



e-Accessibility standards as drivers of innovation & The European Accessibility Act

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EU-US Dialogue on Accessibility

- **Since 2003**
- **Based on standardisation Dialogue**
TEITAC
M 376
- **Multi stakeholders:**
 - AB, GSA, NIST (DoC)
 - DG JUST, ENTR, CNRCT, EMPL, ESOs

Areas:

Policy and legal exchange,
Standards: harmonisation, participation and schedule
conformity assessment,
Regulatory (socio economic) assessment...

- **Employment Dialogue**
- **TEC- Transatlantic Economic Council**
- **TTIP-Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

EU-US Dialogue on Accessibility

- Section 508 drafts*
- EN 301 549 versions*

- coherence <->harmonization*
- future revisions EN*

- Global standards*

Accessibility at EU level approaches

-Thematic

- **Transport: Regulations on Rights of persons with reduced mobility, Rail –TSI**
- **Ict: eAccessibility Policy, eComm Legislation**
- **Built environment: National and local, Construction Products**

-Legislation

-Funding

- **Public Procurement**
- **Structural Funds**

-Research

-Standardization

-Awareness

ACCESSIBILITY

EC European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

*"The Commission proposes to **use legislative and other instruments as standardisation**, to optimise the **accessibility** of the built environment, transport and ICT [...]. Based on smarter regulations principles, **it will explore the merits of adopting regulatory measures** to ensure accessibility of products and services, including measures to step up the use of **public procurement**[...]. Following further consultations with Member States and stakeholders, the Commission will consider whether to **propose a European Accessibility Act.**"*

European Accessibility Act: Problem Definition

- *Insufficient accessible products and services*
- *Divergence of national legislation*
- *Fragmentation of the EU Market*
- *Weak enforcement*

Drivers for accessibility in the EU:

- **Ageing of the population**
- **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The European Accessibility Act

- *harmonises accessibility requirements at EU level for a number of products and services*
- *creates an **obligation for Member States** to ensure that the selected products and services placed in the market after the transitional period comply with accessibility requirements*
- *uses the same accessibility requirements to define the **general accessibility obligation laid down in existing EU law**, in particular in the areas of public procurement, Structural & Investment Funds and transport*
- *supports Member States **implementation of the UN Convention** on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
- *ensures that all **products and services** complying with accessibility requirements will **circulate freely in the internal market***

Products and services in the scope of the proposed Directive

- Computers and operating systems;
- ATMs; ticketing and check-in machines;
- Telephones and smartphones;
- TV equipment related to digital television services;
- Telephony services and related equipment;
- Audiovisual media services (AVMS) and related equipment;
- Air, bus, rail and waterborne passenger transport services;
- Banking services;
- E-books;
- E-commerce.

How does the EAA interact with other EU law?

- **Same accessibility requirements as in existing EU law:**
 - Public procurement
 - Structural and investments funds
 - Tenders for public passenger transport services
 - Transport infrastructure

Public procurement: the market

Revised public procurement Directives

PP 16 to 17% EU gross domestic product 1500 Billion Euros

ICT sector 6% EU GDP with a Total value of the ICT market of 594 billion Euro

European public sector ICT average spending is 0,8 % of GDP = 76 billion Euro

The European average of public sector ICT spend that goes to external services such as consultancy and outsourcing is 16%



Standards: policy background

Role of standards in creating the EU Single Market

Regulation 1025/ 2012

Standardization Mandates

European standards and Harmonized standard

Public procurement: accessibility standards

New Legislative Framework

Accessibility related standardization work at EU level

Mandate 376: *Accessibility requirements for public procurement of products and services in the **ICT** domain*

- **EN 301 549** adopted in 2014

Mandate 420: *Accessibility requirements for public procurement in the **Built Environment** (including **transport infrastructures**)*

- **Phase II standardization work on going**

Mandate 473 to:

- **include Accessibility following Design For All in relevant standardization activities**
- **Develop standards addressing accessibility following Design for all in the manufacturing and service delivery processes.**

Others.....



European Commission Work programme for 2015

"The European Commission is committed to equality of opportunity for people with disabilities, in full respect of the UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities. This includes accessibility to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems (ICT) and other facilities/services".