Regulatory framework for the Web Accessibility Directive

Lessons Learnt to date and way forward

Accessible Europe 2019

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The Directive

As from September 2018, all **public sector websites** need to conform to the new European accessibility directive. **The directive ensures that all public sector organisations` websites and apps are accessible, using existing accessibility standards**.

The Web Accessibility Directive (WAD)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-06-769_en.htm

IP/06/769

Brussels, 12 June 2006

i2010

Information Society
Innovation & Investment in R&D
Inclusion

Internet for all: EU ministers commit to an inclusive and barrier-free information society

A pan-European drive to use information and communication technologies to help people to overcome economic, social, educational, territorial or disability-related disadvantages was endorsed by ministers of 34 European countries in Riga (Latvia) today. "e-Inclusion" targets include halving the gap in Internet usage by groups at risk of exclusion, boosting broadband coverage in Europe to at least 90%, and making all public web sites accessible by 2010.

Welcoming the ministers' undertaking, Information Society and Media Viviane Reding said: "Many Europeans still get too little benefit from information and

Levels of Accessibility

- Web Accessibility makes the web easier to use for a wider audience not just persons with disabilities

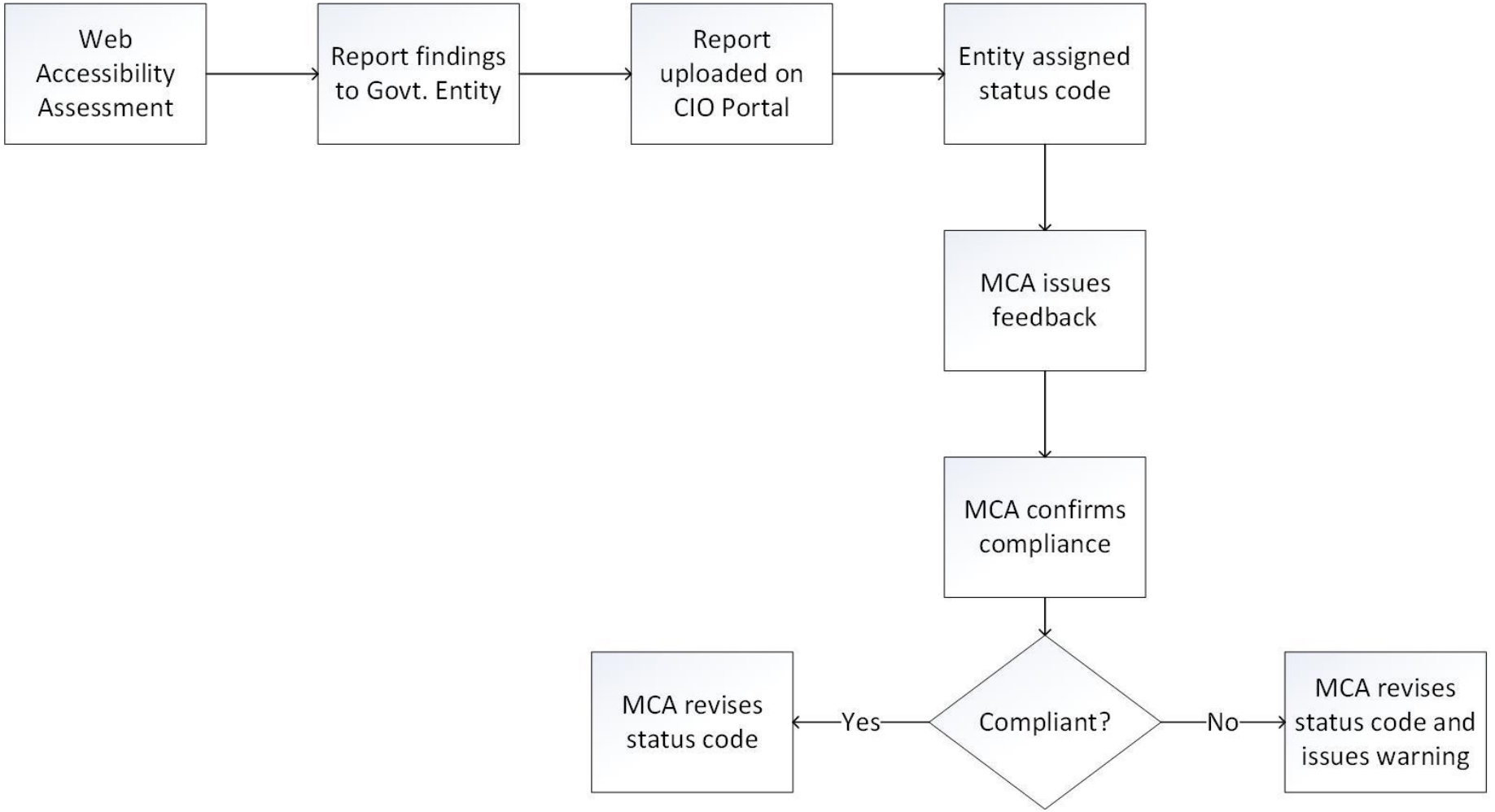
- WCAG 2.1 is split into three conformance levels
  - Level A – Minimal impact on design
  - Level AA – Some impact on design
  - Level AAA – High impact on design

