

# Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL

*ICT Accessibility: The Key to Inclusive Communications*

**4-6 December 2019 | Saint Julian's, Malta**

Regional Forum Organized Jointly by ITU and European Commission  
within the Framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe  
on Accessibility, Affordability, and Skills Development for All to  
Ensure Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Development

Hosted by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Persons with Disability & Active Ageing (PSDAA) of the  
Government of Malta



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND ACTIVE AGEING

**Venue:** Corinthia Hotel St George, St Julian's, Malta

## DRAFT AGENDA

**Wednesday, 4 December 2019**



[Click to listen](#)

**8:30 – 9:00** Registration and Networking

**9:00 – 10:00** Welcome coffee

**10:00 – 10:45** Opening Ceremony Addresses

- **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of Regional Office for Europe, ITU
- **Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis**, Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, Government of Malta

### Welcome Remarks

- **Mr. László Lovaszy**, Committee Member, UN CRPD
- **Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero**, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Mr. Alejandro Moledo**, Policy Coordinator, European Disability Forum
- **Ms. Ruth Sciberras**, Chief Executive Officer, Agenzija Sapport, Government of Malta

### Key Note Address

- **Ms. Jutta Treviranus**, Director, Inclusive Research Design Centre, OCAD University

**10:45 – 11:15** Exhibition Opening and Group Photo



## 11:15 – 12:15 Session 1: International, Europe region and European Union vision. Targets, actions and key resources to support in ICT Accessibility

**Focus:** The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the accessibility of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs); ITU actions and challenges; European Commission actions and regional challenges; Implementation and Facilitation.

### Moderator

- **Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head of Regional Office for Europe, ITU

### Panelists

- **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- **Mr. László Lovaszy**, Committee Member, UN CRPD
- **Mrs. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu**, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Inclusion Division for Telecommunication, ITU
- **Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero**, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Mr. Oliver Scicluna**, Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disability, Malta

### Panel discussion

## 12:15 – 14:00 Lunch Break

## 14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Enabling environment for Accessible Europe. The concrete role of Regulation and its enforcement

**Focus:** Practical examples of implementing EU legislation related to Accessibility with European Country Case Studies; Future EU regulatory landscape for ICT Accessibility.

### Moderator and Setting the context on EU Accessibility Act

- **Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero**, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission

### Panelists

- **Mrs. Therese Hourigan**, End-User Working Group Co-Chair, BEREC
- **Ms. Elena Munoz**, Head of the Web Accessibility Observatory - Ministry of Territorial Policy and Civil Service, Spain
- **Mr. Nikola Ivanovic**, Advisor to the Director, Agency for Electronic Media, Montenegro
- **Dr. Joanna Spiteri**, Chief Executive Officer, Broadcasting Authority, Malta

### Presentations and interactive discussion

## 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

## 16:00 – 17:00 Session 3: Artificial Intelligence for Accessibility

**Focus:** Innovative approaches, projects and implementation of Accessibility solutions that use AI, including concrete examples of innovative applications.



### Moderator

- **Prof. Alexiei Dingli**, Associate Professor - Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Information & Communication Technology, University of Malta

### Background & Setting the Context

- **Ms. E.A. Draffan**, ITU Consultant, ITU

### Panelists

- **Mr. Klaus Höckner**, Vice President, Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs
- **Mr. Alejandro Moledo**, Policy Coordinator, European Disability Forum
- **Mr. Johan Keetelaar**, Public Policy Director, Head of EMEA | Connectivity and Access, Facebook
- **Dr. Claudia Borg**, Lecturer – Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Information & Communication Technology, University of Malta

### Presentations and interactive discussion

## 17:00 – 18:00 Session 4: Fostering European digital innovation ecosystem for assistive technologies

**Focus:** Examples of impactful emerging assistive technologies and their application across Europe, including concrete examples of successful digital Assistive technologies and services; Funding opportunities for Innovative products and services for PwDs.

### Moderator

- **Mr. Stanley Debono**, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for ICT Accessibility (FITA), Malta

### Setting the Context

- **Ms. Teuta Oruci**, MITA (Malta Information Technology Agency) Innovation Hub, Malta

### Panelists

- **Mr. Dominique Archambault**, Board Member, AAATE
- **Ms. Gudrun Stock**, Deputy Head of Unit, Accessibility, Multilingualism, and Safer Internet, European Commission
- **Mr. Renzo Andrich**, President, EASTIN
- **Mr. Christoph Jo Muller**, Board President, BEH -Bundesfachverband Elektronische Hilfsmittel e.V.

