

EDeAN Newsletter, Issue 15 – October 2008

European Design for All e-Accessibility Network

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This newsletter is based on feedback from EDeAN members (July–September, 2008). If you have any comments or queries regarding the newsletter, contact the EDeAN Secretariat at secretariat@edean.org.

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Section One: EDeAN Network news

News from Denmark

eInclusion theme in Danish Magazine

The Danish Centre for Assistive Technology publishes a Danish language magazine “teknologi & handicap” (technology & handicap) 4 times a year. The theme of nr. 3 is eInclusion. 6 articles deals with this subject mainly from a Danish perspective looking at the state of art, public websites, regulations and good intentions as well as how it works for a blind surfing on the Internet. Two articles look at the European perspective as well, such as rules, regulations, and the plan of an EU-Master in eInclusion. The dfa@eInclusion project and EDeAN are mentioned.

Public websites

The National IT and Telecom Agency has tested 250 public websites. This test is the first among three tests planned for 2010 and 2012. There is certainly room for improvements since 2/3 of the sites were only moderate inclusive. Marie Munk, assistant general manager for the National IT and Telecom Agency, is far from happy with the situation, but she is confident that the next tests will show better results. “This is the first year of the Danish Mandatory Open Standards, so we are only in the beginning of the process,” she states. In order to improve the eInclusion on mainly public websites the Agency will together with the Local Government Denmark and the Disabled Peoples Organisations Denmark make an effort in informing relevant parties about the necessity of eInclusion. The Danish Centre for Assistive Technology will likewise promote eInclusion.

The result of the public website tests can be found here:

www.webtjek.itst.dk/

News from Finland

DfA Tuesdays discuss the present and the future of accessibility in Finland

STAKES, the coordinator of the Finnish Design for All Network, has actively initiated discussion regarding the present situation and the future of accessibility and DfA issues in Finland this autumn.

Series of events, entitled DfA Tuesdays, started with four thematic discussion events focusing on the current state of DfA and accessibility in August - September. On the agenda were DfA strategies, DfA and industry, DfA research and DfA and user centered approach. First half of the two hour events consisted of inspiring presentations from specialists in the field; second half was dedicated to lively discussion between the audience and the presenters.

The four events will be rounded up in the final DfA Tuesday entitled "Future is Accessible" on the 21st of October. In this seminar the focus is on the future: how the four themes discussed previously are seen to develop, what needs to be done and by whom. Speakers include Helena Hyvönen, Rector of the University of Art and Design Helsinki, and Anne Stenros, Design Manager at KONE. The seminar will be closed by Erkki Liikanen, Governor of the Bank of Finland, who was EU's Commissioner for Information Society and Media at the time when the Finnish DfA network was established in 2002.

A comprehensive information centre recapping the speeches and discussions is now available online at the [dfasuomi-portal](http://dfasuomi-portal.fi). A printed publication based on the five events will be published at the end of the year as well.

More information (in Finnish): <http://dfasuomi.stakes.fi/FI/dfatiistait/>

News from Ireland

G3ict Policy Toolkit on eAccessibility:

The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD), from the National Disability Authority, is assisting the G3ict and international Telecommunications Union (ITU) with editing the Policy Toolkit on eAccessibility and Service Needs for Persons with Disabilities. The online toolkit will support policy makers with capacity building programs and benchmarking.

For more information on the toolkit and the role of the G3ict:

<http://g3ict.com/about>

http://g3ict.com/resource_center/newsletter/news/p/newsletterId_/id_150

Access and the City - universally designed communications for ease of visiting and effective living in cities and towns

The CEUD and Dublin City Council are hosting a conference on 20 November to mark the occasion of the European Observatory's General Assembly. The aim of the European Observatory is to improve the accessibility to urban environments and services, and creating new management models and that take into account the characteristics and interests of everyone that live in the municipalities.

See more information in [section three](#) of this Newsletter.

News from Portugal

National petition about eAccessibility in Portugal

On 9th July, 2008, the national petition about eAccessibility in Portugal was appreciated in the Portuguese Parliament. The petition was subscribed by 7000 persons.

If Deputies are able to define and approve the rights of people with disabilities and elder people to access to electronic services and programs with autonomy, they will have the opportunity to make an historical decision about this important issue.

Metro navigation system by sound

The National Blind Association (ACAPO), the Engineering Faculty of Porto (member of Portuguese EDeAN network) and the Metro of Porto have created a navigation system by sound in order to facilitate the autonomous access of persons with visual impairment to the Metro.

