

Training in Design for All for Professionals in ICT Industry

Industry contribution to eInclusion

European policy encourages and urges the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry in various ways to contribute to the vision of eInclusion. By applying the principles and practices of Design for All, ICT products and services can be designed in a way to be usable and of benefit to all citizens, including the elderly and people with disabilities.. The current status of eInclusion in general and the uptake of Design for All (DfA) principles by the ICT industry in particular, still have a lot of potential for improvement. The lack of specialised knowledge among professionals working in the ICT industry is considered one of the major obstacles on the path towards eInclusion.

Curriculum guidelines for DfA training of professionals in ICT industry have been developed that target industry needs. The aim is to

- raise awareness of issues related to eInclusion
- enable professionals to apply Design for All principles and practices in their development projects.

Learning outcomes

Depending on a professional's role in ICT industry, the training will provide the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and implement DfA principles in a company and to apply DfA in development projects.

The flexible, modular scheme of the curriculum makes it possible to tailor a concrete course to the needs of the target audience, while ensuring a high quality of the training. A comprehensive course will cover all topics listed below, yet will provide these modules at different levels of granularity as appropriate for different tasks in ICT projects.

Modules of a Design for All course

A comprehensive course in Design for All should cover the following topics:

Design for All and its target user groups

Providing basic introduction and motivation, creating an understanding of users with special needs and how they can benefit from DfA in ICT; it breaks the ground for understanding the other modules.

Assistive Technology (AT)

Helping to understand many accessibility issues and the rationale behind accessibility standards, in the context of AT solutions.

Ethics, Legislation

Explaining how politics and legislation enforce the vision of eInclusion, in which all citizens would be enabled to fully participate in society and benefit from technical innovations.

Curriculum guidelines: Training in Design for All for Professionals in ICT Industry

- High quality courses addressing industry needs
- Raising awareness and motivation
- Enabling professionals to create inclusive products and services

EDeAN
European Design for All
e-Accessibility Network



Information Society
Technologies

Business cases

Presenting the economic benefits of DfA and providing exemplary cases to illustrate the implementation of DfA.

Design for All applied to Technology

When creating concrete technical solutions, DfA principles need to be applied to the relevant areas of technology, such as

- Web Applications
- Consumer Electronics and Games
- User Interfaces
- Back-end technology

Each of the modules incorporates references to relevant standards in general, and applicable accessibility guidelines in particular.

User-centered design

Presenting a development process in accordance with ISO 13407, which would provide ideal conditions for DfA.

Evaluation

Introducing state-of-the-art methods necessary to achieve a valid assessment of a system with respect to its usability and accessibility.

CEN workshop initiated

The CEN workshop "Curriculum for training professionals in Universal Design" (CEN WS/UD-Prof-Curriculum)" was started in May 2009. A CEN workshop allows experts and stakeholders in an area to work towards a CEN workshop agreement, stating their common understanding and recommendations. A CEN workshop agreement on curricula for training ICT professionals in Universal Design shall ensure that training will be adequate, comprehensive and meets Industry needs. More information, including options to participate, can be found at:

<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/sectors/sectors/iss/workshops/ws-ud-prof-curriculum.asp>.

Developing training and education in Design for All in ICT

Education and training of students and professionals working in ICT is a vital part in the process of achieving eInclusion throughout Europe. Curriculum development for courses at professional, Bachelor and Masters level has been supported by the European partners of the DfA@eInclusion project from 23 countries, and the European Design for All eAccessibility Network (EDeAN).

Further information

For further information and advice on developing Bachelor modules or a Masters programme, or developing professional training, please go to: <http://www.dfaei.org/dissemination.html>

The website of EDeAN is available at: <http://www.edean.org>

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