

Accessible Europe: ICT for ALL

ICT Accessibility: The Key to Inclusive Communications

23-25 March 2021 | Virtual Event

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

The organization of this event is supported by the Government of Portugal and is conducted as part of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

09:30 – 10:00 Testing of Audio & Video and Accessibility Briefing

10:00 – 10:45 Opening Ceremony

High-level address

- To be announced

Setting the regional context

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

10:45 – 11:45 Session 1: International, Europe region and European Union vision: Policies and strategies, targets, and key resources to advance ICTs Accessibility

Focus: The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and The UN Disability Inclusion Strategy on the accessibility of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs); ITU actions and challenges; European Accessibility Act; European Commission actions and regional challenges.

Moderator

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

Special message of Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU

- H.E. Alexandra Leitão, Minister of the Modernization of State and Public Administration of Portugal

Interactive discussion

- Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Senior Coordinator - Digital Inclusion, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
- Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission
- To be announced



11:45 – 11:50 Special video messages

- **Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes**, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility
- **H.E. Ana Mendes Godinho**, Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal

11:50 – 12:00 Virtual coffee break/networking**12:00 – 13:00 Session 2: Regional review of enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunications and ICTs for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe region**

Focus: Current implementation status on ICTs Accessibility regulations, policies and strategies; Sharing of best practices and recommendations for ICTs Accessibility implementations.

Moderator

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

Interactive discussion

- **Mr. Mark Wheatley**, Executive Director, European Union of the Deaf
- **Ms. Polonca Blaznik**, Director of the Information Society Office, Ministry of Public Administration, Slovenia
- **Mr. Seth Bravin**, Director of Strategic Alliances, T-Mobile
- **To be announced**

13:00 – 13:05 Special video messages

- **H.E. Pedro Nuno Santos**, Minister for Infrastructure and Housing of Portugal

13:05 – 14:00 Lunch Break**14:00 – 15:00 Session 3: Digital Accessibility for response and recovery of the pandemic**

Focus: Stakeholders responses to challenges arise from the pandemic; Ensuring inclusive access to vital products and services, including health and care services, e-banking, e-commerce; Challenges and opportunities arise from the future of employment; Ensuring a disability-inclusive workplace in a Post-Covid world.

Moderator

- **Ms. Amela Odošajić**, Director of Broadcasting at Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Vice-Chair of ITU-D Study Group 1

Interactive discussion

- **Ms. Akiko Ito**, Chief of Programme on Disability, Secretariat for the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, UNDESA/DISD
- **Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu**, Senior Coordinator - Digital Inclusion, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
- **Mr. Humberto Insolera**, Executive Committee, European Disability Forum
- **Mr. Humberto Santos**, President, National Institute for Rehabilitation, Portugal



15:00 – 15:05 Special video messages

- **Ms. Maria de Fátima Fonseca**, Secretary of State of the Innovation and Administrative Modernization of Portugal

15:05 – 15:15 Virtual coffee break/networking**15:15 – 17:00 Awards Ceremony for Regional Competition on Innovative Digital Solutions for an Accessible Europe 2021**

Focus: Importance of strengthening the ICT-centric innovation ecosystem for an Accessible Europe; Pitching session of Finalists and handing of Awards of the regional competition.

Special address

- **Mr. João Cadete de Matos**, Head of ANACOM

Pitching presentation of all finalists

Announcement of winners

Wednesday, 24 March 2021

09:30 – 10:00 Testing of Audio & Video and Accessibility Briefing**10:00 – 11:00 Session 4: Accessibility standards for products and services**

Focus: Global standards in place for accessible products and services; European standards in the context of the European Accessibility Act.

Moderator

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

Interactive discussion

- **Mr. Simão Campos**, Counsellor, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU
- **Mr. Fernando Machicado**, Secretary of CEN-CENELEC-ETSI Joint Working Group on eAccessibility
- **Mr. Shadi Abou-Zahra**, Accessibility Strategy and Technology Specialist, W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
- **Mr. Robin Christopherson**, Head of Digital Inclusion, AbilityNet, United Kingdom

11:00 – 11:05 Special video messages

- **SIBS** - Forward Payment Solutions from Portugal
- **Ms. Fátima Resende**, Member of the Regulatory Board, Media Regulatory Body of Portugal

11:05 – 11:15 Virtual coffee break/networking

11:15 – 12:15 Session 5: Covid Response & Recovery: Making the future of education inclusive of persons with disabilities

Focus: How the pandemic highlights the importance of digital tools in education; The future of education in a Post-Covid world; Challenges and steps forward to build a disability-inclusive digital education in Europe.

