

ACCESSIBLE EUROPE 2019 – CONTRIBUTION

The Global Assistive Technology Information Network



Worldwide information system on assistive technology products

ACTIVITY COVERAGE

- Regional cooperation and stakeholder engagement: the activity strengthens and supports regional cooperation and the 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.
- ICT accessibility policies: raising awareness and/or promoting relevant guidelines on public policies, including exchanging knowledge and sharing best practices on ICT accessibility. This may include the development of standards.
- Public procurement with accessibility features: promoting regional and in-country deliver of public procurement as a tool to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities and specific needs.
- Web Accessibility: developing regional and in country capacity through web accessibility features and/or training to ensure that websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens.
- Media Services Accessibility: raising awareness about accessibility possibilities of TV and video streaming on digital platforms, and promoting the implementation of appropriate solutions.
- Innovation and Accessibility: promoting the development of regional and in-country capacity building on programming for all, including persons with disabilities and specific



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needs. This may include embedding “accessible by design” in the product’s innovation/development process.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT/RECENT ACTIVITIES

EASTIN – the Global Assistive Technology Information Network – aims to be the leading information provider on assistive technology world-wide. The EASTIN information system is operated by the partner Organizations of the EASTIN Association, each of them running an established national information system on assistive technology in its Country. The EASTIN system aggregates information from all partner’s national systems and provides on the EASTIN website – in many languages, and in a user-friendly and accessible manner – a comprehensive overview of the assistive technology products available worldwide, including technical details of each product and related helpful information. On the EASTIN website any interested visitors can find useful information for their everyday life or work: end-users of assistive technology, such as people with disabilities and their families; professionals in health and social services; manufacturers and suppliers of assistive products; researchers and technicians; policy-makers and public agencies involved in assistive technology provision. The EASTIN network also includes Affiliates and National Contact Organisations in many other countries or linguistic regions. They are responsible for keeping the website up-to-date in each language and are prepared to answer questions posted by people through the website in relation to assistive technology. The vision pursued by the EASTIN association is that every citizen has ready access to high quality and detailed information about assistive technology, in their languages. By raising awareness and disseminating information and knowledge, the association intends to contribute to the empowerment of people with disabilities, to support independence, choice and control in relation to assistive technology, as mandated by the United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities; it also intends to support the work of professionals involved in the disability field. By providing a comprehensive and detailed overview of the assistive technology market – independent of commercial interests and displayed according to common standards – it makes it easier for companies involved in development, manufacturing and supply of assistive technology to make their products known by the people who may need them. By facilitating exchange of knowledge and experience on how assistive technology provision is organised in the various Countries, it helps policy makers to make informed choices and supports the advancement of service delivery systems throughout the world. The EASTIN association also intends to be the forum where the member Organisations share their expertise, help each other to continuously improve the quality of the service provided in their Countries through their national information systems, offer advice and support to members who wish to create their own national information systems where they don’t exist yet, and develop strategies to ensure their sustainability. The EASTIN partners are committed to keep their national information systems and the EASTIN website at the leading edge of information technology and knowledge engineering, so as to increase web visibility, ensure accessibility, facilitate efficient and user-friendly retrieval of the appropriate information that meets the user’s needs. Within the EASTIN association, the member Organisations have also the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge to contribute to the development of national policies. See futher details on www.eastin.eu.

Activity running in:

- 2016 or before
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023



CALL FOR COLLABORATION/COMMITMENT TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Assistive technology products are essential for many people to access and use ICT systems. Despite all efforts made in making mainstream ICT fully accessible to everybody, there will be always a percentage of people whose individual motor, sensory or cognitive limitations are so specific that no standard or highly customizable ICT solution can fully meet his or her need. For this people, design-for-need solutions (i.e. assistive technology product) can bridge this gap, if used in conjunction with design-for-all solutions. Within the EASTIN network a great amount of information and expertise is available on assistive technology products that make ICT products and services usable by people with the even most severe functional limitations. This is a specific contribution that EASTIN can bring in international consultations.

ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Organisation Name: **EASTIN** Country: **International, based in Italy**

Organisation/Activity URL: <http://www.eastin.eu>

Social Media Account (Twitter, LinkedIn, etc): -

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: **Renzo** Surname: **Andrich**

Reference Email: renzo.andrich@tim.it

Phone Number: **+39 3336782427**

Social Media Account (Twitter, LinkedIn, etc): -

CONSENT

I consent to ITU publishing this submission directly on Accessible Europe 2019 website (<http://itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-19>), and reflecting the Organisation name and logo in the Outcome Report to be published in the days following Accessible Europe 2019 Forum.