The system was tested on the 30th of June, and the expectation about its availability is very high near the Metro users

News from Spain

“Infanta Cristina award” on R&D&I in new technologies and technical aids

The company BJ Adaptaciones S.L. has received the Infanta Cristina award in the modality of Research, Development and Innovation in new technologies and technical aids for the project: “Development of solutions for people with disabilities in access to computer, environment control and alternative communication”. The jury has underlined the contribution of the project to improve independent living of people in dependency situation, by using domotic systems, access to computers, and access to training, employment and communication.

The Infanta Cristina award is organised every year by the IMSERSO (Institute of Elderly and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Social Policies and Sport).

More information: <http://www.bj-adaptaciones.com/>

Independent Living Centre in Barcelona

An innovative Independent Living Centre (CVI) has been opened in Barcelona (Catalonia) with the aim to provide a service for dependent people by taking advantage of all the tools that new technologies are offering. The centre is made up of three separate areas: living, personalized attention and technical and service areas

Special interest has the technical and service area that includes a workshop used for research, development and innovation activities and for monitoring the IT and home-automation installations.

A laboratory within the centre is also offering users and professionals all the technology that can be applied specifically to people with autonomy problems. At the laboratory it will be possible to develop a two-level research: integration and adaptation of existing technologies to reduce dependence and research and development of new products to be commercialized later on. Co-operation with the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya is a key tool so that applied research can be done.

More information: <http://www.cvi-bcn.org/en/>

News from Sweden

Nordic Group on Innovation and Technological development within the area of Assistive Products in the Nordic Countries

A working group for Innovation and Technological development was established in March 2008. The aim is to investigate, after a request from Norway, the possibilities for a Nordic cooperation concerning Innovation and Technology in the Assistive Product area. By using experiences from all Nordic countries, the wish is to establish a common ground when it comes to explore suggestions for further cooperation within this area. There is also a link between this Nordic project and a bigger investigation in Norway where the whole area of assistive products will be evaluated during 2009.

The working group shall perform a survey concerning innovation about assistive technology/products, analyse their results and present a final report which will be presented and discussed at a Nordic Conference organised by the Swedish Presidency in the Nordic Council of Ministers on November 14 2008.

IT-support at home

In the project "IT - support at home" for persons with disability and elderly, a survey containing the needs of IT support has been carried out at the technical aids centre, eye clinics and communication- and computer centres. The survey contains computers and telephones support and services nowadays and in the future.

The outcome shows the user's basic knowledge in computer usage needs and improvements and the support needed to be in different level of knowledge. Also the product supplier needs to accept their responsibility to give support in a suitable level for all products except technical aid. Many users also expressed the need of knowing where and whom to contact with technical complications.

Internet services

A study on Internet services has been initiated by Swedish Institute of Assistive Technologies in close co-operation with elderly organisations. The idea is to identify services offered already today on the market, which could be of interest to elderly and people with disabilities.

When executing this limited study the approach has been the following:

- To some extent searching on the Net has been used.
- At the same time contacts have been taken with people with special knowledge about elderly and people with disabilities.
- These people were interviewed.
- Results have been described in terms of (when information available):
 - description of the services provided
 - business model used
 - target groups for identified services
 - functionalities provided in the services
 - number of users today
- Some contacts have been taken with companies providing these services with the aim to talk with them about marketing these services to elderly and people with disabilities. This dialogue also includes eventual needs to make some minor adaptations of services to make the interface even easier to handle.

The last part deals with information and awareness rising among elderly, municipalities and county councils.

The plans are to make practical tests later on this year involving elderly users with some of the services identified.

News from UK

Workshop: Professional practice - Training for eInclusion 26th June 2008

In a celebration of best practice in Design for All in ICT training, 50 delegates from around Europe attended a workshop held at the Trent Park Campus, Middlesex University. The speakers revealed how they have engaged their students with the issues of designing interactive technologies to meet the needs of a diverse community. These included the development of a design toolkit, a practical project working with children with special needs, an e-learning project with older adults and a video of older people buying and using digital TV.

The report including the position papers presented is available from either:

http://www.edean.org/central.aspx?sid=1001277174113231680888&neID=311&neTa=sig_0&tbid=0&lrID=2&oldUIID=a13701012&acID=1 or

<http://www.cs.mdx.ac.uk/research/idc/BestPracticeInDesignforAll.htm>

UK standards

Gill Whitney and Suzette Keith were invited to attend an all-day stakeholder forum in West London on Wednesday 9th July organised by BSI British Standards on ICT Accessibility. Gill Whitney presented a paper on European public procurement policy. Julie Howell presented a paper detailing the planned revision of PAS 78 and the introduction to a new British Standard on web accessibility and user experience BS 8878.