Monitoring and Reporting

- Simplified Assessments
  - Use of automated tools
  - Manned assessment of key web pages / screen

- In-Depth Assessments
  - Manned verification of a complete user journey following a typical default sequence
  - Manned evaluation of interaction with forms, interface controls, dialogue boxes, data confirmations, error messages

National implementation of Directive



Key Players

Challenges to date

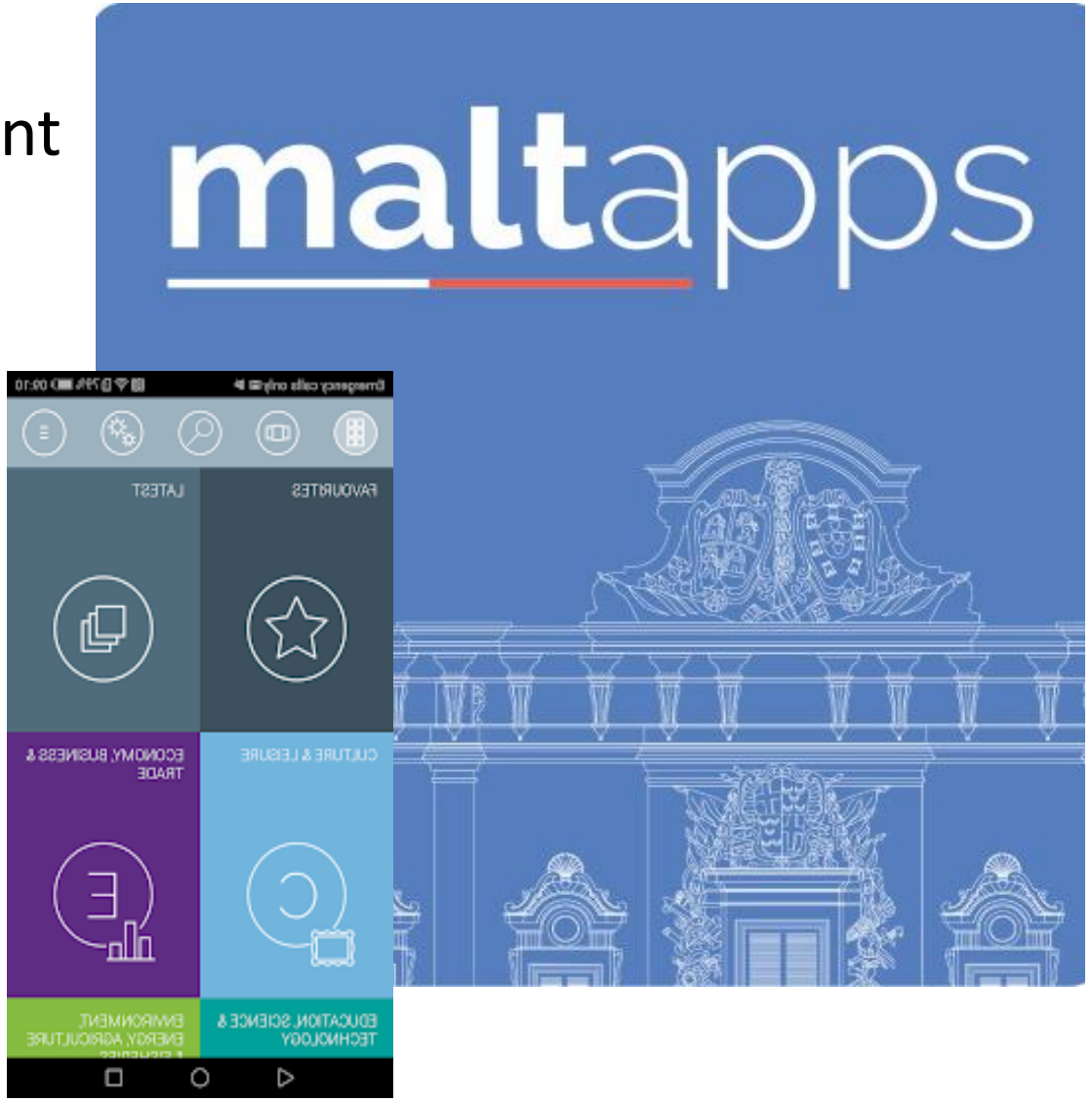
- Lack of awareness by website owners, web developers, the public!
- Website is generally made accessible but the content isn’t
- PDFs
- Captioning particularly for languages other than English
- Automated tools output not consistent
- Interpretation of assessments

