




Accessibility in recent EU legislation

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About the European Disability Forum

- Advocacy umbrella organisation (100 members)
 - 100 million Europeans with disabilities in Europe (15% EU population)
 - Organisation **of** persons with disabilities, **run by** persons with disabilities
 - Full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UN CRPD)
 - Closely work with the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations
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UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities & ICT

- 1st International Human Rights Treaty addressing ICT
- Ratified by the EU in 2010, and all Member States
- Article 3: Accessibility as a General Principle
- Article 9 on Accessibility “on an equal basis with others”, including to ICT
- Article 21 on Freedom of expression
- Article 30 on Participation on cultural life

See: [CRPD Committee General Comment n° 2](#)

EDF twin track approach to EU policies

1. Disability specific (empowerment):

- [Web Accessibility Directive](#)
- [European Accessibility Act](#) (Directive)
- [European Standard on e-Accessibility](#) (EN 301 549)
- [European Standard on Design for All](#) (EN 17161)

2. Societal (mainstreaming disability)

- [Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#)
- [European Electronic Communication Code](#) (Directive)

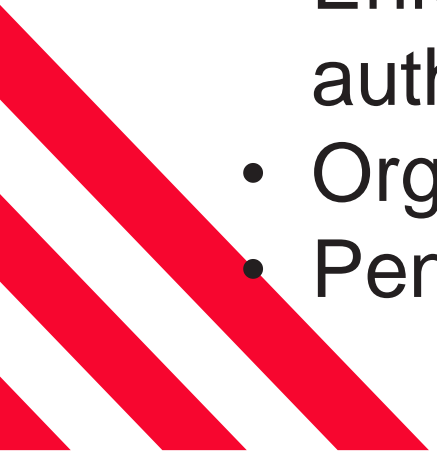
Accessibility should be a core aspect of the ICT like privacy, data protection or security

European Accessibility Act

Available in all EU languages



European Accessibility Act

- Directive about the EU Internal Market
 - Mainstream products and services
 - Common accessibility requirements for public procurement & private sector
 - Exemption of microenterprises for services
 - Disproportionate burden and fundamental alteration
 - Use of harmonised standards and common technical specifications
 - Enforcement mechanisms by market surveillance authorities – use of CE marking
 - Organisations action before the Court
 - Penalties
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European Accessibility Act scope

- Computers and operating systems
- ATMs, ticketing and check-in machines for the provision of the services
- All payment terminals
- Telephony services and smartphones
- Emergency calls to 112
- TVs and access to the audiovisual media services
- Consumer Banking services
- e-books and e-readers
- e-commerce
- Certain elements of transport services

Complementing other EU legislations:

- Public Procurement Directive
- Other EU acts (e.g. Structural Funds) – present or future

Accessibility Act Annexes

- Annex I: Accessibility requirements.
 - Annex II: Non-obligatory examples for Annex I.
 - Annex III: Non-obligatory requirements for the built environment.
 - Annex IV: Procedure for product manufacturers to assess and declare compliance.
 - Annex V: Information service providers must gather to prove compliance.
 - Annex VI: Criteria to assess the exemption based on disproportionate burden.
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Examples Accessibility Requirements

General requirements for products:

Information: “made available by more than one sensory channel”; “presented to users in ways they can perceive”

User interface: “when the product uses audible signals to convey information, indicate an action, require a response or identify elements, it shall provide an alternative to audible signals”



**TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE:
HARMONISED EUROPEAN STANDARDS
OR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Examples Accessibility Requirements

Specific requirements, access to AVMS:

“providing electronic programme guides (**EPGs**) which are perceivable, operable, understandable and robust and provide **information about the availability of accessibility**”.

“ensuring that the accessibility components (**access services**) of the audiovisual media services such as subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, audio description, spoken subtitles and sign language interpretation **are fully transmitted with adequate quality for accurate display, and synchronised** with sound and video, while allowing for **user control of their display and use**”

Next steps for the Accessibility Act

- Published in the Official Journal of the EU – 7 June 2019
- Entry into force – 26 June 2019
- Transposition by Member States within 3 years
- Several standardisation requests by the Commission to be mandated
- Working Group of experts at European level



Audiovisual Media Services Directive

Text available in all EU languages

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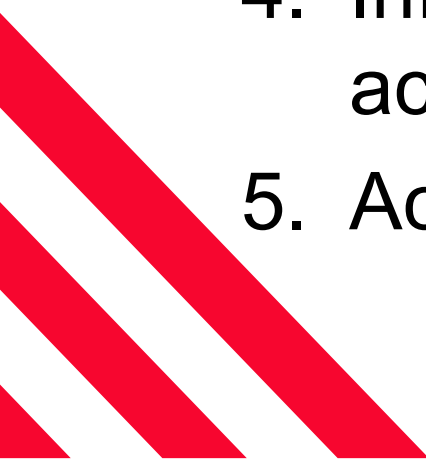
Audiovisual Media Services Directive

- TV broadcasting + on demand services (VOD)
- (new) Video Sharing Platform – not for accessibility
- Recital 23 mentions the four main access services
 - Audio description, subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, sign language interpretation and spoken subtitles




Accessibility of audiovisual media

Article 7 on accessibility – 5 provisions

1. Making audiovisual media services accessible continuously and progressively.
 2. Reporting on progress made on making audiovisual media services accessible
 3. Accessibility Action plans (recommendation)
 4. Information, complaints mechanisms regarding accessibility of audiovisual media services
 5. Accessibility of emergency information
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Making audiovisual media services accessible

What we want to achieve:

- **Quantitative targets:** percentage of content with access services (e.g. subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, audio-description, sign language, spoken subtitles, etc.)
 - **Clear timelines:** percentage accessible content in one year, two years, five years, etc.
 - **Quality assurance:** clear indicators to measure quality of services
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EDF resources

 EAA Analysis bit.ly/EAAana

 EAA Webinar bit.ly/EAAwb1

 EAA Toolkit [at EDF website](#)

 AVMSD Toolkit bit.ly/AVMSDtk

 AVMSD Webinar bit.ly/AVMSDwb1



THANK YOU

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