

## REGIONAL COMPETITION FOR ACCESSIBLE EUROPE

### Innovative Digital Solutions for an Accessible Europe

ITU-EC Forum for Europe “Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL”  
4-6 December 2019 in St. Julian’s, Malta

Following the success of the 2018 edition, ITU and European Commission have joined efforts to organise the second edition of “**Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL**”. The ITU-EC Forum for Europe will be hosted by Aġenzija Sapport of the Government of Malta in St. Julian’s, Malta, from 4-6 December 2019. As an integral part of this Forum, a **Regional Competition for Innovative Digital Solutions for an Accessible Europe** is launched. Shortlisted candidates will receive the opportunity to present their solutions during the ITU-EC Forum for Europe “Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL” where winners will be announced.

#### **Background**

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a vital role for ALL people’s empowerment and represent an enabler for an inclusive society. For Persons with Disabilities (PwD), ICTs are essential barrier removers which help them live an independent life, participate in cultural events or political processes, benefit from education or entertainment, or obtain a job.

In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), the international community works to identify and remove accessibility barriers to enable human development and social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD). Competent Institutions at an international, regional and national level promote innovative solutions that leverage the opportunities of ICT to foster equal inclusion of all and reduce the digital divide, with a particular attention for Persons with Disabilities.

At the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) held in Buenos Aires in 2017, **ITU committed to making ICT Accessibility a priority for the period 2018-2021**. Moreover, at the Plenipotentiary Conference held in Dubai in 2018, ITU Member States recognised Digital Inclusiveness as a key strategic target, setting the goal that accessible telecommunications/ICTs for Persons with Disabilities are established in all countries by 2023.

**The Regional Competition on Innovative Digital Solutions for an Accessible Europe** promotes the goals and objectives of ITU, as well as Sustainable Development Goals, in the specific context of Europe. The competition aims at fostering the research and development of new digital solutions which seek to bring more social inclusion and interaction as well as comfort and quality of life to the daily routine of persons with disabilities, in line with **SDG 10** (reduced inequality). Simultaneously, it aims at fostering the innovation ecosystem with a focus on ICT Accessibility, in line with **SDG 9** (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

#### **Competition**

The second edition of the **Regional Competition for Europe on Innovative Digital Solutions for an Accessible Europe** seeks submissions from individuals and teams across the private, public, non-profit and academic sectors. It is expected that new concepts of digital applications or interfaces are developed for use by persons with vision, hearing, speech, cognitive and physical disabilities. Albeit not exclusively, these may include services accessible through the web, software integrated into mobile devices, or hardware and peripherals for specific use. Below are the competition’s specifications:





<p><u>Requirements</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The solution must be in the <b>final stage of development</b>, or have been finalised within the past three years, and originate from <b>Europe region</b> (list of countries available at <a href="https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/Contact/Geneva.aspx">https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/Contact/Geneva.aspx</a>);</li> <li>• The solution must be based on <b>information and communication technologies</b>, be compatible with most known operating systems and with widely available assistive accessibility devices or systems/platforms;</li> <li>• The solution must possess a clear aim to <b>benefit people with disabilities and specific needs</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Categories</u></p>	<p>Competitors will be required to qualify their project in 1 of the following 5 categories.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing;</li> <li>• Persons with visual impairments;</li> <li>• Persons with speech impairments;</li> <li>• Persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities;</li> <li>• Persons with physical disabilities.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Submission</u></p>	<p>To enter the contest please submit all information about your solution at the following link <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Accessible-Europe-Competition-2019">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Accessible-Europe-Competition-2019</a>. The form is organised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General information about participant and project;</li> <li>2. Solution description:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Solution Overview:</b> Up to five high-resolution pictures of the solution, containing the main components (screen pictures or device pictures) and a link to video of the solution (if applicable).</li> <li>b. <b>Components Description:</b> A description of the components and the interfaces, hardware and software, and the standards used or developed for the solution. (max 2500 characters)</li> <li>c. <b>Main Use Case Scenario:</b> A detailed description of the solution’s main use case, the actors involved, the sequence of actions, the input and outputs, etc. (max 5000 characters)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Practical Information: Access to the solution or application plus instructions (where applicable) and plan for business development.</li> </ol>
<p><u>Deadline</u></p>	<p>The contest will accept submissions <b>until 30 September 2019</b>.</p>
<p><u>Other Information</u></p>	<p>All submissions will be automatically considered for the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2020.  <a href="https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/prizes/2019/">https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/prizes/2019/</a>              Please be informed that there is no participation fee.</p>

**Terms & Ethical Standards**

Competitors are required to maintain an ethical conduct and may be subject to disqualification. Please note that members of a competing team must control the majority of the intellectual property rights of the solution submitted to the competition and must account for the majority of the work and resources put into the creation and prototyping of the solution. Plagiarism will lead to disqualification from the competition. Employees, or persons related to ITU and event partners are excluded from participating in the competition.



**Evaluation**

After an initial pre-selection based on the assessment of requirements, an evaluation committee composed of ICT accessibility experts will evaluate each competing solution according to the following criteria: Creativity, User Experience, Technology and Solution Development. Scores will be assigned on the basis of the table below:

CRITERIA	SPECIFICATION	WEIGHT	GRADE			
			LOW			HIGH
<b>Creativity</b>	Innovation-originality of the idea	35	1	2	3	4
<b>User Experience</b>	Size of user target Impact on user life Ease of use	35	1	2	3	4
<b>Solution Development</b>	Quality and status of development of the solution presented Use of Standards Standards Development	20	1	2	3	4
<b>Technology</b>	Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality Big Data Cloud Computing Internet of Things (IoT) e-Payment Other	10	1	2	3	4

<b>FINAL SCORE =</b>	$(\text{Creativity} \times 35) + (\text{Experience} \times 35) + (\text{Development} \times 20) + (\text{Technology} \times 10)$
----------------------	--

The sum of all grades obtained by each proposal, multiplied by its weight – in accordance to the above formula – will be considered the final score. Solutions will be sorted in categories in descending order of their final score.

Please note that the evaluation process will take place from 1-31 October 2019.

**Shortlisted and Winning Projects**

Three projects for each category will be shortlisted and announced on 1 November 2019. Candidates will be invited to attend the ITU–EC Forum for Europe “Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL” In St. Julian’s, Malta, from 4-6 December.

In the context of the Forum, shortlisted competitors will be given the opportunity to exhibit their product and pitch their solution to an international audience of ecosystem stakeholders, institutional and industry representatives and the interested general public.





During the final session of the Forum’s first day, the 5 winning solutions will be announced and presented and will be followed by a special ceremony in presence of ITU, the European Commission and the host, the Government of Malta. Winners will be awarded with a special recognition of ACCESSIBLE EUROPE and other runner-ups will receive a certificate of participation. ITU members and industry partners, whenever appropriate, will promote the winning projects in national, regional and international events, thereby increasing the author/s business opportunities.

Please note that travel and accommodation expenses are to be taken by competitors.

**Other Information**

All participants of this regional competition are strongly encouraged to attend the ITU–EC Forum for Europe “Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL.”. For more details on the event, please visit the event website at <http://itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-19>, where information on the agenda, registration, logistics, and other useful links are available and regularly updated.

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at [EURregion@itu.int](mailto:EURregion@itu.int).