Local Case Studies

- maltapps
- FITA website
- MCA website
- myhealth-ng.gov.mt

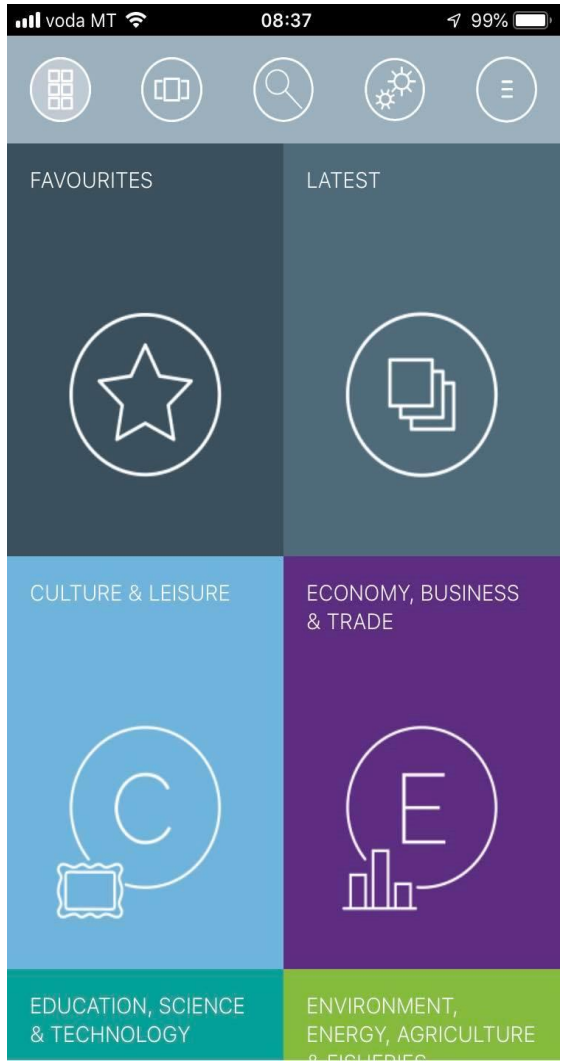
What is maltapps?

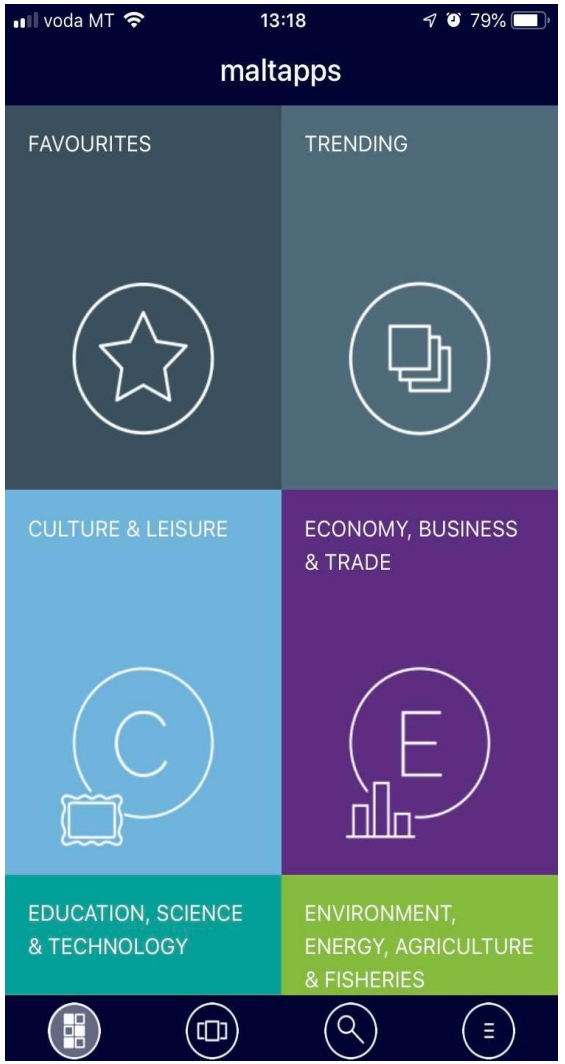
- Provides visibility to Government services
- Allows access to mServices
- Hybrid Mobile App
- Based on standard web technologies (HTML, JS, CSS)
- Built using Ionic Framework



