

NEWSLETTER 2.

Published by: University of Alcalá. October 2018
Editor: Luis Fernández Sanz. Copyright © WAMDIA Consortium

WAMDIA PROJECT FIND OUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING RECENTLY

In recent months, the project has produced decisive progress for the achievement of its objectives. The WAMDIA Consortium discussed the first results during the Transnational meeting in Budapest (28th -29th of June 2018) hosted in the welcoming venues of SZÁMALK-Szalézi Szakgimnázium, analysing the development of the activities of the first Intellectual Output “**O1. Study on digital accessibility and VET in each of the 5 EU countries of the consortium: Spain, Hungary, Italy, Sweden and Ireland**”. The analysis concentrated its attention on the three main target fields: VET education (including initial and life-long learning as well as continuous professional development), education in general, and government and public administration. For *O1/A1 Study of regulations, reports and local documentation* we can divide the obtained results in two groups:

- Countries with extensive regulation, already addressing many components regulated by the EU Directive 2016/2012: Spain and Italy. One can find a good percentage of public websites implementing measures for digital accessibility in big institutions like Ministries, Regional Government, etc. but smaller organisations such as educational centres or small agencies or municipalities are not considering digital accessibility sufficiently. Existing legislation does not cover some aspects, which are also governed by the EU directive.
- Countries that provide guidance and recommendations but only some regulation on digital accessibility, without comprehensive legislation on digital accessibility, at least in government and public administration institutions: Ireland, Sweden and Hungary. There are initiatives and voluntary programs in these countries but no compulsory regulation across the board as prescribed by the EU Directive (governmental and public administration institutions and educational centres).

The results of this analysis will better guide the two main actions of the project: the awareness campaign and the training courses on digital accessibility for ICT users.

For *O1/A2 Information from actors with the online survey, interviews and case studies* were well accepted, and the final sample reached was much greater than expected. The relevant conclusions were:

- Although a high percentage of the sample declared training in digital user skills, data on the type of training and certifications and the precedent of other studies suggest that the project must plan mechanisms to ensure participant at training courses already have a minimum acceptable level of digital user skills.
- The level of awareness of the idea of DA is higher in countries of Group2 (Italy and Spain) with stronger regulation. However, the correct interpretation of DA is equally poor in all countries, so the campaign of awareness and information must consider a greater effort in to rectify this in countries of Group1, but the awareness must be strongly promoted in all the countries. The clarification of the concept should also include a clear explanation of which digital objects are considered by the project as feasible for users, mainly office and media

files, but not databases, for example, while for websites we only address the use of tools to detect problems. Interviewed experts also revealed their scant understanding of DA.

- Ignorance of regulation of DA, and more specifically the lack of information about the EU Directive 2016/2012 is prevalent in all countries and among all types of stakeholders (and interviewed experts). Our campaign will disseminate the information on regulation.
- Most people are motivated and interested in promoting DA, thinking it is worth the effort and money invested in adaptation of digital assets. The SME segment is less motivated than the others (education and government) so the project campaign should be creative to change their minds. The preferred arguments to motivate are “prevention of isolation and discrimination, facilitating an integrated and equal society”, “It benefits everybody, not only people with disabilities” and “equity and justice for all” in order of preference while the obligation of regulation is hardly mentioned. Interviewed experts have also confirmed most of the ideas.
- People surveyed indicated their view that DA is a consideration not only for IT professionals, but also for all digital users. They are already convinced of the capacity of users to improve DA, although it is probable they do not know how. Our training and awareness campaign should insist on explaining the role of users in DA by working with office and media files. Interviewed experts remarked that the lack of guidelines and resources would hinder the real implementation of this approach in practice.
- There are differences among the three stakeholders’ groups (VET education, SME and Public Administration and Government) in terms of motivation and degree of implementation: the case of SME’s is especially relevant. Their employees and managers as well as companies tend to be less motivated and would adopt lower levels of implementation in activities like training or even certification/qualification of people. Obviously, this is consistent with the above-mentioned findings on interest in DA. However, the percentages of people interested in attending training or even getting certification are high so we expect good reception of our activities, as they were considered a good idea by interviewed experts. The personal interest of respondents in being trained or getting a certification is also very high.



NEWSLETTER 2.

Published by: University of Alcalá. October 2018
Editor: Luis Fernández Sanz. Copyright © WAMDIA Consortium

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>

Coordinator: University of Alcalá.

Contact: Luis Fernández Sanz.

Email: luis.fernandezs@uah.es



WAMDIA

Digitally accessible Europe



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Partners

