Seminar on Sharing Experience on Best Practices and Services for People with Disabilities
Geneva, 17 September 2007

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THE EVOLVING ROLE OF ICT POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS IN PROMOTING ACCESS AND SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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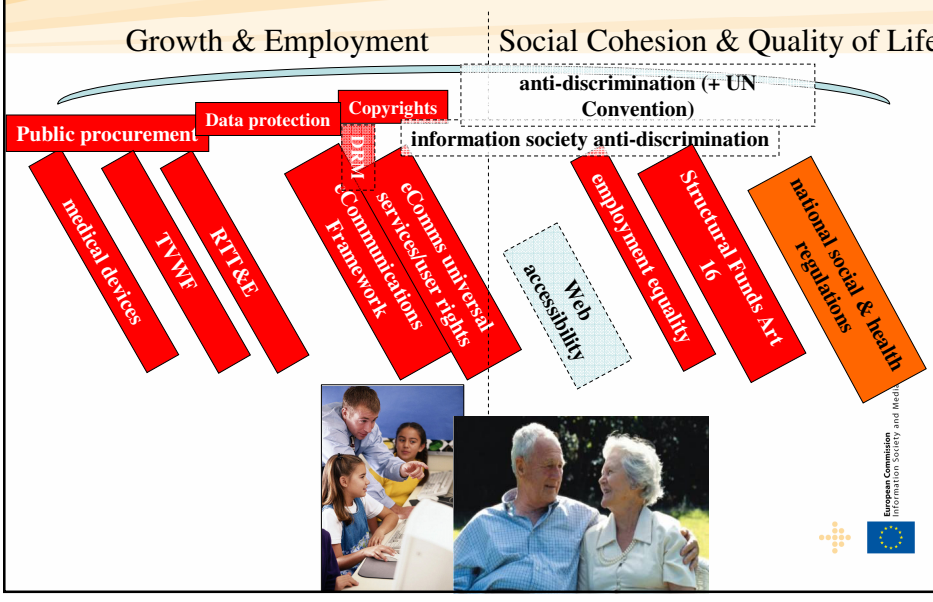
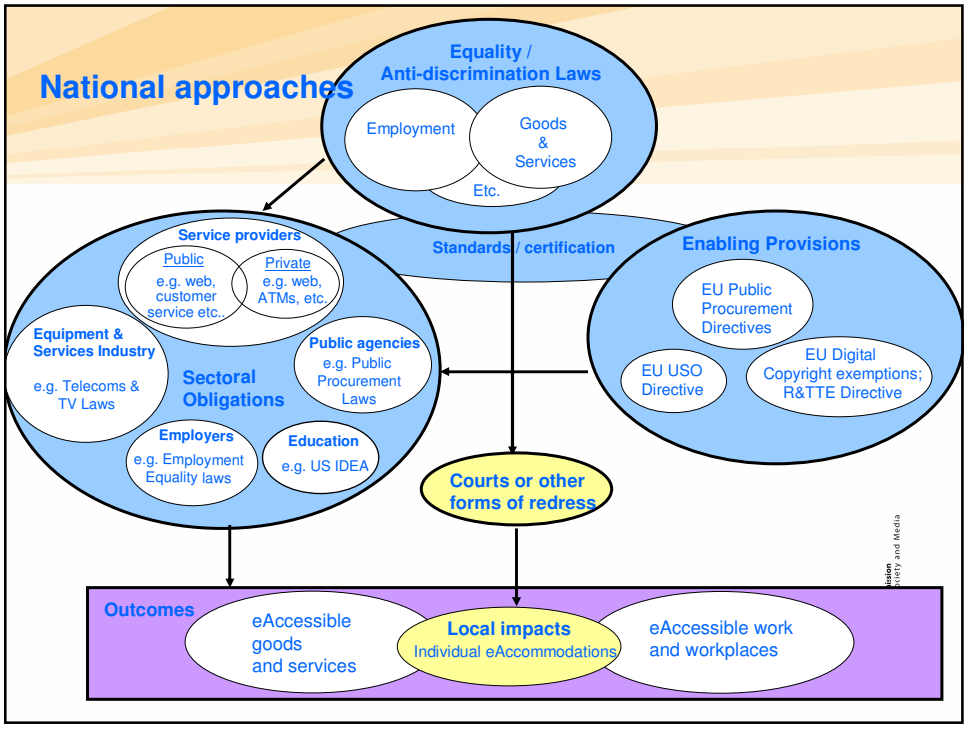
EU legal landscape on eAccessibility





10+ Legislative Themes

- Public web sites
- Commercial web sites
- Telecoms services and equipment
- Analogue TV
- Digital TV
- Other media

ICT domains (mainstreaming eAccessibility)

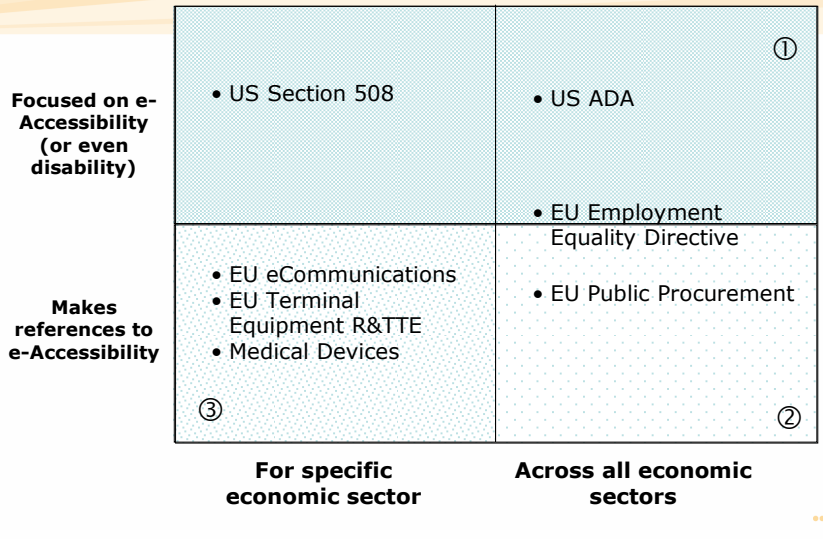
- Assistive Technology

Assistive solutions (add-ons)

- Public procurement
- Equality / anti-discrimination
- Disability-specific
- Other (consumer, taxation, etc.)

Horizontal measures

A variety of legal approaches



Challenges for legislation

- **Effectiveness**
  - e.g. INCOM saw little progress since 2003 in eComms
- **Regulatory completeness** / internal coherence
  - e.g. standards, interoperability, conformity, monitoring
- **Fragmentation** of legislation / external coherence
  - Missing link networks – terminals; maze of 25 health / social care regulations
- **Not technology-neutral** or future-proof
  - Access to public phones – what about mobile?
- **White spots**
  - E.g. web accessibility
  - E.g. horizontal approach as in USA with ADA and Section 508

Mixed picture – what are success factors?

- **Legal parameters**
  - Definitions and scope of obligations vary across MS
  - EU law interpreted (and complemented) differently
  - Horizontal vs. sector-specific responsibilities
  - Range of implementation mechanisms; key for success
  - Importance of contextual factors
  - Important levers: procurement, public sector obligations
- **Implementation issues**
  - visibility / importance of eAccessibility
  - presence / absence of "champions"
  - characteristics of the national legislative / regulatory environment, etc.

Thank you for your attention

- For further Information
  - http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/challenge7_en.html
  - http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope/i2010/inclusion/
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