maltapps before and after

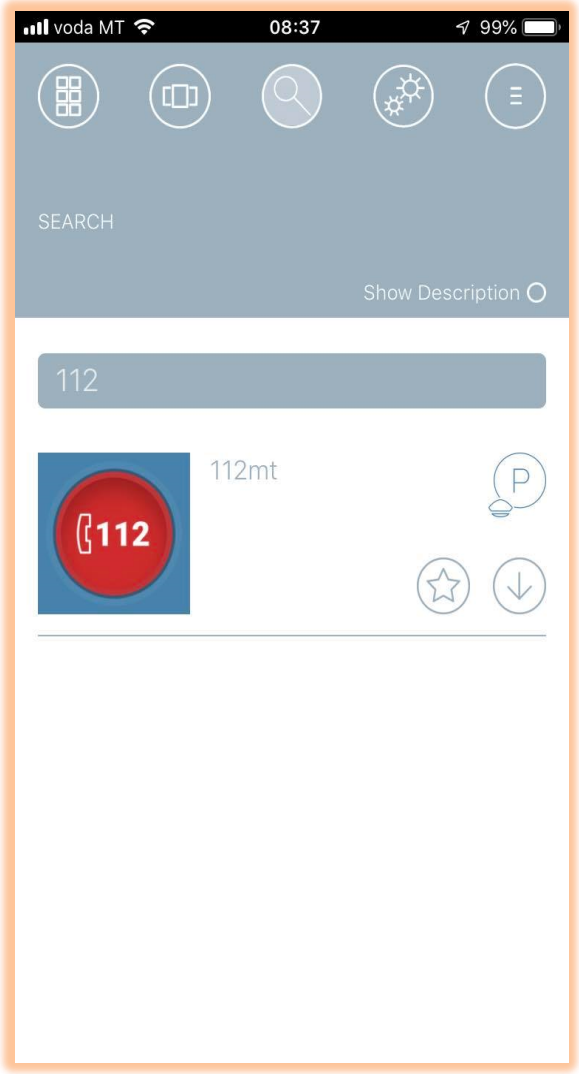
- Tab placement
- Tab colour
- Reduced tab