<http://www.bsigroup.com/>

Human Computer Interaction and Ageing

Ageing is an important consideration for Design for All, and Suzette Keith and Gill Whitney co-hosted a workshop on HCI and the Older population with Joy Goodman Deane at the annual conference on Human Computer Interaction. The programme included an introduction to the current work on WAI-AGE and the publication of the literature search from Andrew Arch.

See papers downloadable from:

http://www-edc.eng.cam.ac.uk/~jag76/hci_workshop08/index.html

Planned events

- *European masters*

Proposals for a European Masters programme in Design for all in ICT is under discussion and we have a planned meeting with the eInclusion Unit.

- *Accessible Design in the Digital World 22 – 24 September 2008*

Both Gill Whitney and Suzette Keith have been invited to present papers on standardisation and DfA issues at this conference at University of York, UK. For more information on this event see: <http://www.addw08.org/>

- *Accessibility for all 29th October 2008*

Gill Whitney will attend this meeting hosted by CEN, CENELEC, NEN and ANEC on the creation of a European Working Group on the use of the CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 - express the needs of older people and people with disabilities through standardisation

For more information on EDeAN UK

See: www.mdx.ac.uk/edean

[end of section one]

Section Two: News from dfa@eInclusion

Examples of design for all training material sought for curriculum development

Following up on the successful 2007 Workshop - Paths to support adoption of a Design for All approach in ICT industries (September 24th and 25th 2007), the industry SIG of the DfA@eInclusion project is seeing examples of these materials.

Design for all @einclusion

As leaders of work package 6 on training and education, UK EDeAN NCC is currently analysing a set of case studies of best practice in teaching in preparation for the development of syllabus guidelines.

Further information can be found at: www.edean.org, see on-line forums and SIG in best practice on training and for registered members only the working group forum on education and training

[end of section two]

Section Three: Events, Courses, Conferences, Calls for papers

Forthcoming Events, Courses, Conferences

EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum Conference

23 October 2008 - 26 October 2008 Amaroussion, Greece

This year's edition of the EUROCITIES Knowledge Society Forum will focus on the theme of "eServices for Inclusion". Participants will have an opportunity to exchange know-how and best practices on ways of making Information Communications Technology (ICT) and online services more accessible and inclusive for all citizens.

EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities, that brings together the local governments of more than 130 large cities in over 30 European countries. EUROCITIES provides a platform for its member cities to share knowledge and ideas, to exchange experiences, to analyse common problems and develop innovative solutions, through a wide range of Forums, Working Groups, Projects, activities and events.

More information: <http://www.eurocities.eu/main.php>

ASK-IT Project Helsinki Event

14 November 2008, Helsinki, Finland

The Helsinki site is promoting independent mobility for people with functional limitations by providing improved accessibility to existing Tourism and public transport services in the tourism and public transport sectors, using context-related and real-time information. For example, a blind person will be helped to use public transport, while someone in a wheelchair will be able to choose a hotel suited to their needs. Stakeholders include STAKES (the Technical Research Centre of Finland), Helsinki City Transport and transport technical research centre VTT. The working language will be Finnish.

Contact: icre@polis-online.org

Access and the City - universally designed communications for ease of visiting and effective living in cities and towns

20 November 2008, Guinness Storehouse, Dublin, Ireland

The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD), from the National Disability Authority, and Dublin City Council are hosting a conference to mark the occasion of the European Observatory's General Assembly. The aim of the European Observatory is to improve the "accessibility to urban environments and services, and creating new management models and that take into account the characteristics and interests of everyone that live in the municipalities." The conference will explore themes of:

- Universal Urban Navigation
- Universal Transport Information
- Tourism for all: providing visitors with the information they need

This international conference will show case current best practices from cities, report on latest research findings and provide information on guidance and resources on making information in the urban landscape universally accessible.

Registration and agenda updates: www.universaldesign.ie

To register your interest in the conference, and to sign up to receive more detailed information on the event as soon as it is available, email your contact details to access@limelight.ie.

Charge: €200 for non-European Observatory members

Universal Smart Card Systems

Science Gallery, Trinity College Dublin.

A free half day seminar. Focusing on Universal Design methodologies, this seminar will highlight the design and development considerations necessary to make the ubiquitous Smart card and related systems usable and accessible to all. Specifiers, developers and managers of new and existing transport, financial services or ID card systems will get a chance to learn about best practice case studies, design methodologies and Universal Design resources. The seminar will include an interactive session with John Clarkson, Director, Cambridge Engineering Design Centre, utilising simulators and incorporating a design exercise.

