



Information Society
and Media

European disability activities

Inmaculada Placencia Porrero

Deputy Head of Unit

**Directorate General Employment, Social
affairs and equal opportunities**

Unit Integration of People with Disabilities

Inmaculada.placencia-porrero@ec.europa.eu



European activities

- **Human rights approach**
 - Article 13 of the Treaty
 - Charter of Fundamental rights
- **Activity pillars**
 - Legal
 - Mainstreaming disability
 - Accessibility
 - Horizontal measures
- **Establishing Equal opportunities for people with disabilities: A European Action plan 2003-2010**
 - Full application of Employment Directive
 - Mainstreaming disability issues in Community policies
 - Improving Accessibility for All

European activities, priorities

- **Strategic objectives for 2004-2005**
 - Access and retention of employment
 - Lifelong learning
 - Using the potential of new technologies
 - Accessibility to the public built environment
- **Priority areas for 2006-2007**
 - Encouraging activity (beyond employment)
 - Promoting access to quality support and care services
 - Fostering accessibility of goods and services
 - Increasing the EUs analytical capacity

European activities on disability

- Social Actions (ESF, Equal)
- Regulatory and legal actions (Antidiscrimination, employment equality Directive)
- R&D
- Telecom legislation
- Information Society policy
- Disability policy coordination
- Transport
- Regional policy
- Education

European activities

- Lisbon Strategy
- European Employment strategy
- Social protection systems
- Social Dialogue
- Structural Funds including European Social Funds
- Services of General interest
- Corporate social responsibility
- State aid regulation
- Community Action plan to combat discrimination
- Statistics
- Accessibility: transport, ICT, services, AT, built environment
- European year of equal opportunities

Disability Global Framework

- UN Convention
- ILO
- Council of Europe
- US, legislation, Access Board Standards
- Japan
- ISO, ESOs...

eAccessibility strategy

- RTD starting with TIDE...->FP7
- eEurope 2002...->2005...->i2010
- European Action plan 2010 Communication
- **Key documents**
 - Web Accessibility Communication
 - eAccessibility Communication
 - Council resolutions on eAccessibility 2004, 2005
 - Council resolutions on eInclusion, 2004
 - Ministerial declaration Crete and Riga
 - EP resolutions on web accessibility
 - Communication on the situation of people with disabilities in the enlarged Union 2006-2007

Communication on eAccessibility

- Deployment of existing European policies is uneven and slow
- Industry lacks incentive to mainstream eAccessibility
- Accessible ICT goods and services are not competitive enough increasing the risk of digital divide

eAccessibility Communication aims at promoting a consistent approach to EU eAccessibility initiatives in the Member states, on a voluntary basis, and at fostering industry self regulation to better meet market needs.

Measure progress and follow up in 2007, ... *"propose new measures including new legislation if deemed necessary"*

Communication on eAccessibility

Approach

- Improve the consistency of eAccessibility requirements in Public Procurement
 - Explore the possible benefits of certification schemes and standardisation for accessible products
 - Make better use of the «eAccessibility potential» of existing legislation
- . . . Complemented by several *background measures*
- Accessibility requirements and standards.
 - Design for All
 - Web accessibility
 - Benchmark and monitoring.
 - Research and technological development.

Progress will be reviewed in two years from now when additional measures may be proposed including new legislation

The mandate to the Standardisation organisations

- Phase I: Inventory
 - Report on standardisation plan technical requirements and award criteria ETSI
 - Report on testing and conformity assessment CEN
- Phase II: Standardisation Activities
 - European standard (EN)
 - Technical report (TR) and support guidelines
 - On line freely accessible toolkit
- **EU- US dialogue on eAccessibility**

EU-US activities

- **EU-US Dialogue (exchange of information and practices)**
- **International participation in TEITAC**
 - **Advisory Committee**
 - **Subcommittees**
 - General interface accessibility
 - web and software
 - Telecommunications
 - audio and video
 - self-contained/ closed products
 - desktop and portable
 - subpart A (introduction and definitions part of the standards) and documentation and technical support.
 - **Horizontal issues**
 - cognitive disabilities
 - economic impact
 - emerging products and components
 - external standards by reference
 - Harmonisation
 - interoperability with AT
 - maintaining and updating standards
 - testability and usability and standards.
- **US participation in the Mandate 376**

Conformity assessment

- Self declaration – Third party
- Voluntary – Mandatory
- Reliable
- Reproducible
- Independent
- Clear meaning
- Transparent
- Testable

Better use of legislation

- **Directives reflecting eAccessibility issues**
 - Electronic Communication Framework
 - Universal service Directive
 - Terminal Directive
- **Directives relevant to general Accessibility issues**
 - Public Procurement Directive
 - Employment Equality Directive
 - Structural fund regulation
- **Directives that could be affected by eAccessibility issues**
 - TV without Frontiers Directive
 - Data protection
- **Exploiting the " eAccessibility potential of existing European legislation"**
- **Riga Conference: mandatory accessibility requirements**
- **UN Convention**