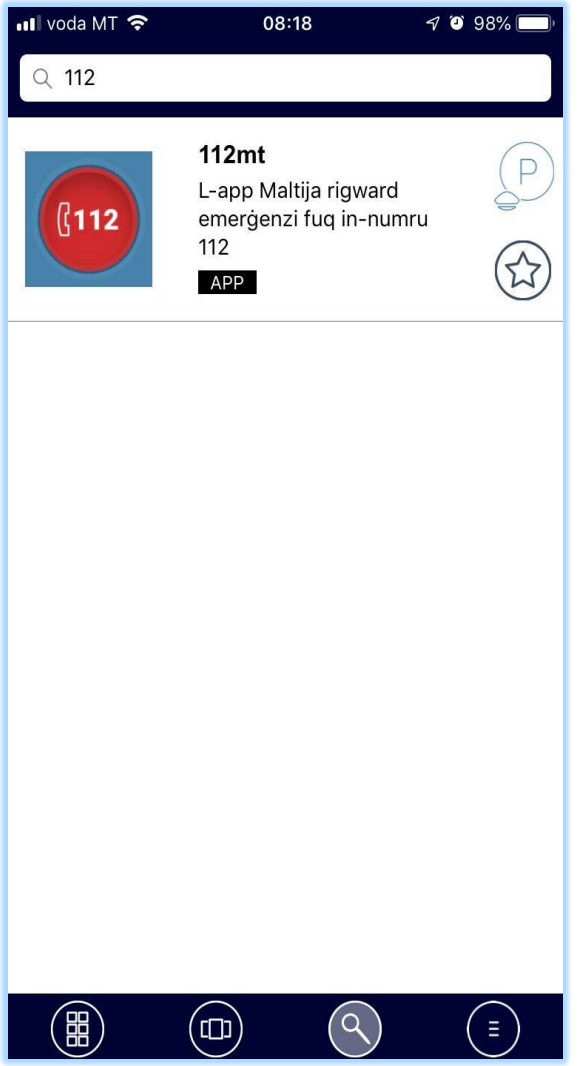




maltapps before and after

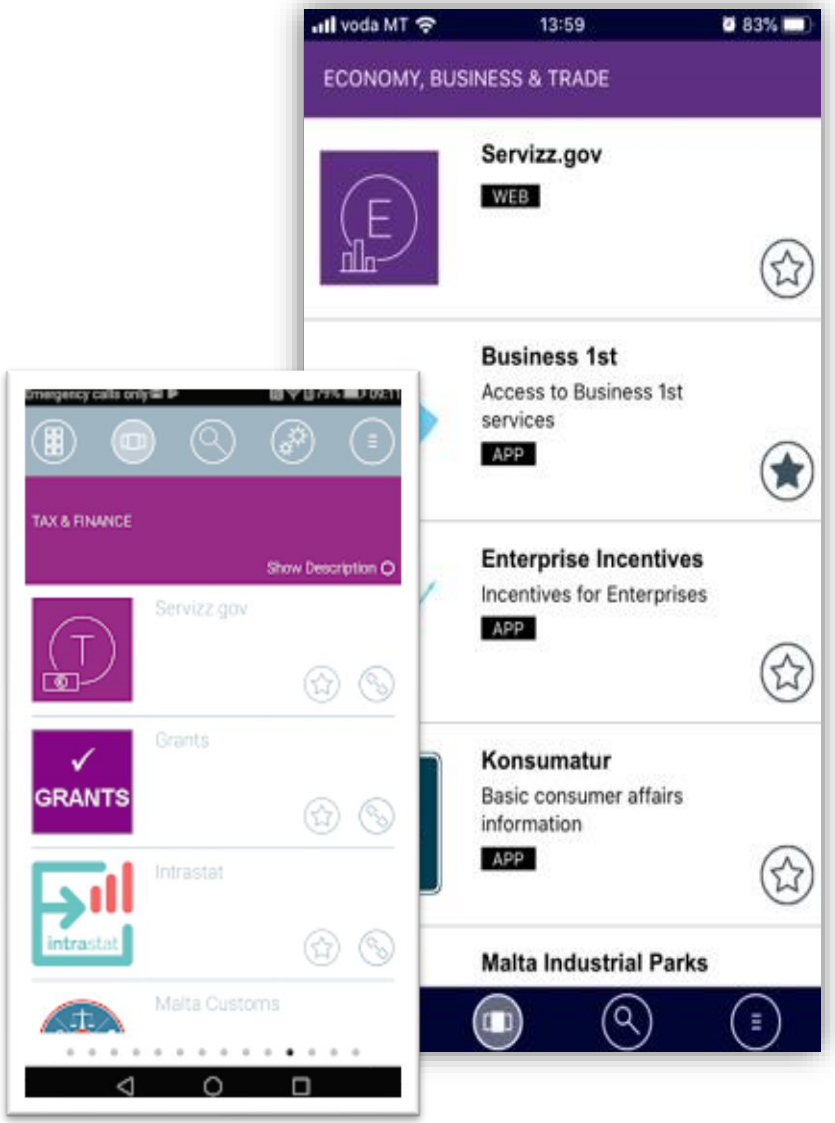
- Title bar removed
- Show description toggle removed
- Moved to black font





