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| D:\usr\campos\TSB-Reference\Logos\ITU\sigleITU.gif | INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION  **INTERSECTOR RAPPORTEUR GROUP on Audiovisual Media Accessibility** | | | | IRG-AVA-1906-0xx | | |
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| **Keywords:** | Accessibility, cluster, research, training, cooperation |
| **Abstract:** | In Europe in the last five years much work has started in preparation to the deployment of the legal framework to fulfil the European Council obligation with the signature and ratification of the UN CRPD. Work towards research, innovation and training in media accessibility has been funded. Creating a cluster has allowed to: raise a single voice and establish an identified interlocutor, unify resources, share developments, while encouraging diversity. The cluster will be presented with the objective of sharing outcomes and roadmap with other regions who need to fulfil media accessibility requirements in the near future. |

# Introduction

Three separate pieces of legislation have been passed in Europe in the last year, addressing media production, distribution and consumption. In order to comply with the new legislation public sector organisations will need to monitor the accessibility of their websites, mobile apps, and media content, make information from the monitoring available in an accessibility statement, and report to a central authority identified for each country. This new legal context mean that EU public sector organisations will need to address their accessibility strategy and reporting mechanisms.

The three pieces of legislation are:

1. The [European Union (EU) Directive on the Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L2102). This directive requests from all EU member states to meet common accessibility standards in public bodies websites and mobile apps. This Directive was transposed into the laws of each EU member state by September 23 2018.

The Directive is based on the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/) four steps: “Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust”.

The Directive references [EN 301 549](http://mandate376.standards.eu/standard/technical-requirements/#9.) as the standard which will enable websites and apps to comply with the law.

The schedule for compliance across EU countries is:

* September 2019 new public sector websites
* September 2020 all public sector websites
* September 2021 all public sector mobile apps

1. The[Audiovisual Media Services Directive](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32010L0013) ([AVMSD](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/audiovisual-media-services-directive-avmsd)) governs EU-wide coordination of national legislation on all audiovisual media, both traditional TV broadcasts and on-demand services.

The directive was approved on 2018 and Member states will have 21 months to transpose it into national legislation.

It provides:

* rules to shape technological developments
* creating a level playing field for emerging audiovisual media
* preserving cultural diversity
* protecting children and consumers
* safeguarding media pluralism
* combating racial and religious hatred
* guaranteeing the independence of national media regulators.

1. The [European Accessibility Act](https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/PE-81-2018-INIT/en/pdf) is a law that would make many products and services in the European Union (EU) more accessible for persons with disabilities. The Accessibility Act takes the form of a Directive, which is legally binding, meaning that the EU Member States have an obligation to apply what the Act mentions. The proposal foresees that only certain products and services need to be accessible:

* Smartphones, tablets and computers
* Ticketing machines and check-in machines
* Televisions and TV programmes
* Banking and ATMs
* E-books
* Online shopping websites and mobile applications

# Discussion

A cluster from the many projects funded by the EC has been established. A list pf some of the training and research projects is listed in the table below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Title** | **PI** | **URL** | **Reference** |
| ADLAB  ADLAB logo | Audio Description Life Long Access for the Blind | Chris Taylor,  Trieste University, Italy | http://www.adlabproject.eu/home/ | 517992-LLP-1-2011-1-IT-ERASMUS-ECUE |
| ACT  /var/folders/hm/4nzszyjn401bqqxx5plckfwh0000gn/T/com.microsoft.Word/WebArchiveCopyPasteTempFiles/002-capcalera.jpg?itok=p1-hETog | Accessible Culture and Training | Pilar Orero,  UAB, Barcelona | http://pagines.uab.cat/act/ | 2015-1-ES01-KA203-015734 |
| ADLAB PRO  ADLAB logo | AUDIO DESCRIPTION: A LABORATORY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PROFESSIONAL PROFILE | Elisa Perego  Trieste University,  Italy | https://www.adlabpro.eu | 2016-1-IT02-KA203-024311 |
| ILSA  ILSA Project | Development of a training programme for interlingual live subtitlers in Europe | Pablo Romero Fresco,  U. Vigo , Spain | http://www.ilsaproject.eu/?lang=es | **2017-1-ES01-KA203-037948** |
| DA4YOU | Digital Accessibility for Young Adults in Europe: tools, training and participation | Sharon Black and Carlos de Pablos-Ortega |  |  |
| EASIT | From easy-to-read texts to easy-to-understand audiovisual content: practice and training | Anna Matamala, UAB, Barcelona | http://pagines.uab.cat/easit/en | 2018-1-ES01-KA203-05275 |
| LTA  LTA project logo | Development of a European unified curriculum for live subtitlers | Rocío Bernabé,  SDI, Munchen | https://ltaproject.eu | 2018-1-DE01-KA203-004218 |
| ReBUILD  Rebuild logo | The REBUILD project: Towards an accessible ICT tool to foster migrants' integration in European countries | Anamaria Garito,  Uninettuno, Rome | <https://www.rebuildeurope.eu/en/default.aspx> | H2020- DT-MIGRATION-06 82215 |
| EasyTV | Easing the access of Europeans with disabilities to converging media and content | Federico Álvarez, UPM, Madrid | https://easytvproject.eu | H2020-ICT-2016-2 761999 |
| MeMad |  |  |  |  |
| ImAc | Immersive Accessibility | Sergi Fernéndez, i2CAT, Barcelona | http://www.imac-project.eu | H2020-ICT-2016-2 761974 |
| Content4ALL | Content for All | Giacomo Inches,  Fincoms, Switzerland | http://content4all-project.eu/about/ | H2020-ICT-2016-2 762021 |
| Sign Hub | Preserving, researching and fostering the linguistic, historical and cultural heritage of European Deaf signing communities with an integral resource | Josep Quer, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona | https://www.upf.edu/web/sign-hub | 693349 |
| UMAQ | The Importance of Quality in Accessibility | Gian Maria Greco, UAB, Barcelona | http://pagines.uab.cat/umaq/ | [752659](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/208723_en.html) |

# Conclusion / Proposal /Proposals

Europe has some calls for international research engaging with other regions. The EU cluster would like to offer the existing resources and solutions to any country or language to aid media accessibility up taking. The cluster would also like to build a critical of information to avoid duplication of efforts and efficient implementation of media accessibility to secure an inclusive and diverse information society for all its citizens, and promote the democratic social participation without any exclusion.

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