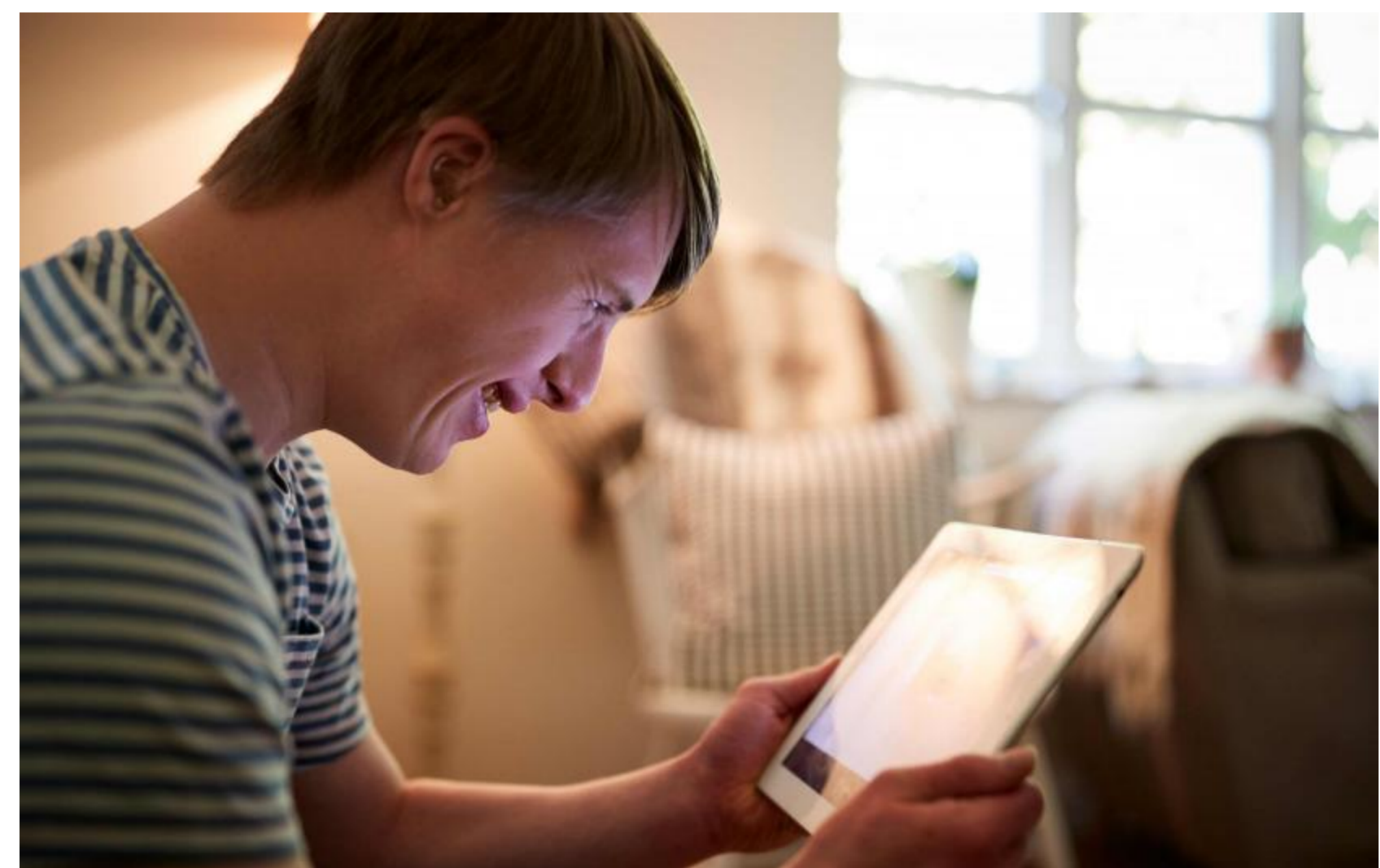
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Introduction

- Use of eHealth by people with intellectual disabilities (ID) is increasing but the technologies are not developed to fit the needs of people with ID.
- eHealth has the potential to provide support for the higher demand for personalised care and to increase the level of independence for people with ID.
- Implementation of eHealth is challenging and often cannot be maintained over time, due to lack of involvement of key stakeholders, such as the target group, their caretakers and the organisations that must work with the eHealth applications.

Objective
This research aims to investigate how a guide can be created to support inclusive development and implementation of eHealth for people with ID.

