CRPD

Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability

ESF+ Equality Info Session - 29/05/2025
Ensuring Accessibility and Inclusion Across All Project Phases

Note from the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)

The examples provided in this presentation aim to illustrate some ways in which accessibility and inclusion can be improved across different phases of project implementation.

Please note that this is **not an exhaustive list**, but rather a starting point to encourage further reflection and commitment to inclusive practices.

For further guidance or support, feel free to reach out to the CRPD.

Introduction

Purpose of the Presentation:

- To provide a structured approach to integrating **accessibility** for persons with disabilities in all phases and formats of project delivery.

- To highlight **key standards**, tools, and local support services.

- **Remember to plan for accessibility from the start. Planning for inclusion from the design phase will lead to better outcomes.**

Accessibility of Digital Tools

Ensuring Inclusive Access to Digital Platforms

✅ Examples of platforms that are required to be accessible for
- all: Websites
- E-learning portals
- Databases
- Mobile applications
- Electronic forms and digital documents
- Etc.

🌐 **It is recommended to align with the latest version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) - link**

Accessibility of Digital Tools

Some examples of how to make website and electronic platforms more accessible can include:

- Maltese Sign Language on videos
- Subtitles
- Alternative Text for images
- Colour Contrast
- Adjusting Font Size

🛠 **Who Can Help in Malta**

- **Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA)**
  - Offers consultation, evaluation and certification for accessible websites
  - Website: www.fitamalta.eu

- **Malta Communications Authority (MCA)**
  - Supports national compliance with digital accessibility standards
  - Website: www.mca.org.mt

Accessibility in Communication

📃   **Remember to plan for accessibility in all forms of communication, including:**

- Publicity campaigns
- Awareness-raising materials
- Information about services and sites
- Application and evaluation forms
- Research/Annual reports etc.
- Project results and documentation
- Etc.

Accessibility in Communication

Multimedia Campaigns
- Consider using diverse communication channels → Radio, TV, posters, websites, social media.
- Try to ensure consistency across all formats, and include captions in videos and audio descriptions when possible.

Accessible Mailshots and Newsletters
- **You may consider ensuring that visual posters are accompanied by text versions.**

Where possible:
- Use both Maltese and English
- Add **alt (descriptive) text** to images for screen reader accessibility
- Avoid using text embedded solely within images

Campaigns should include different media to ensure **dissemination of information** to as many people as possible.

Accessibility in Communication

2. Language
- o Consider providing information at least in **Maltese** and **English.**

3. Printed Material will be more accessible if:
- Designed using clear fonts (e.g., Arial, Verdana)
- Presented with good contrast
- Printed on non-glossy paper

4. Electronic
- Provide a copy of the printed material as a soft copy.

Accessibility in Communication

Easy Language
- Easier to understand and more accessible
- Uses common words, supporting visuals, and a clear structure and format.

🧑‍🦯 **Format Alternatives on Request**

📌 Upon request, persons with disabilities can receive information in alternative formats such as **Braille**, **large print**, or other accessible options.

CRPD offers training on **Easy Language** to promote accessible and inclusive communication for everyone.

Accessibility in Events

Physical Accessibility at the Venue (Conferences, Exhibitions, Trainings & Public Events)

Venues are required to comply with the:
Legal Notice 198 of 2019 – *Accessibility Standards for All in a Built Environment Regulations.*

This includes, for example:
Step-free and wide entrances; Accessible restrooms; Ramps and elevators; Clear signage in accessible formats; Adequate lighting and acoustics; Reserved seating and accessible pathways; Designated accessible parking spaces.

Quiet Spaces in Events/Buildings

Offering such a space/room may help people re-regulate and re-engage in a way that supports their participation.

This can be a meaningful gesture of inclusion for those with invisible disabilities.

Accessibility in Events

Accessible Registration Process

Inclusive registration forms include:
- Being compatible with screen readers and mobile-friendly
- Allowing registrants to indicate their support requirements, such as:
    - Sign language interpreter
    - Accessible parking
    - Materials in Braille / large print / easy-language
    - Interpretation from English to Maltese and vice-versa

Include a field such as: "Please let us know if you require any accommodations to participate fully in this event"

Accessibility in Events

Accessible Event Content

You might consider sharing agendas, slides, and materials in formats that are:
- Easy language
- Compatible with screen readers
- Accompanied by spoken explanations for visual content
- Subtitles or live captioning may support inclusion during audio/visual presentations.

Coffee Breaks, Meals, and Social Spaces

Accessibility during social moments can be improved by:
- Offering seating options
- Provide dedicated staff to assist with food service
- Ensuring navigability for wheelchair users

It is important to remember that **service animals** must be allowed on the premises; denying entry is considered discriminatory.

Useful Resources & Publications

CRPD Annual Report 2023

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1)

UNCRPD

EASY TO READ VERSION

EU ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Access for All - Design Standards

Examples of Accessible Videos

CRPD

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