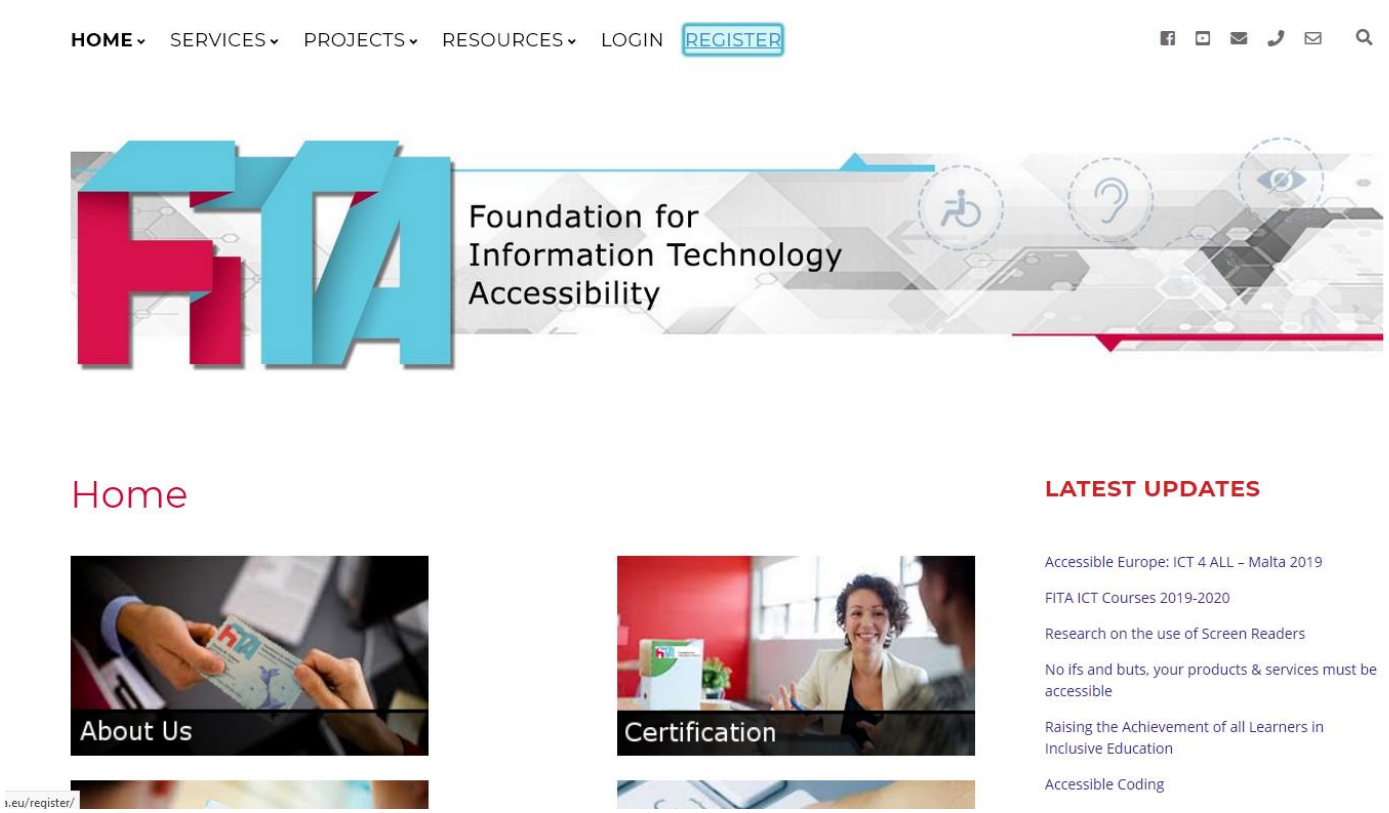
What MITA focused on

- Ensure screen readers can navigate app interface as intended
- Better colour contrast
- Use standard native iOS and Android components
- Reduce the number of clicks / steps to simplify the user experience



