ITU Regional Initiative for Europe

ICT Accessibility

JCA-AHF Meeting

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Regional Initiative for Europe on Accessibility, Affordability and Skills Development for all to Ensure Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Development

Objective: To bridge the digital divide and equip all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, to take advantage of information and communication technology (ICT), by enabling capacity building in digital skills.

Online Course on “ ICT Accessibility: The Key to Inclusive Communication”

The course aims at developing good understanding of all stakeholders in the field of ICT accessibility, in particular focusing on related policies, regulations, technology trends and public procurement rules. This course has been developed as immediate response to the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017, in particular on the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe that called for building human capacities in field of ICT accessibility.

This course consists of three modules as follows:

- Module 1: Enabling communication for all though ICT Accessibility
- Module 2: ICT accessibility policy regulations and standards
- Module 3: Achieving ICT accessibility through public procurement

Awareness Building on ICT Accessibility

21/02/2019: ITU Forum on Innovative Digital Solutions for Accessible Europe (Forum at the Zero Project Conference), Vienna, Austria

25/03/2019: ITU Workshop on Enhancing Human Life Using e-Services, Geneva, Switzerland (Jointly organized with TSB in Context of the Regional Initiatives for Europe on Digitization and Digital Inclusion)

07/06/2019: ITU Workshop on the Future of Television in Europe (jointly organized with TSB in context of the Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT Infrastructure)

Accessible Europe

- Facilitate Forums for Discussion
- Enables sharing best practices
- Leverage capacity in all ICT accessibility topics
- Identifies innovations for Accessible Europe
- Incentivise regional competition in ICT accessibility solutions
- ALL ABOUT ICT ACCESSIBILITY IN EUROPE!

Accessible Europe

- European Conference
  - Valletta, Malta
  - 4-6 December 2019
- Back to Back with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December 2019)
- European Conference
  - ITU, EC, EBU, EDF, etc.
- Background Papers
  - Standards in Procurement of Accessible ICTs
  - Artificial Intelligence and ICTs
  - Future of Accessible Television
  - Web Accessibility
- Regional Contest on Innovative Solutions for Accessible Europe

Regional Initiative for Europe on Accessibility, Affordability and Skills Development for all to Ensure Digital Inclusion and Sustainable Development

Project 1: Strengthening national and regional capacities on ICT accessibility through a National Program on web accessibility Objective: To build capacity of national stakeholders on web accessibility digital content & remediation, and on technical development and design of accessible websites to help them in enhancing their knowledge and skills in building accessible website. A web accessibility evaluation of a specific governmental website will be done by certified local participants. An evaluation report will be prepared which will include remedial actions to make the website accessible.

Budget : ~250,000 USD

Beneficiary: Up to 5 countries Timeframe: 2018-2021

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2018 ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS: ICT Accessibility

Bosnia and Herzegovina: An action plan on how to implement accessibility services available to all, Revise and strengthen a regulatory framework to ensure the timely implementation of accessible TV/video and mobile accessibility (areas that fall under the direct competencies of NRA), as well as make its website accessible; Monitor the implementation of accessible ICTs and services that fall within the mandate of CRA.

Croatia: Cooperation in development “Accessibility Act“; National strategy of equalizing opportunities for persons with disabilities; Customize web pages in line with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Serbia: Promotion of the relevant EU documents in the field of accessibility of ICT products and services for PWDs, including European Accessibility Act; Awareness-raising and competence development on ICT accessibility through empowerment and skills development of persons with disabilities in this field; Exchange of information and sharing of examples of good practice on accessibility of ICT product and services for persons with disabilities through organisation of a regional conference; Development of on line training on use of the new software; Advocacy for including development of digital skills of persons with disabilities and implementation of mandatory ICT accessibility in the Strategy of Digital Skills that is being drafted.

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- Promotion of self-paced online training on Procurement of accessible ICT products and services comprising of 3 modules with an expected participation of 100 certified professionals.
- Second Edition of Accessible Europe Forum, 4-6 December 2019, Valletta, Malta
- Regional Contest for Europe on Digital Innovative Solutions for Accessible Europe
- Promotion of GARI database across Europe to enhance knowledge on accessibility features of mobile devices [MWF]
- ITU Forum on ICT accessibility as part of every Zero Project Conference and mutual support for the work on ICT accessibilty [ESSL Foundation]
- National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries [depending on the funding availibility]
- Development of discussion papers on
  - Procurement of Accessible ICTs and Services
  - AI and ICT Accessibility
  - Accessible Television
  - Web Accessibility Twinning programme on ICT accessibility

For more information:

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