



## ITU Office for Europe (EUR)

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Geneva, 10 November 2022

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU Sector Members,
- Academia
- Regional and International Organizations from Europe

**Subject: Invitation to Accessible Europe 2022: ICT 4 All - Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities event**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are delighted to invite you to a special event on “Accessible Europe: ICT 4 All: Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities” will be held **virtually on 6 December 2022, 14:00 – 16:30 CET**.

This Special Event is held within the framework of the Regional Initiative for Europe 3 on *Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development*, aiming at bridging the digital divide and equipping all groups of society, including persons with disabilities, to take advantage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

In line with this objective, this Special event will **commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, which is marked on December 3, as **a day of celebration, sharing, and advocacy for the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities** around the world. ICTs may encourage and support persons with disabilities to engage more actively in the workforce, in education, and in their communities, all of which improve their independence and quality of life.

In this context, this special event will discuss the collaborative efforts necessary to establish a conducive environment for an accessible digital society in the European region. In addition, it will explore the key role that standardization of digital tools and services plays in answering the needs of persons with disabilities.

Moreover, as 2022 has been declared the European Year of Youth by the European Commission, a special youth-led session will also be held to explore the needs of young people with disabilities and the perspectives of the youth on an accessible Europe.

We invite you to refer to the Annex to gain more information on the draft agenda.

You are invited to **register for the session at the following link**: <http://itu.int/go/FLRS>

For more details on this event, we invite you to visit the following website at <https://www.itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-22>, where practical information on the agenda, registration and other useful links will be available shortly and constantly updated.

**For this event, real-time captioning and international sign-language (ISL) interpretation will be provided. Participants requiring other types of accessibility accommodations are kindly requested to contact the ITU Office for Europe at [eurregion@itu.int](mailto:eurregion@itu.int) by November 20, 2022. Please note that provision of any additional accommodations is subject to availability of resources and funding.**

We remain at your disposal for any questions you might have on this event and initiative. In that regard, please do not hesitate to send your query to the ITU Office for Europe at [eurregion@itu.int](mailto:eurregion@itu.int)

We look forward to active participation from your Administration / Organization / Company.

Yours faithfully,



Jaroslaw Ponder  
Head of the ITU Office for Europe

## Annex 1

Draft Agenda	
13:30 - 14:00	<b>Technical testing</b>
14:00 - 14:15	<b>Welcoming remarks</b>
14:15 – 15:00	<p><b>Session I: Towards a harmonized approach of digital accessibility: From international framework, vision, and implementation</b></p> <p><i>This session will focus on providing an overview of the international and regional approaches toward digital accessibility, looking at the main actors in the Europe Region. It will highlight commonalities and complementarities of approaches. It will further provide case studies of implementing international framework at the national level.</i></p>
15:00 – 15:40	<p><b>Session II: Standardization of digital tools and services</b></p> <p><i>In this session, the panellists will share their insights on the importance of regulation and standardization in facilitating access to digital tools and services by persons with disabilities. The panellists will also draw on their experience to discuss the challenges that must be overcome so that digital accessibility can be achieved in Europe and beyond.</i></p>
15:40 – 16:20	<p><b>Session III: The future of ICT and digital accessibility: What does youth aspire?</b></p> <p><i>This interactive session will capture the aspiration of the Youth with Disabilities for a more Accessible Europe. It will provide a platform to put forward their needs and voice the vision of youth for an inclusive digital world and ICT-enabled society.</i></p>
16:20 – 16:30	<b>Closing remarks</b>

\*Time zone expressed in CET (UTC+1)