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| **Keywords:** | Persons with Disabilities; Disability Inclusion Strategy; UN; Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| **Abstract:** | This document brings updates on new developments in Europe for further discussions |

G3ict had its second successful event in Germany, Dusseldorf on 19th September 2019, M-enabling Forum Europe. During the event, panellist representing persons with disabilities shared their views on impact of technologies on their daily lives. The event had 3 discussion groups related to older people, inclusive education and workplace inclusion. The next event will take place on 24th September 2020, in Dusseldorf. <https://www.m-enabling-europe.com/start-en/>

At the opening of the M-enabling Forum Immaculada Placencia -Porerro from EU Commission presented the European Accessibility Act which is now at the implementation stage. The European accessibility act covers products and services that have been identified as being most important for persons with disabilities while being most likely to have diverging accessibility requirements across EU countries. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2015%3A0615%3AFIN> The Commission consulted stakeholders and experts on accessibility and took into account the obligations deriving from the [UN convention on persons with disabilities](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1138&langId=en). These products and services include:

* computers and operating systems
* ATMs, ticketing and check-in machines
* smartphones
* TV equipment related to digital television services
* telephony services and related equipment
* access to audio-visual media services such as television broadcast and related consumer equipment
* services related to air, bus, rail and waterborne passenger transport
* banking services
* e-books
* e-commerce

Another important Directive has been currently approved, European Electronic Communication Code, which sets out strong requirement for accessibility of emergency services and calls <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=comnat%3ACOM_2016_0590_FIN>

Currently, there is a consultation run by European Commission on developing new European Disability Strategy, the consultation runs till 23 October 2019 and is accessible in all EU languages <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2018-4958882/public-consultation?fbclid=IwAR2ukDEwSpEygahg0VnmiCnifGc__kKvFPL0HMEgwbE-G_m5N1n5goX7vxw>

In the UK, new SIM card only service using EE mobile network has started, offering personalised SIM cards based on individual’s hearing profile. It also acts as a Personal Sound Amplifier for those who do not use hearing aids but struggle with clarity of calls due to mild hearing loss. The service is specifically tailored to those who have mild and moderate hearing loss but at the same time, hearing aids and cochlear implants users also report benefits of clarity of calls. More about the service in this link <https://www.audacious.co.uk/service/how-it-works>

The company providing the service is now in talks with other mobile providers in Europe, so it is definitely a development worth following how it develops.

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