AccessibleEU Launching Event

Typology: Awareness-raising event

Venue: European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

Date: 4th of July 2023

Duration: 7 hours

Format: Hybrid

Number of participants: Around 300 participants

Context

One of the flagship initiatives proposed by the European Commission in the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 is the launching of the European Accessibility Resource Centre (AccessibleEU) to increase coherence in accessibility policies and facilitate access to relevant knowledge and move gradually towards a coordinated, EU-wide approach to achieve accessibility implementing EU rules, across all the EU Member States. The spread of accessibility following a Design for All and Universal Design aproach will be enhanced by AccessibleEU, leading to greater inclusion, social integration, and improved quality of life, which will benefit all European citizens throughout the lifespan.

AccessibleEU will be presented as a common European one-stop-shop on accessibility offering cutting edge experience, knowledge and practical skills for a range of actors including policymakers, legislators, and the representatives of accessibility beneficiaries, such as older people, persons with disabilities and others.

AccessibleEU will mainly focus on training, raising awareness, disseminating good practices, promoting the development of standards on accessibility and the participation of OPDs in their process, managing knowledge and mutual learning among all the actors of all realms – both public, for-profit, and civil society.

AccessibleEU will connect this still dispersed knowledge in a soft process, to support the obligation of transposing EU legislation into the member state reality, creating a cross-European community of practice of accessibility professionals.

Objectives

The aim of the event is to launch the European Accessibility Resource Centre – "AccessibleEU", its objectives, the team involved and the activities planned during the duration of the project, as well as the expected results.

To get to know first-hand the work carried out by different stakeholders, as well as their needs and difficulties to implement accessibility.

To generate debate and reflections that can help to better develop and focus the activities, so that its future work can focus on solving the problems of the different actors.

Agenda

9:00 Opening Session

9:30 Goals of the Centre

Presentation of the services from the European Accessibility Resource Centre-AccessibleEU including public presentation of AccessibleEU web.

Discussion Panels

10:00 Challenges to Implement EU Accessibility Legislation

The panel aims to illustrate some challenges that different countries are facing in the implementation of European legislation at a national level. Also, strategies, good practices and success stories will be discussed.

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Connecting Stakeholders

This panel seeks to share the needs of the different stakeholders involved in the development and use of accessible environments, products and services. At the round table there will be representatives of the most relevant businesses, users and city councils, being the public administration closest to the citizens.

12:30 Training Accessibility Professionals

Speakers will analyse the different strategies for training professionals in accessibility that have been implemented. They will also share difficulties and success stories in implementing accessibility in the academic programmes of universities, as well as the development of technological tools to provide training in an open and massive format.

13:30 Conclusions

13:40 Networking Lunch

Workshops

14.30 How to promote the participation of people with disabilities in technical standardization committees?

15.30 Sharing experiences based on the pillars of AccessibleEU Centre: Built environment, ICTs, Public Policies and Transport

17.00 End