

# Accessible Europe

*ICT 4 ALL - 2019*

4 - 6 December 2019  
St Julian's, Malta

Project Laboratory  
Session



Hosted by



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND ACTIVE AGEING

Coordinated by



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# Towards 2025: ITU and ICT Accessibility



The image shows a banner for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 in Dubai. The banner features the slogan "Connecting the world, together." and the hashtag #Plenipot. It also includes the text "ITUPP DUBAI 2018" and the dates "29 October - 16 November Dubai, United Arab Emirates". Below the banner is a photograph of a large conference hall with many people seated at tables, facing a stage with large screens displaying the ITU logo.

**Goal 2: INCLUSIVENESS**

**TARGET 2.5.B: Enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunication/ ICT for persons with disabilities should be established in all countries by 2025**

- The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 renewed ITU's mandate in the area of ICT accessibility.
- The new mandate includes a revision of [Resolution 175](#) and the establishment of the new Connect 2030 agenda, which sets out the vision, goals and targets that ITU and its Member States have committed to achieve by 2025.
- Connect 2030 includes an ambitious target directed at cultivating an ICT sector that is inclusive to persons disabilities and specific needs

# Implementing ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Accessibility



*To bridge the digital divide and equip all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, to take advantage of ICTs.*

## Targeting 46 Countries in Europe Region

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Republic of North Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Vatican



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## OBJECTIVE

To bridge the digital divide and equip all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, to take advantage of information and communication technology (ICT), by enabling capacity building in digital skills.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

..... 1 .....

Strengthening and supporting regional cooperation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders, in line with the European Accessibility Act, in the development and implementation of ICT accessibility policies and solutions in the European region.

..... 2 .....

Raising awareness and promoting relevant guidelines on public policies, including exchanging knowledge and sharing good practices on ICT accessibility products and services for persons with disabilities and specific needs, through meetings and workshops, including a regional conference which could be called "Accessible Europe - Information and communication for all".

..... 3 .....

Developing regional and in-country capacity through relevant web accessibility training to ensure that government websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.

..... 4 .....

Developing regional and in-country capacity to promote and deliver to relevant stakeholders training courses in ICT accessibility, including training on public procurement, as a tool to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities and specific needs in education, employment, and economic and social life.



# Implementing ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Accessibility



..... 5 .....

Encouraging regional cooperation between research centres and academia in speech technologies, in order to improve these technologies to overcome disabilities.

..... 6 .....

Raising awareness about accessibility possibilities of TV and video programming on digital platforms, and implementing appropriate solutions.

..... 7 .....

Encouraging the implementation, and related measurement of progress, of regional and national ICT activities and projects aiming to eliminate disparities in the use of and access to ICTs for websites of public institutions and government education programmes, services and information.

..... 8 .....

Encouraging the implementation of digital content in education.

..... 9 .....

Developing regional and in-country capacity building on coding and computer programming tools that will be available to all, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.

..... 10 .....

Promoting digital literacy, digital skills and e-education, and implementing accessible ICTs in e-education.



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OSLOMET



# Written Contributions to Accessible Europe

European Commission	<a href="#">"An European Ecosystem for ICT Accessibility"</a>
Aġenzija Support	<a href="#">"Malta's National Service Provider for Persons with Disability"</a>
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	<a href="#">"Cooperation in Developing e-Accessibility Policies and Guidelines in the Arab Region"</a>
Malta Communications Authority	<a href="#">"Regulatory Framework for the Web Accessibility Directive"</a>
Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA)	<a href="#">ICT Accessibility Consultancy, Training and Assessments</a>
Office for Electronic Communications, Poland	<a href="#">"UKE's Accessibility Policy"</a>
Office for Electronic Communications, Poland	<a href="#">"UKE's website: digital accessibility"</a>
European Broadcasting Union	<a href="#">"Activity 1: Eurovox"</a>
European Broadcasting Union	<a href="#">"Activity 2: Experts group in broadcasting access-services &amp; their survey"</a>
European Broadcasting Union	<a href="#">"Activity 3 - The ASBU study of accessibility for broadcasting"</a>
European Deafblind Network	<a href="#">"Organization for deafblind people, their families and professionals of the sector"</a>
Fundación ONCE	<a href="#">"Massive Open Online Courses on Universal Accessibility"</a>
Centre for Excellence in Universal Design at the National Disability Authority	<a href="#">"Overview of Activities"</a>
University of Malta	<a href="#">"Olly Speaks – An Innovative Therapeutic Device Supporting Children with Developmental Language Disorders"</a>
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid – SoftLab	<a href="#">"Cloud-based subtitling system"</a>
Oslo Metropolitan University	<a href="#">"Social Innovation for Universal Design"</a>
University of Geneva, Department of Translation Technology (TIM), Faculty of Translation and Interpreting	<a href="#">"Innovation in Multilingual Digital Accessibility"</a>
University of Maribor	<a href="#">"E-Accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing"</a>
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences	
University of Southampton	<a href="#">"Higher Education"</a>
David Banes Access and Inclusion Services	<a href="#">"Mapping the Digital Assistive Technology Ecosystem in Europe"</a>
Audio Description Associates, LLC / Audio Description Project of the American Council of the Blind (USA)	<a href="#">"Audio Description: Access To Media For People Who Are Blind"</a>
Global Universal Design Commission Europe	<a href="#">"Social Innovation for Universal Design"</a>
Mobilhealth	<a href="#">"Integrated Telehealth App"</a>

