Online Open Consultations on Internet and Accessibility

"Access to the Internet for Persons with Disabilities and specific needs"

Question 1: Challenges

What are the different challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs (e.g. lack of ICT skill sets etc.) in accessing and using the Internet?

Answer to question 1:

In Georgia the people with disability and Special Education Needs have a various difficulties in accessing and using the internet.

- Blind and visually impaired people has not enough devices and knowledge to use them;
- Lack of trainers in ICT skills;
- Lack of Georgian voice program to get information in Native Language;
- Lack of adapted programs in sign language for Deaf people;
- Lack of adapted Computer accessories: mouse, keyboard … for people with motor difficulties;
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Question 2: Best practices

What possible approaches and examples of good practices are available to address these challenges?

Answer to question 2:

- Good example is "Voice Alphabet Saba" which assists SENs to learn Alphabet quite well;
- Only Boarding schools for children with Disability for distance learning are using smart boards. The school connects SEN student with class;
- To use some programs for Autistic students by iPad;
- By the national curriculum the school has ICT lessons;

Question 3: Gaps

What are the gaps in addressing these challenges and how can these gaps be filled?

Answer to question 3:

- There is no appropriate computer technics for Disabilities in Georgia;

    To purchase appropriate computer technics;

- There is no available computer programs for SENs in Georgian Language;

    To equip the schools with useful technics, to adapt the computer programs in Georgian Language;

- To develop distance education;

To equip schools with useful computer and develop teachers skills;

- There is not exists development programs for SENs in Georgia Language.
There are different ipad programs which assist Autistic children to develop functional, emotional and life skills (ipad programs - **Scene Speak, AUTISMXPRESS, Proloquo2Go, Autism I Help-Sorting**);
- Web pages are not adapted for people with Disability (for Blinds and Deaf);
- There was not carried out any research around technology;
- The schools have not Brailers for Blind students;

Question 4: Role of governments

What is the role of governments in addressing these challenges and gaps?

Answer to question 4:

- The State must take responsibility to provide all useful technical equipment for students with Disability;
- To Create the action plan for developing and provide people with disability with computer technology;
- To create new system/organization which will provide the people with disability with appropriate technical equipment with cooperate with other government, nongovernment and international organizations;
- To organize training models to prepare people in using computer technology;
- To provide adapted programs for Deaf

The integration of persons with disabilities into society is the one of the main priorities of the government. Internet and information technologies must be accessible for everyone including disabled persons. It will be possible to solve this problem in close cooperation with international organizations and exchanging the experiences from other countries.

Question 5: Contact Details

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