It will be targeted at anyone involved in the design, development, implementation and maintenance of systems that use smart cards including transport systems, point of sale systems, cash machines, ID systems, financial services etc.

For more information or to book your place please contact Linda Rowan @ lrowan@nda.ie, tel: +353 1 6080456

ICT Event 2008

25 - 27 November 2008, Lyon, France

This conference is Europe's largest ICT research event in 2008. The event is organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the French Presidency of the European Union and will examine European Union priorities in ICT research for over €2 billion of funding available in 2009-2010.

Swiss National conference "The ICT as means for integration - possibilities and limits"

27 November 2008 Bern, Switzerland

This national conference is organized by the Coordinating Office Information Society in the Federal office of Communications (OFCOM) in collaboration with the Members of the network "Swiss Digital Integration". The objective of the conference is to gather all Swiss actors in the field of e-inclusion to discuss the possibilities and limits of ICT as a means for social integration. The focus will be on certain groups of society that are still not using the ICT, such as older people, migrants and the disabled. The conference is part of the implementation of the Strategy of the Swiss Government to promote an inclusive information society.

Calls for Papers

Include 6-8 April 2009

The fifth International Conference on Inclusive Design aims to engage those involved in all aspects of user-centred design practice, research and advocacy.

Deadline for submissions is 15th October 2008, to join the Include Network to register your interest in Include 2009 and receive registration discount at http://www.hhc.rca.ac.uk/210/all/1/include_network.aspx

ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS)

Special Issue on Aging and Information Technologies

Guest Editors: Sara J. Czaja, Peter Gregor, Vicki L. Hanson

Important dates:

- Letter or paragraph of intent sent to Sara Czaja (SCzaja@med.miami.edu): 22nd October, 2008
- Full paper submission: 15th November 2008
- Response to authors: 15th January 2009
- Final version of papers: 20th February 2009

[end of section three]

Section Four: Other news, information, useful links

Newsletters and publications

- *Comparative Study of Public e-Service Centres in Europe in terms of user benefits of eInclusion*

14 July 2008

The findings in this report are based on eight interviews with representatives of public E-Service centres in Europe. The interviews put emphasis on demonstrable user benefits of eInclusion through services and activities conducted by centres involved in public eServices across Europe.

More Information:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=4259

<http://ec.europa.eu/einclusion>

- *International Workshop of the AATE - Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe. 25 - 26 September 2008 Milano (Italy)*

The proceedings will be available online after September 30, 2008

More information:

<http://www.aaate.net>

Links

- <http://www.disability-europe.net/?jsEnabled=1>

Website of the Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED)

ANED was established by the European Commission in 2008 to provide academic and scientific support and advice for its disability policy Unit. In particular, the activities of the Network will support the future development of the EU Disability Action Plan and practical implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People in Europe. The Network includes national contacts in 30 European countries and experts in particular fields who contribute analysis on specific themes. It is therefore a very ambitious project that seeks to promote the sharing of research and policy knowledge, and public access to relevant information about the situation of disabled people in European countries and the development of policies for equality and social inclusion.

- http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

EU funds for Research: Lost in translation? New guide to help better use of European research, innovation and cohesion funding

The Commission launched on 8 september the 'Practical Guide to EU funding opportunities for Research and Innovation' to help all stakeholders to find their way into the different existing EU funding. Central to the realisation of the goals of the Lisbon Agenda is the need to promote the knowledge economy, in particular through research, technological development and innovation (RTDI). EU support for RTDI is provided mainly through the 7th Research Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the Structural & Cohesion

Funds. If their impact is to be maximised, it is essential that these sources of funding are used in a coherent way.

- <http://easi.cc>

EASI: Equal Access to Software and Information. Accessible IT Through Podcasts, Webinars and Online Courses

EASI is a provider of online training on adaptive technology and how institutions can provide barrier-free computer and information technology systems for persons with disabilities.

[end of section four]

Section Five: About this Newsletter

EDeAN Newsletter is published four times per year. It is emailed to all EDeAN members as well as observers and stakeholders. Newsletter is also posted on www.edean.org in HTML, word and pdf formats.

The newsletter is edited by the EDeAN Secretariat (2008) at the National Centre for Personal Autonomy and Technical Aids (CEAPAT), from the Institut of Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO), Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport, Spain.

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Please contact us if you wish to subscribe to this newsletter or want to cancel your subscription.

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NOTE: Deadline for contributions to the next EdeAN Newsletter: 1st December 2008

[end of section five]