



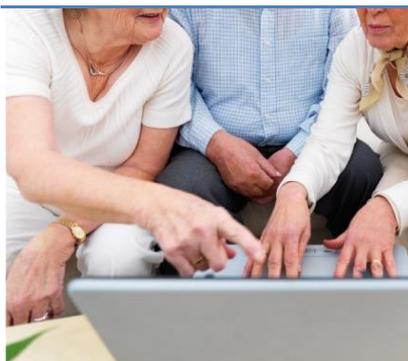
Welcome to our first Erasmus+ Certified Digital Accessibility Training project Newsletter, where you can find information about digital accessibility, our project, its aim, and the results of our first research.



Digital accessibility

Internet has become an inevitable part of our everyday lives, and it is highly integrated in our working and home environment. This has created opportunities for the majority, but a huge obstacle for people with disabilities who cannot properly access all parts of the web. Digital accessibility has therefore become necessary. Digital Accessibility is the ability of a website, mobile application or electronic document to be easily perceived, understood, navigated and interacted with by all users, including those users who have temporal or permanent visual, auditory, motor or cognitive disabilities.

About the project



Erasmus+ Certified Digital Accessibility Training project started in September 2018 in order to meet the specifications of the European legislation, *Directive (EU) 2016/2102* on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, which directs that all websites and mobile apps of public sector need to be accessible to all by the year 2020. The project includes 6 partnering organizations from four participating European countries: Slovenia, Poland, Greece, and Spain. These partners have been together developing a certified digital accessibility training, which will be offered to diverse groups of key stakeholders as a response for increasing labour market needs for expert in the field of digital accessibility in Europe.



The aim of the project

The training will offer specialized courses for these following positions: (1) Digital Accessibility Manager; (2) Digital Accessibility Tester; (3) Web developer with expertise in digital accessibility; and (4) Web designer with expertise in digital accessibility. The modules developed for these courses will be: (1) Introduction to Digital Accessibility; (2) Managing digital accessibility; (3) Web developing for digital accessibility; (4) Web designing for digital accessibility; (5) Implementation of digital accessibility; and (6) Evaluation of digital accessibility. The project will contribute to better access of training and qualifications for all through making all material free for download from an online platform. Furthermore, this kind of project will have an impact on social inclusion of people with disabilities by promoting and encouraging learning about accessible websites and applications. Additionally, it will strengthen the professional development of trainers and teachers. The project will improve the quality of training (initial education and continuous development), the quality of teachers, trainers and other professionals in the sector, and it will make courses more relevant to the labour market.

For more information: visit our webpage <http://digital-accessibility.eu/> or project [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) page.

SUBSCRIBE to the newsletters and updates about the project.

Disclaimer: The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

First results

Digital Accessibility Survey for Stakeholders was developed in the first stage of the project in order to investigate the current state of awareness and knowledge of the key stakeholders in aforementioned European countries. Results showed that participants were quite familiar with the concept of digital accessibility and understood the importance of providing accessibility of the web. However, the majority of participants were not aware of *Directive (EU) 2016/2102* on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies, as well as with any other national or international legislation related to digital accessibility. Approximately half of participants had never heard of WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.0 (*Figure 1*), the main standard for assuring digital accessibility.

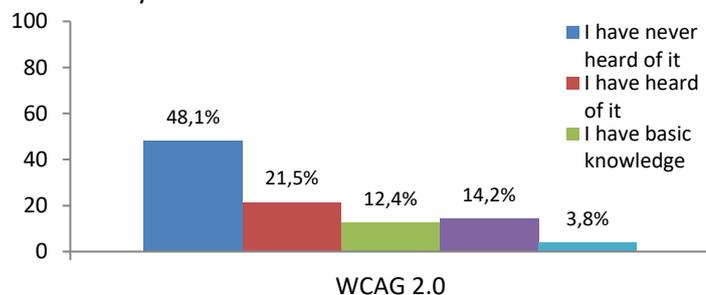


Figure 1: Participants' familiarity with WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) 2.0 depicted in percentages (N = 372)

The survey indicated that the digital accessibility field is growing, and some organizations have already been actively working on implementation of digital accessibility, creating digitally accessible websites, hiring or planning to hire employees with digital accessibility skills, or digital accessibility experts. However, it seems that the percentage of these kinds of organizations is still relatively low and the field of digital accessibility is in Europe still in its infancy.



The survey indicated the stakeholders' awareness about the importance of acquiring additional digital accessibility knowledge for their work and their interest for taking part in such course.



Participants acknowledged themselves as somewhat proficient in digital accessibility and claimed to have some basic knowledge related to the field.



A flaw in translating the WCAG digital accessibility standard into practice in Europe was indicated.