



# **Inclusive Education and ICTs for All: Towards Accessible and Sustainable Societies**

## **The role of public procurement in ensuring accessible ICTs for inclusive education**

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**12-2 PM - Room XXI, Palais des Nations**

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# Importance of public procurement

Public procurement is one of the most flexible and far-reaching legislative instruments available to the Government





## Adobe says:

“When government says you need to build technology a certain way, for vendors like ourselves that’s a very compelling maxim. We need to build products that can be sold to the government. It’s not very practical for us to build multiple versions of our products.”



# Benefits to industry

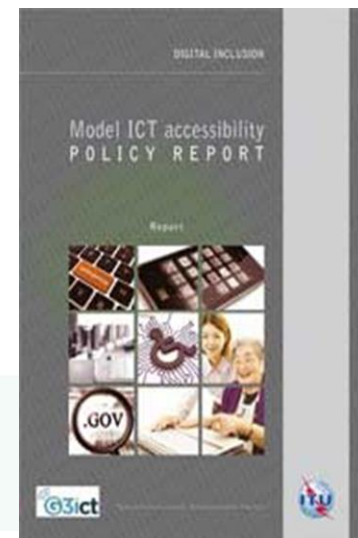
- Public procurement accounts for a large portion of the spend on ICT in most economies.
- Many international ICT companies already have accessibility policies and a track record of selling accessible ICTs to government.
- The ability to tender for government contracts in its own and in other countries is a powerful motivator for an ICT company to improve its capacity to produce accessible ICT goods and services.

## ICT ACCESSIBILITY

### ***Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report***

- Provides policy guidelines and legal and regulatory framework
- Designed to help countries develop their own accessibility policies and regulations
- Modular design includes stand-alone sections on:
  1. Model ICT legal, policy and regulatory framework
  2. Model ICT accessibility framework on public access
  3. Model mobile communications accessibility policy framework
  4. Model television/video programming accessibility framework
  5. Model web accessibility policy framework
  6. Model accessible ICT public procurement policy framework

[www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Pages/Reports.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Pages/Reports.aspx)





# Accessible ICT Public Procurement policy

- **Policy goals**
  - Provides an inclusive education environment for persons with disabilities
  - Promotes the employment of persons with disabilities
  - Creates a market for accessible ICTs
    - Incentivize manufacturers and service providers to produce accessible ICTs and suppliers to stock accessible ICTs
  - Generates competition between manufacturers as they strive to produce better accessibility than their competitors, drive down costs and promote greater availability of accessible ICTs in the marketplace
- **Putting it into practice**
  - Include clear statements of user accessibility needs in all calls for tender
  - Apply conformity assessment process
  - Rely on international standards that describe the functional performance required
  - Recognize the evaluation of off-the-shelf ICT products conducted by countries with longer experience in accessible ICT public procurement



# Public procurement of accessible ICT- government experiences

- A number of countries have developed an accessible ICT procurement system that attempts to nudge the market towards developing and supplying accessible ICTs and realising value for money for public authorities when procuring ICTs.
- These policies exist in Canada, Italy, Ireland and the United States:
  - The Stanca Law in Italy - "Provisions to support the access of the disabled to information technologies"
  - The Disability Act 2005 – Ireland
  - Section 508 of the United States Rehabilitation Act (1973 and later updates)
- The European Union Public Procurement Directive will be transposed into national law this year
- The ITU Model Policy on the Public Procurement of Accessible ICTs is based on these existing government experiences
- It calls for a policy/law as well as a technical standard
- The policy/law defines what has to be done
- The technical standard defines what ICT developers and service providers need to do to ensure their products and services are accessible
- The ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report points to two major technical standards: Section 508 in the US and EN 301 549 in the EU

# What kind of accessible ICT products and services would public procurement policies foster?

- Inclusive education for persons with disabilities by providing more accessible:
  - education websites
  - e-readers
  - course management systems
  - online learning platforms
  - ICT devices and software
  - math programmes





# Training Challenges

- Need to train ICT developers – ICT accessibility not often taught in computer science programmes
- International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP)

Latest Developments in Accessible Math in Browsers and Ebooks

**Live Broadcast Held On:** Tuesday, November 3, 2015

**Length:** 1.5 hours

**Speakers:** Sue-Ann Ma, Product Manager, Literacy, Benetech; Charles LaPierre, Senior Software Engineer, Benetech

**Target Audience:** Content architects, ebook producers, educational textbook publishers, web developers

**Skill Level:** Intermediate

It's been a time of rapid growth in the accessibility of math content. In this session, the speakers will discuss what is being done to help make MathML a widely adopted standard so that new content will become accessible upon creation. We will also discuss what can be done about the large amount of mathematical content that already exists in the form of an image and therefore needs to be retrofitted to become accessible.

Presenters will show and discuss tools publishers and other content creators can use to make their digital math content accessible.

<http://www.accessibilityassociation.org>



# Build demand for

- University computer science courses on ICT accessibility, e.g. <https://www.edx.org/course/information-communication-technology-ict-gtx-ict100x>
- For latest developments, follow the ITU Digital Inclusion Newslog <http://digitalinclusionnewslog.itu.int/>

## DIGITAL INCLUSION NEWSLOG

### ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

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#### IAAP TO LAUNCH CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL IN ACCESSIBILITY CORE COMPETENCIES (CPAAC) EVALUATION IN MARCH

February 21, 2016 · by ITU Special Initiatives Division · in Accessibility, Persons with disabilities

The International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) recently announced the creation of its first Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC) examination. The main goals of the program are to define the basic knowledge required for accessibility professionals, increase the...

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# Thank you for your attention!

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For more information:

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Persons-with-Disabilities/Pages/Persons-with-Disabilities.aspx>



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