

AccessibleEU Launching Event

- **Typology:** Awareness-raising event
- **Venue:** European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Room VMA
3. Rue Van Maerlant 2. 1000 Brussels
- **Date:** 4th of July 2023
- **Duration:** 7 hours
- **Format:** Hybrid
- **Registration form:**
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/AccessibleEUBrussels>

Context

One of the flagship initiatives proposed by the European Commission in the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 is the launching of the European Accessibility Resource Centre (AccessibleEU) to increase coherence in accessibility policies and facilitate access to relevant knowledge and move gradually towards a coordinated, EU-wide approach to achieve accessibility implementing EU rules, across all the EU Member States. The spread of accessibility following a Design for All and Universal Design approach will be enhanced by AccessibleEU, leading to greater inclusion, social integration, and improved quality of life, which will benefit all European citizens throughout the lifespan.

AccessibleEU will be presented as a common European one-stop-shop on accessibility offering cutting edge experience, knowledge and practical skills for a range of actors including policymakers, legislators, and the representatives of accessibility beneficiaries, such as older people, persons with disabilities and others.

AccessibleEU will mainly focus on training, raising awareness, disseminating good practices, promoting the development of standards on accessibility and the participation of OPDs in their process, managing knowledge and mutual learning among all the actors of all realms – both public, for-profit, and civil society.

AccessibleEU will connect this still dispersed knowledge in a soft process, to support the obligation of transposing EU legislation into the member state reality, creating a cross-European community of practice of accessibility professionals.

Objectives

The aim of the event is to launch the European Accessibility Resource Centre – “AccessibleEU”, its objectives, the team involved and the activities planned during the duration of the project, as well as the expected results.

To get to know first-hand the work carried out by different stakeholders, as well as their needs and difficulties to implement accessibility.

To generate debate and reflections that can help to better develop and focus the activities, so that its future work can focus on solving the problems of the different actors.

Agenda

Introduction

9.00 Welcoming coffee

9.30 Opening Session

- **Chair: Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic.** Director Social Rights and Inclusion DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Helena Dalli.** European Commissioner for Equality
- **Miguel Carballada.** President of ONCE Social Group

9.50 Response Session

- **Chair: Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic.** Director Social Rights and Inclusion DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Pietro Vittorio Barbieri.** European Economic and Social Committee Member.
- **Ioannis Vardakastanis.** European Economic and Social Committee Member, President of EDF
- **Katrin Langensiepen.** European Parliament Member
- **Carne Artigas.** Secretary of State for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence, Spanish Government

10.10 Goals of the Centre

Presentation of the services of the European Accessibility Resource Centre-AccessibleEU and presentation of the US Access Board experience.

- **Jesús Hernández Galán.** AccessibleEU Project Leader. Director of Accessibility and Innovation, Fundación ONCE
- **Inmaculada Placencia.** Inclusion Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion at DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Sachin Dev Pavithran.** US Access Board, Executive Director

Discussion Panels

10.30 Challenges to Implement EU Accessibility Legislation

- **Chair: Thomas Signal**, EASPD, AccessibleEU Senior Expert
- “Implementing Transport Accessibility for Passengers with Reduced Mobility” - **Ann Frye**, Fundación ONCE, AccessibleEU Senior Expert
- “Implementing Digital Accessibility” - **Harri Puskar**, CPTRA, Expert on Digital Accessibility
- “Implementing Accessibility Standards” **Fernando Machicado**, UNE, AccessibleEU Senior Expert

11.15 Coffee Break

11.45 Connecting Stakeholders

- **Chair: Catherine Naughton**, EDF Director
- “Transport” - **Anne-Laure Le Merre**, UITP, Head of PT Quality
- “Industry” - **Esa Kaunistola**, Microsoft, Director, Trade and Industrial Policy
- “Older People with Disabilities” - **Julia Wadoux**, AGE Platform Europe, Policy Manager on Healthy Ageing and Accessibility

12.30 Training Accessibility Professionals

- **Chair: Ivor Ambrose**, ENAT, AccessibleEU Senior Expert
- “Professional Certification IAAP” - **Susanna Laurin**, IAAP, Representative to the EU
- “Open and Accessible Online Training in Design for All at UNED” - **Alejandro Rodríguez Ascaso**, UNED Abierta, Lecturer at Computer Science Faculty
- “University Accessibility Education” - **Klaus Miesenberger**, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz, AccessibleEU Senior Expert

13.15 Conclusions

- **Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic**, Director Social Rights and Inclusion DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission.

13.30 Networking Lunch

Workshops

Objectives

The objective of these workshops is to share the overview on the different topics of activity to be developed from AccessibleEU and to share the activity and the point of view on them in the different EU Member States. It is about providing the opportunity for national experts to share their point of view and alignment with the AccessibleEU vision on accessibility.

Agenda

14.30–15.30 How to promote the participation of people with disabilities in technical standardisation committees?

The objective of this workshop is to provide practical information on why and how to contribute to the standardisation processes within Europe related to accessibility, as well as to get feedback from experts who are actively participating on the main challenges they face.

Speaker:

- **Fernando Machicado**, AccessibleEU Senior Expert - Standardisation UNE

14.50-15.30 Open discussion: all the participants are invited to share their point of view on the different topics from their own experience in their country.

15.30–16.30 Sharing experiences based on the pillars of AccessibleEU Centre: Built environment, ICTs, Public Policies and Transport

The objective of this workshop is to provide practical and global information on the 4 main pillars in which the activity of AccessibleEU is based: Built environment, ICT, Transport and Policies. Regarding the different technical reports developed by AccessibleEU, each Senior Expert that make up the AccessibleEU Core Team will make a short presentation on each main topic in order to open the debate among the participants and share realities, experiences and concerns of each of the EU State Members.

Speakers:

- **Jesús Hernández Galán**, AccessibleEU Project Leader - Fundación ONCE
- **Thomas Bignal**, AccessibleEU Senior Expert in EU policies of accessibility, EASPD
- **Ivor Ambrose**, AccessibleEU Senior Expert in Built environment, ENAT
- **Ann Frye**, AccessibleEU Senior Expert in Transport, FONCE
- **Klaus Miesenberger**, AccessibleEU Senior Expert in ICTs, JKU

16.30 Clousure