NEWSLETTER 1.

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WELCOME

Digital accessibility in Europe is now under the spotlight after the approval in 2016 of the EU directive 2016/2102. Traditionally, ICT users have thought that digital accessibility was only a task for ICT professionals when designing and implementing websites and mobile apps. They also believed that it was something for very specific people, mainly those ones with disability.

WAMDIA wants to change the mindset of traditional ICT users. The fact is that everybody can contribute to accessibility of digital information by ensuring that common files that one can create are accessible: word processed, presentations or pdf files are good examples. Even more, this aspect of accessibility is key for the daily activity: e.g. the most accessible website is useless if even a single uploaded file is not accessible.

WAMDIA will enable general ICT users to make digital information accessible by teaching basic techniques which everybody with basic digital skills is able to apply in their daily lives. WAMDIA will target many types of general users who are not ICT experts: public employees, teachers and students in non-ICT programs in VET centres, SME managers and employees and, in general, any ICT user.

The kick-off meeting of WAMDIA was celebrated on 2nd and 3rd November of 2017 at the premises of University of Alcalá, specifically in the Polytechnic Building. Representatives from all partners, from Hungary, Sweden, Italy, Ireland and Spain put in two intensive days' work in the planning of the project as well as in the coordination of communication, financial and administrative procedures and dissemination strategy.

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The WAMDIA project is aimed at the promotion of digital accessibility from an ICT user's perspective within the context of the historic implementation by the European Union of the Directive 2016/2012, which promotes some minimum common standards in digital accessibility for websites, mobile applications and office and media files served to the public by governmental and authorities' websites or from websites supported by public funds (e.g. EU projects, national funded projects, etc.). Not all the European countries start from the same point of development of digital accessibility in terms of promotion or regulation by national and local authorities: for example, some have long-standing specific legislation which mandates adherence to some standards of digital accessibility in publicly funded websites, while in others digital accessibility is mainly something voluntary although encouraged and supported in some way by the authorities.

The analysis of the national reports about regulation of digital accessibility generated by all the partners is a key input for the design of the main intellectual outputs of the WAMDIA project: the awareness campaign and the training courses on digital accessibility for ICT users. The information enables the adjustment of those products to the local reality in each country. The information collected by the partners confirms that the regulations in the partners' countries are very different, so we can expect that different levels of awareness and even training in the different countries.

However, these initial conclusions must be contrasted with the results of the survey and the interviews to individuals which are planned for the activity IO1-A2: the general legal and regulatory framework may or may not have a real impact on individual and organisational culture and behaviour, although it is logical to assume the more regulation the more awareness and practice in digital accessibility. In the activity IO1-A2, each partner will get at least 35 responses to the online survey and conduct 3 interviews to especially relevant experts or managers of the target groups.

We All Make Digital Information Accessible

WAMDIA wants to change the mindset of traditional ICT users so that everybody can contribute to accessibility of digital information by ensuring that common files that one can create are accessible: word processed, presentations or pdf files are good examples. Moreover, this contribution is key because even the most accessible website is useless if a single file uploaded on it is not accessible. WAMDIA will allow ICT users to contribute to making digital information accessible.

Target groups

- Public employees;
- Teachers and students in non ICT programs in VET centres;
- SME managers and employees;

Objectives

- Study on digital accessibility and VET in each country;
- Design of awareness and curriculum strategy in digital accessibility, with connections to qualification frameworks and certifications that will extend the sustainability of the action for the future;
- Awareness and training resources in digital accessibility such as OER (Open Educational Resources) highly transferable, accessible and multilanguage with easy adaptation to new countries.

Programme: Erasmus+, Strategic Partnership, Vocational Education and Training

Participating countries: Spain, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Ireland

Project duration: October 2017 – September 2019

Project ID: 2017-1-ES01-KA202-038673

Project website:
http://wamdia.eu

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WAMDIA
Digitally accessible Europe

Partners