Session Outcome Document

Media and Education for All: Bridging Female Academic Leaders and Society towards Impactful Results

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https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/en/Agenda/Session/229

Key Issues discussed: Looking Beyond 2025 (5–8 bullet points highlighting achievements, emerging trends, challenges in 20 years, figures, success stories and opportunities for WSIS beyond 2025)

- Insightful projects are being developed by female leaders linked to the AccessCat Network: there is a need to give visibility to them and to valorise scientific knowledge and transfer it to society and industry.

- The ENACT project promotes the development of easy-to-understand news across broadcasters to reach diverse audiences.

- MOSAIC enhances accessibility services with Artificial Intelligence (AI), finding ways to cater for the needs of diverse users in media. ALFIE highlights the need to work towards inclusive, accessible and unbiased AI.

- InclusiVRity approaches education in immersive environments and aims to empower teachers with VR technologies while fostering inclusive and accessible educational environments for neurodiverse students.

- SCRIBAL is a real-time transcription system in Catalan going beyond state-of-the art systems that enhances access for students with hearing loss and students who do not have sufficient command of Catalan.

- Accessibility is viewed as a pedagogical opportunity in the projects led by RELATE research group: Tusome na Tucheze ("Let's Read an Play") has developed a Kiswahili App for literacy in rural Kenya, which has included accessibility features, whereas English Proficiency Test for SEN Students is piloting a standardised English test for students with intellectual disabilities.

Tangible Outcomes of the session

- Access to media and education are human rights, hence the need for research and tight collaboration among diverse stakeholders to achieve impactful results.

- Strategies to promote knowledge exchange and transfer are fundamental: in this regard, strategies such as the AccessCat network are good practices to achieve impact (see AccessCat as Best Practice by European Commission).

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Action Plan for the WSIS+20 Review and Beyond (2–5 bullet points presenting concrete actions and guidance to inform the WSIS+20 Review by UNGA and build the multistakeholder vision of WSIS beyond 2025)

- Multiple projects led by female academics are producing impactful results, hence the need to continue giving them visibility to showcase successful approaches towards inclusion and diversity and to offer role models that empower the next generation of female scientists.

- Collaboration academia-industry-society is central, supporting the multistakeholder vision of WSIS.

- The interaction of Social Sciences and Humanities and STEM can help address the most pressing global issues and emerging trends that WSIS tries to address.

- Upskilling and reskilling is needed at multiple levels and collaboration university-industry is needed to design updated programmes that respond to societal and industrial needs.