Moderator

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

Interactive discussion

- **Ms. Amanda Watkins**, Assistant Director & **Ms. Marta Presmanes**, Project Manager, European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education
- **Ms. Stacy Scott**, Reader Services Product Manager, RNIB Bookshare, Royal National Institute of Blind People
- **Mr. John M. Scott**, Product Manager of Blackboard Ally, Blackboard
- **To be announced**

12:15 – 12:20 Special video messages

- **Mr. João Costa**, Deputy Minister for Education of Portugal
- **Mr. Rui Fernandes**, Coordinator of ICT Resources Center for the Special Education in Amadora and Lisbon (CRTIC), Ministry of Education of Portugal

12:20 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00 Session 6: Building smart and accessible cities

Focus: Defining smart and accessible cities; Tools and strategies needed to make a smart and accessible city; Examples of good practices making European cities more accessible.

Moderator

- **Ms. Cristina Bueti**, Counsellor, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU

Interactive discussion

- **Ms. Tania Marcos**, Vice-Chair, the UN initiative on United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC)
- **Ms. Monika Klenovec**, Architect & Project Team leader of Expert Group of the European Commission Standardization Mandate M/420
- **Ms. Rita Jacinto**, Program Manager, Division for the Pedestrian Accessibility, Lisbon Municipality, Portugal
- **To be announced**

14:00 – 14:05 Special video messages

- **Mr. Victor Pineda**, President, World Enabled

14:05 – 14:15 Virtual coffee break/networking



14:15 – 15:15 Session 7: Advancing implementation of ICTs Accessibility across Europe

Focus: Concrete steps on what to do and how to achieve ICTs accessibility; Examples of good practices across the region; Challenges lie ahead in engaging private sector; Good examples of public/private partnership in the field of accessibility.

Moderator

- To be announced

Interactive discussion

- **Ms. Zuzanna Raszowska**, Deputy Director of the European Affairs and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, Poland
- **Ms. Sara Carrasqueiro**, Board of Directors, Administrative Modernization Agency, AMA Portugal
- **Ms. Ljupka Mihajlovska**, Chairwoman of the Serbian Alliance for Accessibility, Serbia
- **Mr. Jesús Hernández Galán**, Director of Universal Accessibility and Innovation, Fundación ONCE, Spain

15:15 – 15:40 Main Conclusion and Closing of the Forum Part of Accessible Europe

High-Level Intervention and concluding remarks

- **Mr. Jaroslaw K. Ponder**, Head of ITU Office for Europe, ITU
- **Ms. Inmaculada Placencia-Porrero**, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion Unit, DG for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Ms. Maria de Fátima Fonseca**, Secretary of State of the Innovation and Administrative Modernization of Portugal
- **Ms. Ana Sofia Antunes**, Secretary of State of the Inclusion of the Persons with Disabilities of Portugal

15:40 – 16:00 Next day briefing: Introduction to Knowledge Development for ICT Accessibility

Focus: Participants are offered to enroll in self-paced online courses available at ITU Academy, on which successful candidates will receive the certificate in electronic version upon the completion of the course.



Thursday, 25 March 2021

09:30 – 10:00	Testing of Audio & Video and Accessibility Briefing
10:00 – 11:00	Knowledge Development for ICT Accessibility: ITU Academy Certification Focus: Participants are offered to enroll in self-paced online courses available at ITU Academy, on which successful candidates will receive the certificate in electronic version upon the completion of the course.
11:00 – 12:30	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 7, this session will provide the open space for in depth discussion on initiatives including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation and monitoring on “Regional Review on Enabling Environment Ensuring Accessible ICTs for Persons with Disabilities in Europe” 2) Curation Programme on “Strengthening the ICT-centric Innovation Ecosystem for Accessible Europe” 3) Other special projects/initiatives
12:30 – 13:00	Closing of Accessible Europe Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jaroslav K. Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe

