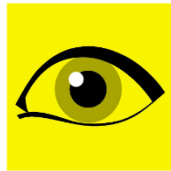


## ACCESSIBLE EUROPE 2019 – CONTRIBUTION

Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs



# Hilfsgemeinschaft

der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs

Promoting ICT and Digitalisation for Persons with Disabilities

### ACTIVITY COVERAGE *[Please tick all that apply]*

- 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.



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### DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT/RECENT ACTIVITIES (max 500 words)

The Hilfspgemeinschaft – the Austrian Association in support of the blind and visually impaired is an independent non-profit-organisation founded in 1935. With more than 4.600 members, it is Austria’s oldest and largest self-help organisation to improve the conditions and standards of living of its clients.

Our services for blind and visually impaired members include:

- Counselling in social and legal affairs, particularly social legislation (attendance and nursing allowance, certificate of disability, etc.)
- Low vision counselling and low vision aids
- Leisure and recreation opportunities
- Holiday, residence and care in our retirement home “Waldpension” (with fully equipped nursing ward)
- Breaking barriers
- Networking and Lobbying on a national and international level
- Working in standards and policy making

Reducing barriers and improving accessibility is a crucial aspect in supporting blind and visually impaired people, hence The Hilfspgemeinschaft offers advice to companies, organisations and authorities in planning and implementing barrier-free measures. It provides information about new developments in several technological domains (smartphones, tablet computers, e-book-readers, etc.) and shows which devices are helpful for visually impaired persons and how they can be used in everyday life.

The development of new and promising solutions for the blind and visually impaired is also an important contribution to reducing barriers. The Hilfspgemeinschaft – with its team of experts – is part of national as well as international research consortia, such as the project RoboBraille, an e-mail and web-based service automatically converting documents into different legible/accessible data formats, the project INK 2016 to improve indoor-navigation and communication in local public transport, and the project VUK with new technologies for door-to-door navigation.

Lobbying, representation of interests and networking

The Hilfspgemeinschaft is a member of numerous bodies and committees in which it represents the interests of its blind and visually impaired members including ÖAR - Austrian national Council of Disabled Persons, ASI – Austrian Standards Institute (e.g. working group for accessible build environment – design principles, working group for technical aids for blind, visually and mobility impaired persons, etc.), platform “football4all”, EDF – European Disability Forum, OCG – Austrian Computer Society, etc. We are present in the following organisations and cooperation:

ICCHP – <http://www.icchp.org>

AAATE – <http://www.aaate.net>



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CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, ITU, ISO, ASI

Austrian Disability Forum – <https://www.behindertenrat.at/about-us/>

European Disability Forum - <http://www.edf-feph.org/>

Zero Project – <http://www.zeroproject.org>

G3ICT – <http://www.g3ict.org>

IAAP - <https://www.accessibilityassociation.org/>

W3C – <http://w3c.org>

We were part of diverse European funded (Erasmus+, H2020) Projects in the last few years, i.e.:

<http://www.wadcher.eu>

<http://www.robobrainle.org>

<http://www.vuk-project.eu/>

Activity running in: *[tick all that apply]*

2016 or before  2017  2018  2019  2020  2021  2022  2023

**CALL FOR COLLABORATION/COMMITMENT TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES (max 500 words)**

Projects and Collaborations in the field of ICT and Persons with Disabilities in general, more detailed:

- An European certification for Accessibility, esp. for WebAccessibility, following the rules of WCAG 2.x or further
- Collaboration in the field of standardisation, esp. all the international standardisation bodies like CEN/CENELEC/IEEE/ETSI/ITU/..... should work together to enable DPOs and specialists to review all standards regarding to accessibility needs
- See AI as a chance and not only as a threaten for Persons with Disabilities, find projects and fields to enable companies to involve them
- Initiatives to involve Persons with Disabilities in the labour market by means of ICT and Assistive Technologies, to lower the unemployment rate und raise the participation
- Political participation and societal wellbeing by means of ICT and Digitalisation, involvement of Persons with Disabilities in the political process, bring them into the Parliaments and to the decision process

**ORGANISATION INFORMATION**

Organisation Name: Austrian Association Supporting the Blind and Visually Impaired

Country: Austria

Organisation/Activity URL: <https://www.hilfsgemeinschaft.at/information-english>

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





<https://twitter.com/hggezwitcher>  
<https://www.youtube.com/diehilfsgemeinschaft>  
<http://www.facebook.com/Hilfsgemeinschaft>

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<https://twitter.com/khoeckner?lang=de>

**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.

Interested participants are required to complete and submit the present form as a **Word document** at [EURregion@itu.int](mailto:EURregion@itu.int) no later than **15 November 2019**. In the email subject **please indicate** “**Contribution – Accessible Europe**”.

Thank you for your contribution.