Some conclusions INCOM report 2006

- General feed back
- Low level of detail and coherence: lack of information
- Potential of non compulsory provisions not used enough
- Provisions transposed but lack of detail on implementation
- Positive measures (payphones, tariffs, directory and Braille invoices)
- Concerns remain from 2003 INCOM report
 - (real time text communication, access to 112, relay centres for sign language, access to DTV, access to mobile phone services, payphones, affordability, directories, quality of services parameters, consultation with users)

Measuring progress of eAccessibility in Europe (objectives)

- To **identify measures** (e.g. policy, legal, industrial, ...) that have a significant positive impact on eAccessibility and that support the Community eAccessibility strategy
- To **assess how ICT** products and services available in Europe take into account **eAccessibility and Design for All**
- To **assess the eAccessibility situation in Europe** and to measure its evolution quantifying the impact of the proposed approaches and measures
- To **assess the implementation** of successful measures, that can serve as policy recommendations in the eAccessibility domain.

Measuring progress of eAccessibility in Europe (results)

- review of the **existing methodologies** and indicators.
- survey of **existing actions** which have improve eAccessibility
- **Methodology to monitor** and identify the existing and use of the
 - 3 proposed approaches.
 - other existing positive actions.
- **methodology used to measure**
 - the **rate of eAccessibility** in the Member States, experienced by people with disabilities and older people.
 - the **rate of eAccessibility**, experienced by **other stakeholders**.
- the **first measurement** and analyse the data. (12m)
- the **second measurement** and analyse the data.(24 m)
- **final report** including conclusions and policy recommendations
- **2 workshops** to disseminate and validate the results of the methodology, measurements and the conclusions

Objective 3.7.1.1: Call 1 ICT and Ageing

Target Outcomes

Key Area

Integration of **advanced ICT prototype** solutions for Independence at home, on the move or at work.



Global Industrial and academic leadership in ICT and Ageing

Providing basis for future solutions with highly increased efficiency and user acceptance

Key Area

Open Systems **Reference Architectures, standards and Platforms** for Independent Living and Active ageing



Enabling cost-effective, multi-vendor solutions

Enabling seamless and reliable integration of devices and services

Support Measures

RTD roadmaps, socio-economic research,
Standards setting, international cooperation (US, Japan)



A long term RTD agenda for ICT and Ageing, positioning Europe efforts in the global market, including standards, soc-econ.

Expected Impacts

Objective 3.7.2.1:

Call2 Accessible and Inclusive ICT

Target Outcomes

Key Areas

Deeply **embedding accessibility** in mainstream ICT.

Methods and tools for **computer simulation** of user interaction and validation frameworks.

Assistive solutions based on non invasive **Brain computer interaction**.

Supporting Measures

Assistive technology constituencies coordination

International cooperation

Preparatory Actions

ICT based Communication and shared environments for social inclusion of marginalized young people



Demonstration of accessible solutions in real life using context.

Enable new market opportunities.

Facilitate seamless interaction between accessible mainstream ICT and assistive solutions.

Facilitate development and production of accessible ICT.

Better understanding of ethical issues , market requirements barriers and cost benefit aspects

RTD capacity on ICT solutions for social inclusion.

Expected Impacts

FP7 main data

- **Objective ICT-2007.7.1: ICT and Ageing 30 M€:**
- - CP 27 M€ of which a minimum of 12 M€ to IP and a minimum of 6 M€ to STREP;
- - CSA 3 M€
- Call
- **ICT Call 1**
- • Date of publication: 22 December 2006
- • Closure date: May 8, 2007

- **Objective ICT-2007.7.2: Accessible and Inclusive ICT 43 M€:**
- - CP 40 M€ of which a minimum of 20 M€ to IP and a minimum of 8 M€ to STREP;
- - CSA 3 M€
- **ICT Call 2**
- • Date of publication⁴³: May/June 2007
- • Closure date⁴⁴: Sep/Oct 2007

- International cooperation Call 3
- Planned Publication December 2007

Some Reflections...research

- **Policy and legislation support**
 - Standards
 - Prevention of accessibility problems
 - Conformity assessment
 - Mainstream and AT provisions

- **Applied research**
- **Basic and fundamental research**
- **Employment, reasonable accommodation, inclusion and participation**
- **Education:**
 - access to information
 - integrated education,
 - Vocational training
- **Independent living, care and support, de institutionalisation**
- **Mobility, transport, tourism**

- ...
- **Research follow up, exploitation**
- **Market issues**
- **Professional and organisational responsibility -> regulation of professional qualifications**

For further information ...

- **On European accessibility strategy**
- http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/disability/index_en.htm
- **projects financed in RTD in previous frame work programmes**
- http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_f/einclusion/previous-research.htm
- **On the preparatory work for eInclusion research for Frame work programme 7**
- http://www.cordis.lu/ist/directorate_f/einclusion/future.htm
- **On eInclusion and eAccessibility policies**
- http://europa.eu.int/information_society/soccul/eincl/index_en.htm
- http://europa.eu.int/information_society/policy/accessibility/index_en.htm
- **Inmaculada.placencia-porrero@ec.europa.eu**