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Logos include: Microsoft, PACINI MEDICO, mirrorable, Southamton, EBU, GAATES, zhaw, FCT, omoguru, SOUND ALERT, POSTHCARD, Fraunhofer PORTUGAL, uc3m, EBU, EVE, travaxy, BBC, Siteimprove, UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA, mte, Hilfgemeinschaft, UNIVERSITÀ DELLA BRIANZA, BEH, msa, FONDAZIONE LIA, Agency for electronic media of Montenegro, HOUSE OF COMMONS, W3C Web Accessibility Initiative, mta, Keio University, SpeechCode, WAI, Ministry for the Family, Children's Rights and Social Solidarity, Mobihealth, Audio Description, American Council of the Blind, ADIP, Audio Description Project, BEREC, EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM, ACB, GUDC, Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, NDA, Università e Multimedia, SWISS TXT, eodyne, aparito, filisia, Rai CRITS, Rai, TU Delft, MWF Mobile & Wireless Forum, rogervoice, GIVE VISION, Social Skills animation, Access Earth, AGENZIJA SAPPURT, be my eyes, oscar, UN ESCWA, Goshawk, GALA PRO, EDIUS, KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN, HELPI, IPN, braincontrol, RightHear, RAY, SOZIALHELDEN, and many others.



# ITU-D activities to promote ICT accessibilities

- ❑ **Offers specialized assistance and knowledge** on accessibility of ICTs to ITU Members to support them in the implementation of regional initiatives on accessibility;
- ❑ **Meetings /awareness raising** on the importance to promote accessibility of ICTs to governments, regulators, industry, private sector, NGOs (e.g. regional and global accessible events including Accessible Americas, Accessible Europe, WSIS, COPs- CRPD etc)
- ❑ **Work with ITU members in Study Group 1 Question 7 “ Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities”** to support global CRPD implementation
- ❑ **Development of tools and guidelines** facilitate the comprehension of ICT accessibility
- ❑ **Participate in the UN work** on issues related to accessibility

# Online training – ICT Accessibility: The Key to inclusive Communication

Free, Self paced online training – certified by ITU Academy

Provides general understanding of ICT accessibility, international standards for procurement of accessible ICT, and implementation of procurement policies.

**Module 1.** Enabling Communications for All through ICT Accessibility

**Module 2.** ICT Accessibility Policy Regulations and Standards

**Module 3.** Achieving ICT accessibility through Public Procurement



# Online training - “Web Accessibility – The Cornerstone of an Inclusive Digital Society”

**Free, Self paced online training – certified by ITU Academy  
Provides an overall understanding about web accessibility among  
Governments, stakeholders and any other relevant parties.**

