



ICT FOR INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY IN LEARNING (ICT4IAL)

In summer 2012 the ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning (ICT4IAL) project was awarded a grant by the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Transversal Programme, Key Activity 3: Information and Communication Technology. ICT4IAL is a network of partners with the aim of using the outcomes of the Accessible Information Provision for Lifelong Learning project (<http://www.european-agency.org/agency-projects/i-access>) to foster accessibility of information in learning. The project activities began in January 2013 and run until December 2015. The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (the Agency) acts as project co-ordinator.

Project Aims

The ICT4IAL project is a multi-disciplinary network of European and International partners that represent both learning and ICT communities. The Agency together with European Schoolnet (EUN - <http://www.eun.org/>), the International Association of Universities (IAU - <http://www.iau-aiu.net/>), UNESCO (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/>), the DAISY Consortium (<http://www.daisy.org/>) and the Global Initiative of Inclusive ICTs (G3ICT - <http://www.g3ict.org/>) will:

1. Raise awareness and increase the visibility of the issue of accessible information provision and its relevance for equitable lifelong learning opportunities;
2. Support accessible information provision within organisations through the development, trialling and evaluation of guidelines that build upon already existing work in the field (notably the i-access project recommendations (<http://www.european-agency.org/agency-projects/i-access/recommendations>)).

Improving educational policy and practice for learners with special educational needs as well as improving the accessibility of ICT and information for learning is within the main interest of all ICT4IAL partners. Providing information on and for learning so it is accessible to all users is crucial, as non-compliance creates a barrier for learners with disabilities that compounds their special educational needs.

Project Objectives

Knowledge exchange and networking

The project activities will revolve around exchange within the network and the involvement of the partner members' country representatives during the project activities and especially in two major meetings:

- A Guideline Development Workshop in June 2013 in Portugal and
- A Dissemination Conference in May 2015 in Latvia.

The ICT4IAL network will work with experts in education and ICT from across Europe, as well as those working with key international organisations to exchange and collect multi-disciplinary knowledge with regard to accessibility of information for learning. Through this exchange guidelines for organisations to improve their information accessibility will be drafted.

This exchange between European and international experts in education and ICT will:

- support the efforts of the ICT4IAL network partners to improve the accessibility of their communication and information resources and thereby act as role models of accessibility;
- provide a pool of knowledge as well as network opportunities which will support the ICT4IAL network partners and their respective country networks in their efforts to improve accessibility policy and practice within their organisations and countries.

Developing and Trialling of Practical Guidelines

The Guidelines developed within the first year of project activities will be trialled within the work of three organisations (the Agency, EUN, IAU) working across the compulsory and higher education sectors with the support and direct input of key advisory bodies for ICT (DAISY, G3ict and UNESCO). The experiences gained through the implementation of the guidelines in three different contexts will be used as feedback for developing the final guidelines. The final Guidelines for Implementing Information Accessibility in Learning will be published as a report in up to 22 languages.

Reflection and Evaluation upon Implementation

The process of the implementing the Guidelines will be closely monitored and evaluated in order to identify learning points that will be of use to other organisations considering future developments in this area of work.

Details of this implementation including the challenges and successful approaches to overcoming challenges within work processes will be recorded in an Implementation Evaluation Report for each of the implementing organisations (the Agency, EUN and IAU). These reports will be summarised into an Implementation Evaluation Synthesis Summary, which will be translated in up to 22 languages.

The Implementation Evaluation Reports can be used by other organisations to support accessibility efforts, by providing a model of the processes involved in making organisations more accessible.

Validation of Guidelines

A process of feedback and validation of the Guidelines via the European and International country network members of the Agency, EUN and IAU, but also the global membership of UNESCO will lead to a set of agreed practical guidelines to support organisations in providing accessible information.

These Guidelines for Implementing Information Accessibility in Learning will be available as a full report (in English) and as a summary paper in 22 languages, to be used by organisations within the partners' networks, by giving practical solutions leading to more accessible information sharing.

More Information

More details about the ICT4IAL project can be obtained from:
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