

The logo consists of the text 'a@web' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The '@' symbol is significantly larger than the other characters and is centered between the 'a' and 'web'. The entire logo is set against a solid blue rectangular background.

a@web

„WEB-Access” European Project

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„WEB-Access“, Joint Programme on Accessible Web Design

- AGREEMENT NUMBER - 2007 - 2599 / 001 – 001
- PROJECT NUMBER - 133818-LLP-1-2007-1-AT-ERASMUS-ECDEM
- Period 24 months: started in October 2007 and will last for two years
- Website: <http://www.bfwd.at/webaccess>

6 partner institutions from Austria (the lead partner), UK, Ireland, Hungary, Germany, Spain

- The partner institutions involved in the Web_Access project are leaders and experts in the field of ICT, assistive technologies and accessible information systems including accessible web design. Many of the partners are already running single courses or educational programmes of different types regarding accessible web design in their countries.

- Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Institut Integriert Studieren, (IIS) Austria: <http://www.integriert-studieren.jku.at/>
- Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), Department of Information and Communications, United Kingdom: <http://www.hlss.mmu.ac.uk/infocomms/>
- Dublin City University (DCU), School of Computing, Ireland: <http://www.computing.dcu.ie>
- University of Pannonia (UNP), Department of Image Processing and Neurocomputing, Hungary: <http://www.knt.vein.hu>
- Universität Karlsruhe (TH), Studienzentrum für Sehgeschädigte (SZS),
Germany: <http://www.szs.uni-karlsruhe.de>
- Baobab Association (BAO), Spain: <http://www.associacio-baobab.org>

Problem: people get older

- The "Joint Programme on Accessible Web Design" is a unique training at academic level in Europe, situated in a seminal area.
- The reason for this is the demographic trend in Europe and other industrialised countries as more and more people get older and they are at higher risk to experience a disability or multiple disabilities.
- They need to handle with Assistive Technologies which help them to overcome and compensate their disability in different areas of life and to participate in social activities.
- Accessible Web Design is located in this area and allows people with disabilities to recall information from the internet which is of high relevance, and becoming increasingly more meaningful.

Goal

- More and more services are available on the WWW. Therefore, it is important to provide this information in an accessible way in order to support people with disabilities (PwD) taking part in the information and communication society.
- The project owes its development to the fact that surveys and reports have identified no significant improvement to the overall accessibility of websites, particularly for people with disabilities.
- There is an identified need to improve the situation by raising awareness and understanding through more formal education and training. The project will develop new modules and re-purpose existing materials offered by the partner institutions as part of an international online joint study programme in accessible web design.

- **The partner consortium will develop a unified comprehensive study programme** on accessible web design at a European level.
- **Target groups** are web designers, students/graduates in computer sciences and related fields of study, and those who have achieved equivalent knowledge and skills. Among them we would especially like to encourage the participation of people with disabilities (PwD) in order to bring their expert knowledge to this field and to enhance their employability.
- **Expected outputs** of Web_Access are the provision of international learning materials that take into account national diversity in the field of accessible web design in order to improve knowledge concerning this field within Europe.

The curriculum

- Introduction to Accessible Web Design.
- Basics regarding Assistive Technologies (AT).
- Principles of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI).
- Legal basics regarding Accessible Web Design/PwD.
- Techniques for Accessible Design.
- User interaction design.

Fundamentals of Accessibility

- Introduction to Accessible Web Design
- Societal Impacts and Effects of Accessible Web Design
- Technical Foundations
- (8 ECTS)
- Developed by MMU

Assistive Technology

- Basics in Assistive Technologies
- Categories of Assistive Technologies
- Human Computer Interaction
- (7 ECTS)
- Developed by: IIS and SZS

Guidelines and Legal Requirements

- Web Accessibility standards and guidelines
- National and International legal framework
- (5 ECTS)
- Developed by: MMU

Special Knowledge on Accessibility

- Techniques for Accessible Web Design
- Evaluation and Repair methodology and tools
- Basics in Software Accessibility
- Accessible Multimedia on the Web
- Authoring Tools and User Agents
- Accessible Document Development
- Web Application in practice – best and worst practice
- (18 ECTS)
- Developed by: IIS, SZS, BAO, MMU

Design and Usability

- Usability Engineering
- User Interaction Design
- (6 ECTS)
- Developed by: UNP, DCU

Project Development

- Design and Redesign of a Web Application in Practice
- Project design: methods and tools
- Project management techniques
- Marketing and sales strategies
- Soft Skills – Counselling and Coaching
- Accessibility and usability audit
- (16 ECTS)
- Developed by: UNP, DCU

Expected result

- During the study programme students will get specialist knowledge in the field of accessible web design, including knowledge which is necessary to understand the special situation of people with disabilities and the given legal basis worldwide with special regard to European approaches.
- They will gain knowledge about new and comprehensive materials in the field of accessible web design.
- The joint programme is also innovative regarding the presentation of teaching and training materials.
- Materials is delivered in accessible formats. Authors, moreover, get templates helping them to develop materials in accessible formats.
- These materials is provided on an accessible eLearning-platform, as this is a possibility to quickly exchange materials between partners.

Expected result

- Graduates will be able to develop and evaluate web sites regarding their accessibility.
- They will be able to counsel accessibility projects on the internet and will have the possibility to plan, design and realise a new barrier-free internet presence.

Summary

- **Web_Access** is a two year project (2007-2009) supported by the European Commission Lifelong Learning Programme.
- The **overall aim** is to help improve web accessibility throughout Europe by the development of a distance-learning programme in accessible web design for web professionals. It will result in a range of Europe-wide education and training courses that will be designed to be accessible to as many people as possible, including people with disabilities.

Thanks for your kind attention!

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Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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