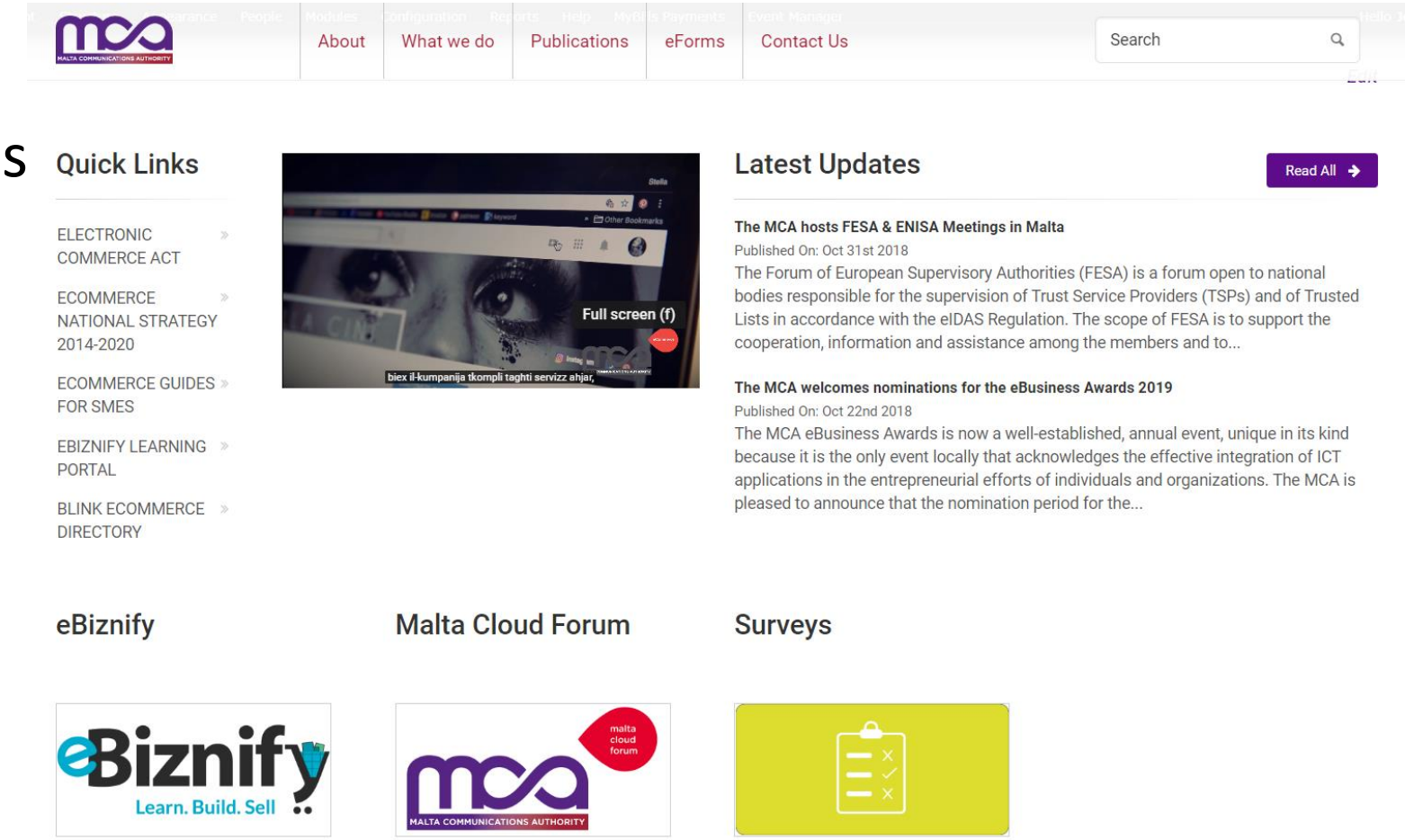
FITA website

- Simplified interface
- Navigation focus feedback
- Accessible menu system



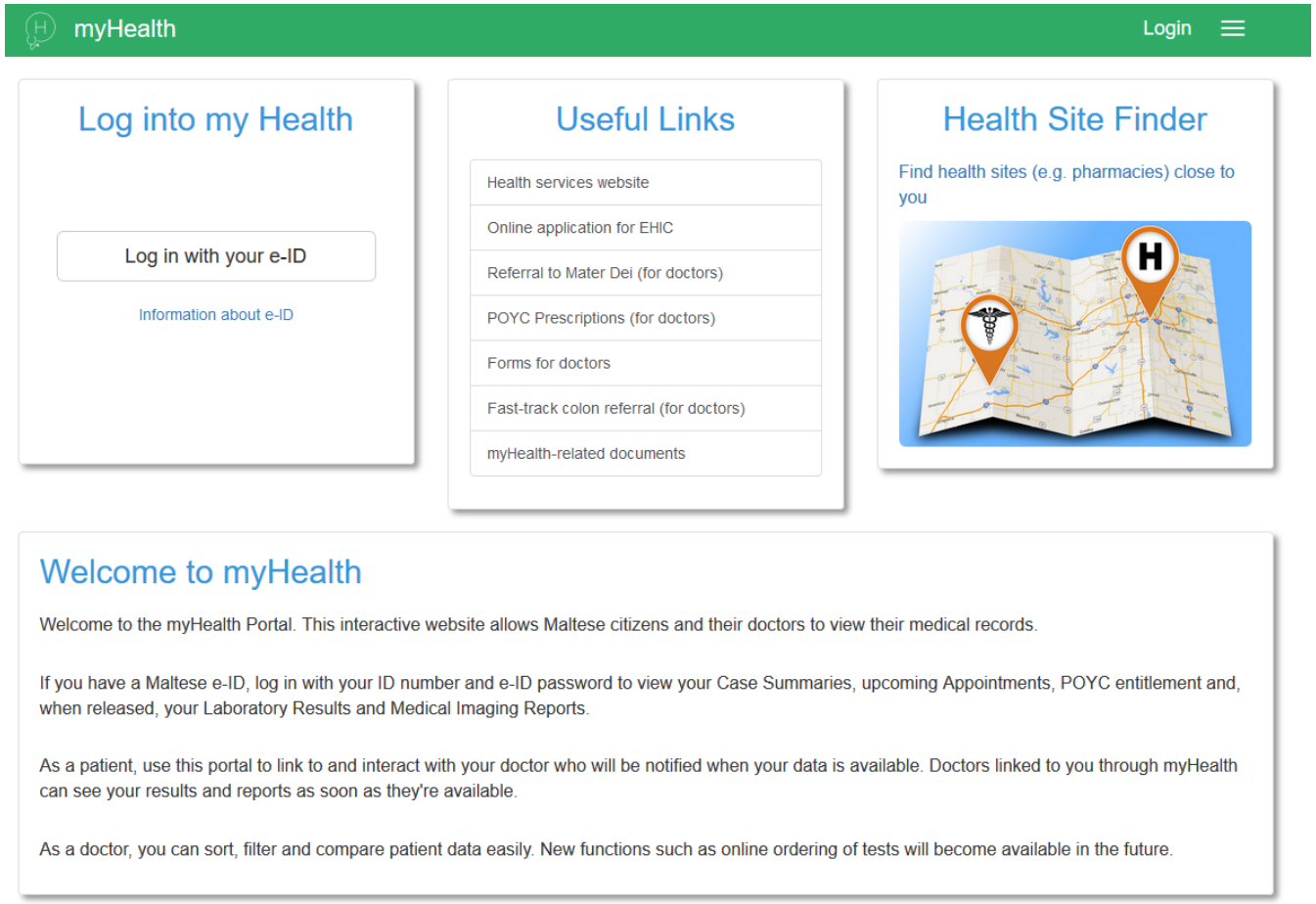
MCA website

- Simplified interface
- Always-on video captions
- Accessible menu system
- Better contrast