Material and Methods

4-year PhD project investigating the role of inclusive research in developing and implementing eHealth for people with ID
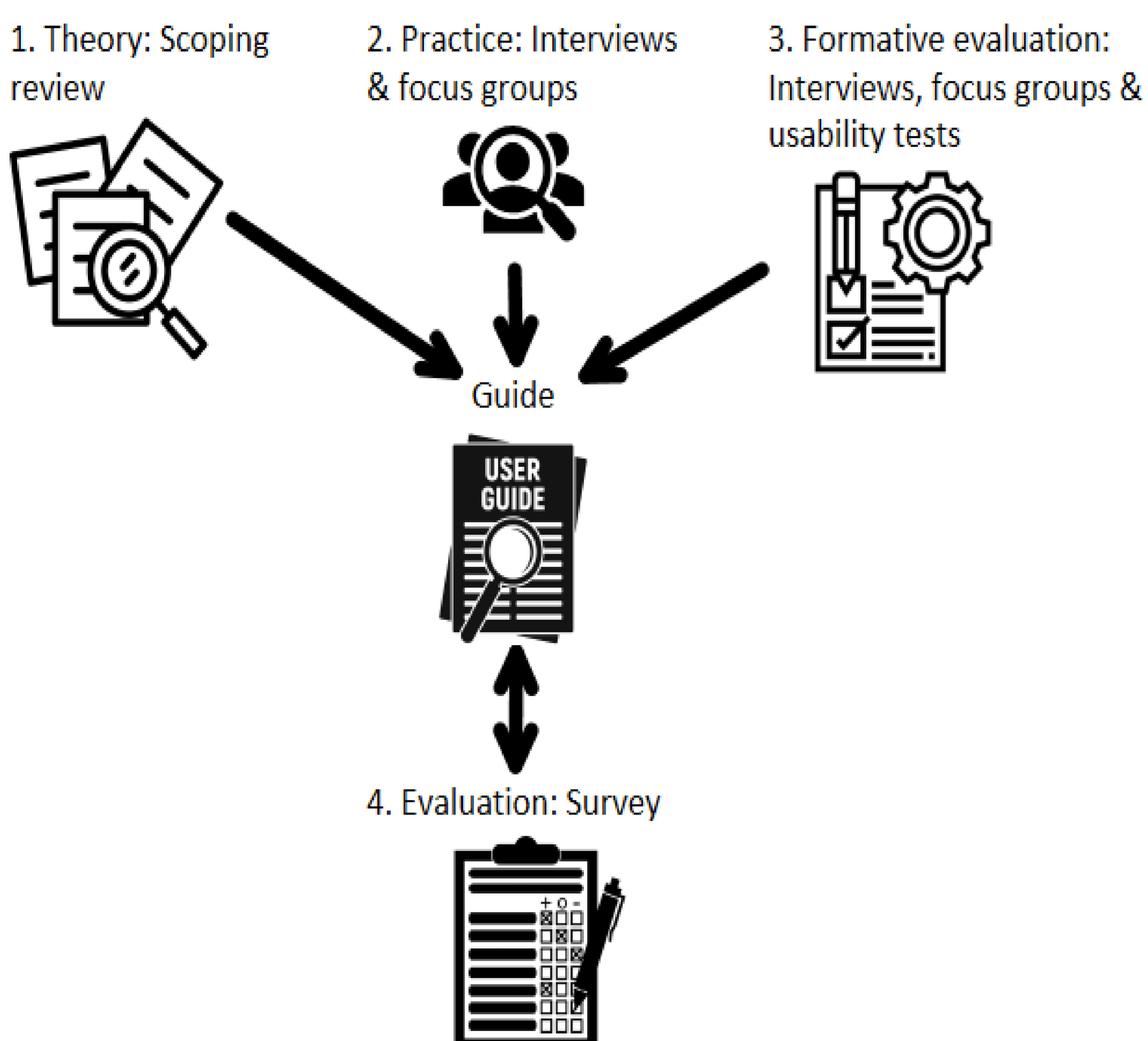

Figure 1 Flowchart research project

Throughout the full project activities will be performed together with people with ID such as co-designing the research questions and methods and collecting, analysing and communicating data.

Studies

Study	Description
1. Scoping review	Identifying whether and which **approaches**, or **frameworks** are used in the development and implementation of eHealth for people with ID. How and the extent to which people with ID and other **stakeholders** are **involved** is researched. The findings are examined using elements from the **NASSS framework** and **CeHRes roadmap**.
2. Interviews & focus groups	Gathering **experiences** and **protocols** used in **practice** when developing and implementing eHealth for people with ID.
3. Interviews, focus groups & usability tests	Identifying the **impact** of applying **inclusive research** in redesigning and implementing eHealth for people with ID.
4. Survey	Researching the **use of the guide** created to support the development and implementation of eHealth for people with ID.

Table 1: Studies within PhD project

Discussion

eHealth must be developed to fit the heterogeneous needs for health and support of people with ID to ensure that the benefits of eHealth can be obtained. A better fit between the users, the technology and context can be created by organizing development and implementation together. Key stakeholders should be involved throughout the full process of developing and implementing eHealth. By providing guidelines for inclusive development and implementation, eHealth can be made more accessible for people with ID.

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