**Abstract**

**Public procurement and accessibility**

Public procurement is the process that governments purchase goods and services. The role of accessibility criteria in ICT public procurement improves employment practice for people with disability in government. It may also have an impact on increasingly accessible products in the general marketplace.

The US Government’s Section 508 (amended) of the Rehabilitation Act has been the pioneer policy in implementing accessibility criteria in ICT public procurement. The European Union has mandated European standards bodies to develop accessibility guidelines that aim to harmonise with those of Section 508 guidelines.

The use of these guidelines by governments and large corporations can also raise awareness of ICT accessibility.