

ACCESSIBLE EUROPE 2019 – CONTRIBUTION

Global Universal Design Commission Europe



Social Innovation for Universal Design

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



DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT/RECENT ACTIVITIES

GUDC-EU is a newly formed start-up in Norway with the sole focus on promoting universal design through social innovation. Among other things, GUDC-EU works as a start-up incubator for new social ventures focused on universal design and based primarily in Europe, to help build their capacity, provide strategic advice and guidance, and provide support in acquiring investment. In order to achieve this, GUDC-EU holds participatory design, co-design, and design thinking workshops and activities held as part of innovation camps and hackathons. These events provide new and emerging start-ups with the opportunity to further articulate their strategic vision and devise new methods for translating their ideals into impact-driven outcomes that are commercially viable and sustainable. Though GUDC-EU is a new start-up, we have quickly begun formalizing investment agreements with two clients including Vibrantcreator AS and Fossekall Teknologi (Norway), and Inclusive-IT (Poland). We have also established partnerships with entrepreneurs in the pre-start-up stage whose innovations have high commercial potential including VUME, Osmos, and Cozin (Norway). GUDC-EU has also established strong cooperation with government agencies, businesses, and civil society organizations in countries around the world. GUDC-EU is the European headquarters of a US non-profit organization, the Global Universal Design Commission, based at Syracuse University. GUDC-EU is owned by the CEO, Anne Igeltjørn and Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr. G. Anthony Giannoumis. Over the past three years, Igeltjørn and Dr. Giannoumis have cultivated an active network of stakeholders in Europe and globally. Igeltjørn is an award-winning innovator, technology developer, and serial entrepreneur. Dr. Giannoumis is an international expert in universal design of ICT with 20 years’ experience in the tech industry. GUDC-EU has recently hired a Social Media Manager and Project Coordinator, Anne Bolstad Skålid who has experience and expertise in promotion, public relations, and the creative arts.

<https://www.globaluniversaldesign.eu/>

<https://www.oslomet.no/>

<https://www.hioa.no/eng/Studies/TKD/Master/Universal-Design-of-ICT-MSc>

Activity running in:

- 2016 or before 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

CALL FOR COLLABORATION/COMMITMENT TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES

GUDC-EU proposes the following opportunities for accessible Europe:

1. Facilitate the development of an EU Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe grant proposals focused on universal design and inclusive innovation ecosystems in Europe.
2. Promote gender as a key consideration in accessible and universal design in order to bridge the digital gender gap, and the disability digital divide.



3. Support a third Accessible Europe event for 2019, focused on accessibility and responsible research and innovation.
4. Contribute to the demand for academic transformation and increased coordination among the ITU, academic institutions, industry and government in promoting robust and socially responsible innovation ecosystems.

ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Organisation Name: **Global Universal Design Commission AS** Country: Norway

Organisation/Activity URL: <https://www.globaluniversaldesign.eu/>

Social Media Account (Twitter, Linkedin, etc): twitter: @anthonyg79