### Presentations and interactive discussion

## 18:00 – 19:00 Awards Ceremony for Regional Competition on Innovative Digital Solutions Competition for an Accessible Europe and Reception

**Focus:** Pitching session for Nominate Candidates and Awards Ceremony followed by Reception



### Introductory Remarks

- **Mr. Joseph Cini**, Director - Projects & Estate Management, Agenzija Sapport, Government of Malta
- **Mr Michael Fembeck**, Director, ZeroProject

### Presided by

- **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of Regional Office for Europe, ITU

### Pitching by

Signly, Rogervoice, ShowMeText, Waymap, GiveVision, BeMyEyes, IrisGo, Brain Control, VR Therapies, POSTHCARD, NITICS, Mirrorable, Access Earth, CuARDian Angel

### Announcement of Winners

**19:00 – 19:30 Reception**

### Welcome Remarks

- **Joseph Cini**, Director - Projects & Estate Management, Agenzija Sapport, Government of Malta

**Thursday, 5 December 2019**



*Click to listen*

**8:30 – 9:00 Networking Coffee**

**9:00 – 10:00 Session 5: Accessibility in Education**

**Focus:** Examples of ICT accessibility projects in learning and education; accessible books and accessible publishing.

### Moderator

- **Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero**, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission

### Setting the Context

- **Mr. Ricardo Garcia**, ITU Consultant, ITU

### Panelists

- **Mr. David Zanoletty**, Chief of Accessible Technology Department, Fundación ONCE
- **Mr. Svatoslav Ondra**, Professor, Masaryk University
- **Ms. Cristina Mussinelli**, President, Fondazione LIA
- **Ms. Sharon Borg & Ms. May Agius**, Senior Assistive Technology Consultants, Access to Communication and Technology Unit (ACTU), Agenzija Sapport, Malta

### Presentations and interactive discussion



**10:00 – 11:00 Session 6: Advancing Implementation of Web Accessibility Across Europe**  
**Focus:** Practical examples from Governments and Private sector in providing accessible websites. Stock taking, best practices and challenges.

#### Moderator

- **Mrs. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu**, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Inclusion Division for Telecommunication, ITU

#### Panelists

- **Ms. Gudrun Stock**, Deputy Head of Unit, Accessibility, Multilingualism, and Safer Internet, European Commission
- **Mr. Shadi Abou-Zahra**, Accessibility Strategy and Technology Specialist, Web Accessibility Initiative, World Wide Web Consortium
- **Mr. Joseph Seychell**, Manager – ICT and Technologies, Malta Communications Authority
- **Mr. Stein Erik Skotkjerra**, Head of Accessibility Relations, Siteimprove

#### Presentations and interactive discussion

**11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30 – 12:30 Session 7: Future of Accessible Audiovisual media services, TV and video programming**

**Focus:** Broadcasters, Content producers; Emerging technologies; Consumers perspective; Implementation in Europe.

#### Moderator

- **Mr. David Wood**, Co-Chair IRG-AVA - Intersector Rapporteur Group Audiovisual Media Accessibility, ITU

#### Background & Setting the Context

- **Mr. Dusan Caf**, ITU Consultant, ITU

#### Panelists

- **Mr. Andy Qusted**, Chair ITU-R Working Party 6C, BBC
- **Mr. Gion Linder**, Head of SWISS TXT AG & Chairman of the EBU Access Services Experts, EBU
- **Dr. Bernard Busuttil**, Director – Investigations, Compliance & Enforcement, Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Malta
- **Ms. Pilar Orero**, Professor, University of Barcelona

#### Presentations and interactive discussion

**12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break**

**13:30 – 14:30 Session 8: Universal Design, Procurement and Standards**

**Focus:** National strategies on universal design regulation and use cases on procurement; use of standards in this context.