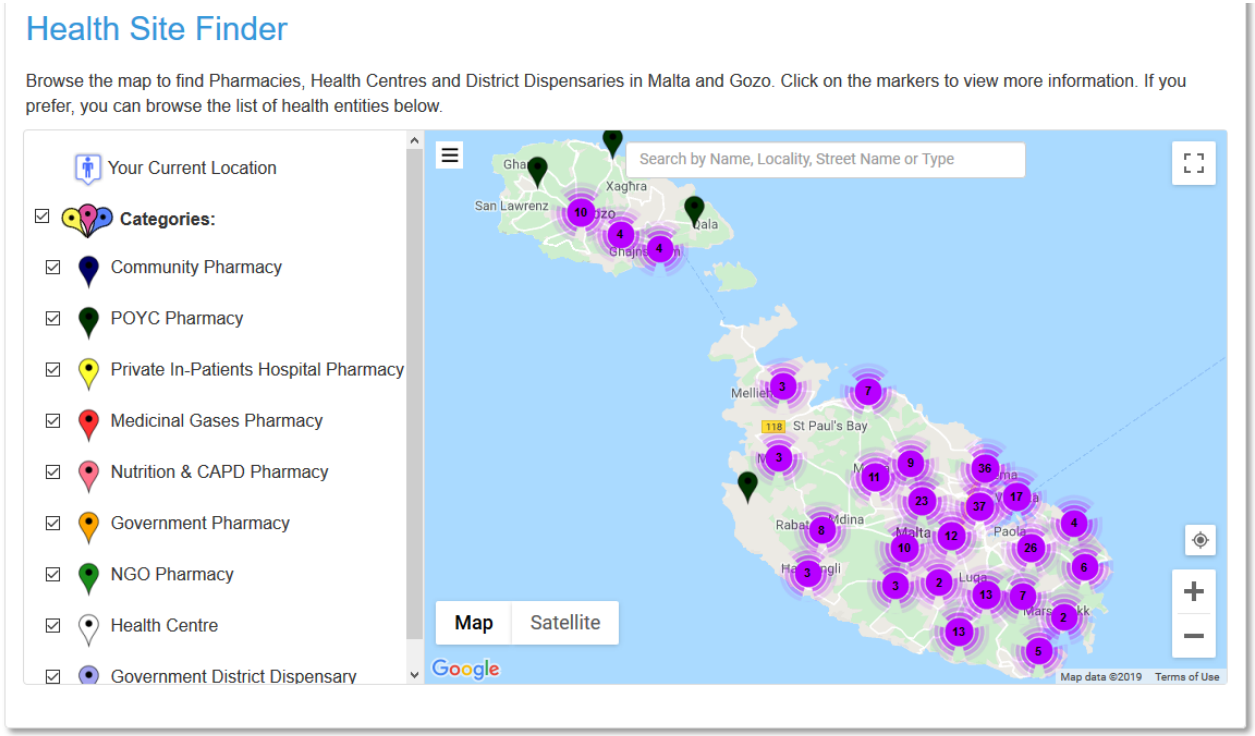
myhealth-ng.gov.mt

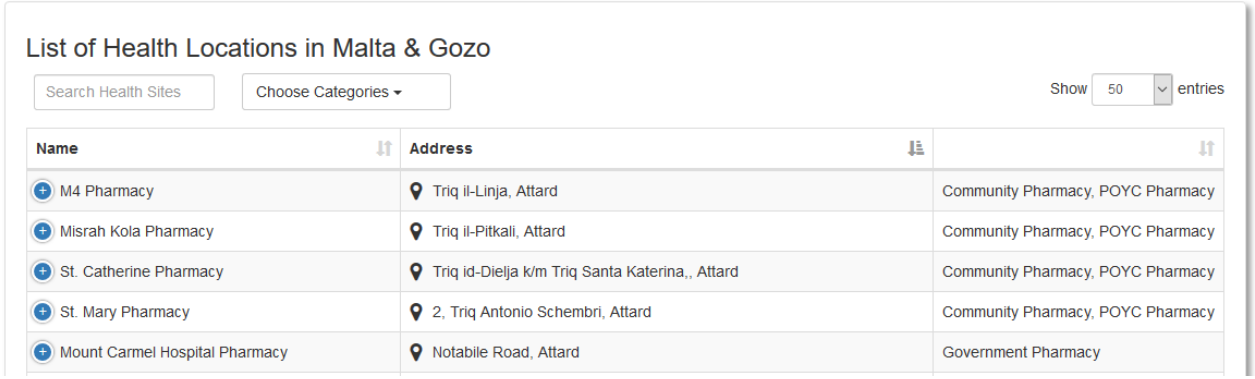
- Colour contrast
- Large button activation



myhealth-ng.gov.mt

- Multi-function search page





“The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect.”

Tim Berners-Lee