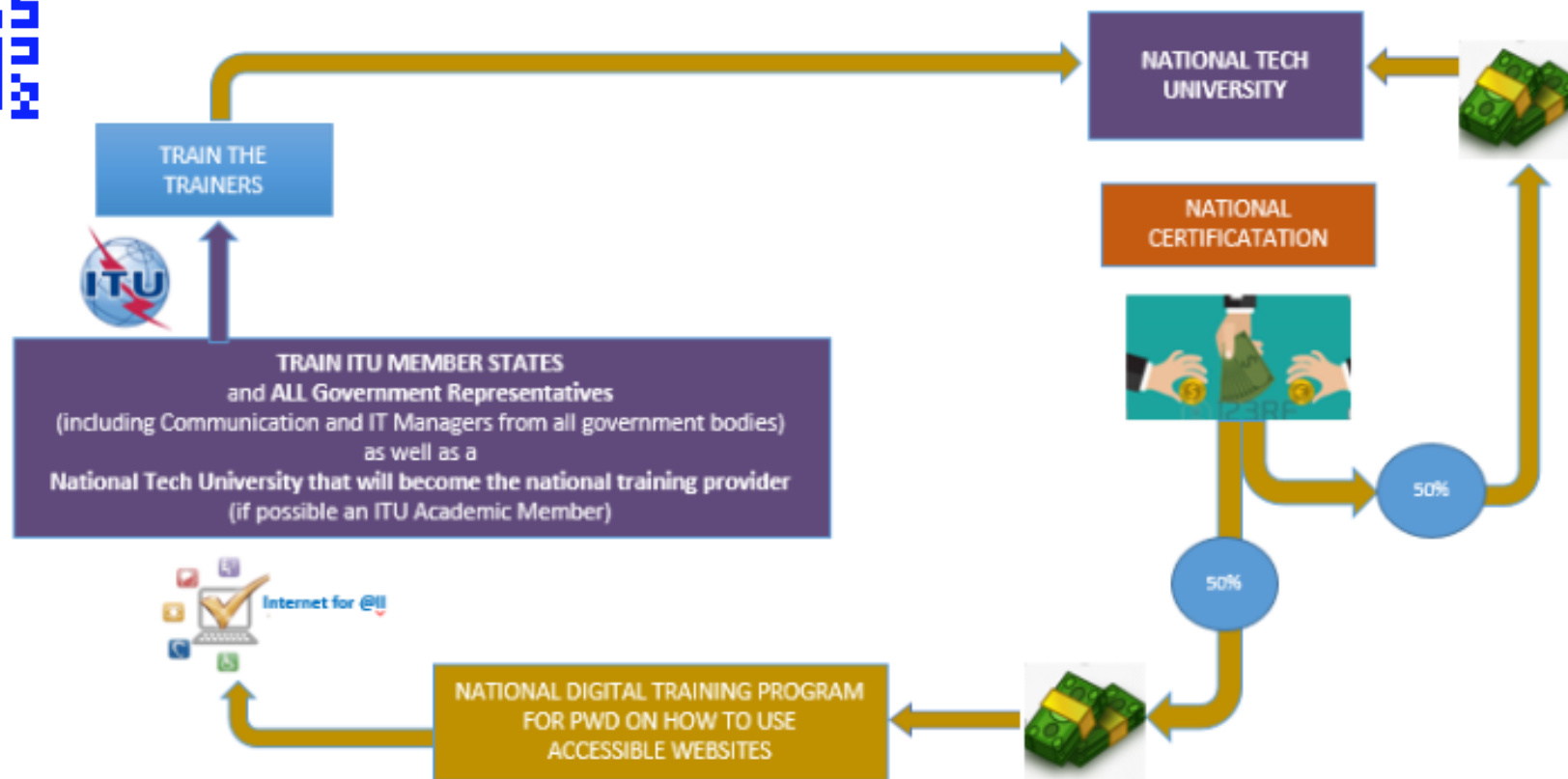
**Module 1.** Executive tools for developing a web accessibility policy

**Module 2.** Essentials of implementing a web accessibility policy

**Module 3.** Technical skills for designing and developing accessible websites



# ITU-D National Web Accessibility Programme Internet for @ll



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CURATION  
PROGRAMME



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# Curation Programme for Startups and SMEs



**Zero Project**

For a world without barriers



eastin



# Challenges

- a. Funding
- b. Visibility
- c. Market access
- d. Ecosystem mapping
- e. Training and knowledge

# Solutions

**Map potential opportunities for innovators** including, conferences, competitions, training and workshops (focusing on funding, market access, compliance, etc.).

**Facilitate participation in identified activities**

**Share relevant national and international information and knowledge** in the field of ICT accessibility

**Connect with relevant institutional and non-institutional stakeholders**, including representatives from government, standardization bodies, IT companies or disability associations.

**Leverage existing capacity of the organizations** (e.g. delivery of trainings, workshops, conferences) and include such activities in the opportunities for the community



# Proposed Activities

## Conferences

- ITU-EC Accessible Europe 2020 (Dec-20)
- ITU World Summit on Information Society Forum 2020 (Apr-20)
- ITU forum on innovative digital solutions at ZeroProject Conference 2020 (Feb-20)
- ZeroProject Conference 2020 (Feb-20)
- *(Proposal)* Access Israel Conference *(May-20)*

## Competitions

- Regional Competition on “Innovative Digital Solutions for Accessible Europe”
- World Summit on Information Society Prizes 2020
- Zero Project Call for Nominations with permanent track on ICTs.

## Training & Knowledge development

- ITU Self-Paced Online Training on ICT Accessibility
- ITU workshops related to Study Groups’ work in field of accessibility (standardization and development)
- Zero Project Impact Transfer: an accelerator program that supports 10 outstanding innovations every year. One from them is jointly selected with the ITU and gets special support from all partners to scale their innovation.
- European Commission workshop/webinar on funding opportunities for R&D as well as scale up.
- *(proposal)* WIPO workshop on intellectual property in field of assistive technologies