#### Moderator

- **Mr. Simao Campos**, Counsellor, ITU-T SG16, ITU



## Background & Setting Context

- **Mr. Donal Rice**, ITU Consultant, ITU

## Panelists

- **Mr. Roberto Scano**, UNINFO ICT Accessibility Expert
- **Ms. Mia Ahlgren**, Policy Officer, Swedish Disabilities Rights Federation
- **Mr. Joel Snyder**, Director of Audio Description Project, American Council of the Blind

## Presentations and interactive discussion

### 14:30 – 15:30 Session 9: Telecom relay services: Practical experiences, challenges and opportunities in Europe

**Focus:** Telecommunications relay services are essential telecom services that enable persons who have hearing or speech disabilities and who otherwise would be unable to engage in voice telecommunications, to make voice telephone calls to other persons, using four common types of relay services: text relay; video relay; captioned telephone service relay; and speech-to-speech relay.

## Moderator

- **Ms. Andrea Saks**, JCA-AHF Chairman, ITU

## Background & Setting Context

- **Mr. Ruoting Chang**, Counsellor, ITU-R SG 6, ITU

## Panelists

- **Mrs. Therese Hourigan**, End-User Working Group Co-Chair, BERECE
- **Mr. Masahito Kawamori**, ITU-T Q26/16 Rapporteur, Keio University
- **Mr. Mark Wheatley**, President, European Union of the Deaf
- **Mr. Michael Debattista**, 112mt app Focus Group, Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Malta

## Presentations and interactive discussion

### 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

### 16:00 – 17:00 Session 10: Knowledge Development for ICT Accessibility

**Focus:** Participants will be offered a high-level recap session taking stock of the key topics and relevant discussion points of the conference. The session will facilitate the preparation of those participants wishing to take the test for Certification to be held the following day.

## Coordinator

- **Mrs. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu**, Senior Programme Officer, Digital Inclusion Division for Telecommunication, ITU





**17.00 – 18.00 Session 11: Partnership for Accessible Europe**

**Focus:** Existing and new partnerships to address current gaps and challenges in making Europe more accessible; Identification of concrete regional, sub-regional and national projects advancing implementation of the ITU Regional Initiative; Setting up of Twinning Programmes; Discussion on other actions planned or proposed for 2020-2022. This session will set the framework for discussing new partnerships in the Project Laboratory to be held the following day.

**Moderator**

- **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of Regional Office for Europe, ITU

**Panelists**

- **Mr. Mohamed Nawar Alawa**, Regional Advisor, Technology for Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- **Mr. Michael Fembeck**, Director, Zero project, Essl Foundation
- **Ms. Francesca Cesa Bianchi**, Vice President for Institutional Relations, G3ict
- **Ms. Sabine Lobnig**, Deputy Director of Communications & Regulations, Mobile & Wireless Forum
- **Mr. Jorge Fernandes**, Head of ACCESS Unit, Department for the Information Society

**18.00 – 18.30 Main Conclusion and Closing of the Forum Part of Accessible Europe****High-Level Intervention**

- **Helena Dalli**, Commissioner-designate for Equality, European Commission

**Concluding Remarks**

- **Hon. Anthony Agius Decelis**, Parliamentary Secretary for Persons with Disability and Active Ageing, Government of Malta
- **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of Regional Office for Europe, ITU

**Friday, 6 December 2019**[Click to listen](#)**8:30 – 9:00 Welcome Coffee and Networking****9.00 – 10.00 Knowledge Development for ICT Accessibility: ITU Certification**

**Focus:** Participants are offered the opportunity to obtain ITU Certification based on short test requiring to prove the knowledge acquired over the course of Accessible Europe event. Successful candidates will receive the certificate in electronic version after the event.

**10:15 – 11:30 PROJECT LABORATORY of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Accessibility, Affordability, and Skills Development for All to Ensure Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Development**

**Focus:** In follow up to Session 11, this session will provide the open space for in depth discussion on the initiative coordinated by ITU on: “Strengthening the ICT-centric Innovation Ecosystem for Accessible Europe” and other concrete partnership projects in the Europe region.



**11:30 – 12:45 BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

**Note:** Stakeholders are kindly requested to express their interest in holding bilateral meetings by sending e-mail to [EURregion@itu.int](mailto:EURregion@itu.int)

**12.45 - 13:00 Closing of Accessible Europe Event**