

Accessible EU: Building Community, Connecting Stakeholders.

Type of Event: Networking Event

Venue: Fundacion ONCE, C/ Sebastián Herrera, 15, Madrid, Spain

Date: 7th November 2023

Duration: 6 hours

Format: Hybrid

Number of participants: 200 participants

Registration form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/47258b54-fa38-d7d2-a6a2-a8dc1a0508fa>

Consortium composed by:



Context

The European Commission's AccessibleEU Resource Centre, part of the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, strives to enhance accessibility coherence through strategic tools including training, awareness, and sharing best practices. This effort involves promoting accessibility standards and engaging public, private, and civil society DPOs, fostering a united EU approach.

AccessibleEU adopts a Design for All and Universal Design approach, boosting accessibility for greater inclusivity, social integration, and improved quality of life for European citizens throughout their lives. As a European one-stop shop, AccessibleEU provides stakeholders with cutting-edge expertise, benefiting policymakers, legislators, accessibility advocates, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

By consolidating dispersed knowledge, AccessibleEU helps translate EU legislation into Member States' contexts, nurturing a trans-European community of accessibility professionals through gradual collaboration, catering to unique national needs.

Building a Community of Practice, connecting the different stakeholders is a priority already included in the European Accessibility Act (EAA), which foresees national coordination structures as an implementation mechanism.

AccessibleEU, relying on the in-depth knowledge of its network of National Experts, aims to strengthen connections between key players and main entities, both public, private, and non-profit, to foster common interests and intensify contacts.

In the same way, it is imperative to assist all parties to ensure that the dedication of resources responds adequately to the new accessibility regulations and to offer better services and products to the growing customer demand. In this context, networking events on a European scale are crucial to connect stakeholders in accessibility in a changing context that increasingly demands effective solutions.

Objectives

- Weave the network that guarantees the connection between all parties involved in accessibility across all sectors, and promotes the creation of alliances for the strategic development of actions in public-private collaborative networks that promote accessibility in environments, products, and services.
- Facilitate a structured dialogue with leaders of industry sectors, representatives of essential public administrations and civil society involved in accessibility, and universities and professional associations to identify specific capacity-building and support needs, bringing together innovative approaches and methods that promote the growth of all parties involved.
- To include all accessibility professionals at institutional and business levels and promote their participation to foster take-up of knowledge, skills and competences within the entire community, sharing successful experiences and methodologies for addressing the challenges they have faced.
- Encourage dialogue on measures to enable the creation of incentives for the accelerated implementation of accessibility and innovation solutions in all EU countries in a scaled and weighted manner, fostering equitable engagement and promoting partnerships between stakeholders at the trans-European level.
- Identify and promote commitment to best practices, supporting their replicability as a mechanism for creating synergies among all stakeholders, supporting their adoption and development over time as an enrichment strategy for all parties, and their dissemination to achieve a replicable effect in all countries.

Agenda

Opening Session

9.30 Institutional welcome

- European Commission
- Grupo Social Once
- Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad (CERMI)
- Gobierno de España

10.00 Achievements in the First Year of AccessibleEU

- European Commission Inmaculada Placencia.
- AccessibleEU Jesús Hernández.

Panels

10.30 Industry

Chair **DIGITALES** General Director, **Victor Calvo-Sotelo**.

- **FIEC** (European Construction Industry Federation) Vice-President, **M^a Ángeles Asenjo**.
- **EENA** (The European Emergency Number Association) Technical Director, **Cristina Lumbreras**.
- **NEB** (New European Bauhaus) **Vera Winthagen**.

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 Accessibility Networks

Chair: **ENAT** (European Network for Accessible Tourism) Managing Director,
Ivor Ambrose.

- **EASPD** (European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities) **Evert-Jean Hoogerwerf**.
- **EIDD** (Design for All Europe) **Pepetto di Bucchianico**.
- **ZERO PROJECT** (ESSL Foundation) Head of Research, **Wilfried Kainz**.
- **AAATE** (Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe) President-elect, **Pedro Encarnaçao**.

13.00 Education and Professional Associations

Chair: **CSCAE** (Consejo Superior de Colegios de Arquitectos de España)
Director Observatorio 2030, **Ángela Baldellou**.

- **CEPIS** (The Council of European Professional Informatics Societies) **Luis Fernández Sanz**.
- **UIA** (International Union of Architects) **Fionnuala Rogerson**.
- **CUMULUS** (The Global Association of Art and Design Education and Research) **Lorenzo Imbesi**.

14.00 Coffee Break

15.30 Civil Society

Chair: **EDF** (European Disability Forum) Deputy Director & Head of Policy,
Alejandro Moledo.

- **CERMI** (Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad) Executive Director, **Pilar Villarino**.
- **ANEC** (The European consumer voice in standardisation) **Chiara Giovannini**.

16.30 Public Administrations

Chair: **CEUD** (Centre for Excellence in Universal Design) Chief Officer,
Gerald M. Craddock.

- **EUROCITIES** Chair of the Eurocities Barrier-free City, **Sergi Morera Vizcaíno**.
- **Ayuntamiento de Madrid** Accessibility General Director, **Noelia Cuenca**.
- **DIAS GmbH** Managing Director, **Detlev Fischer**.

Closing remarks

- **AccessibleEU** Director European Accessibility Resource Centre,
Jesús Hernández.