OUTCOME REPORT



ACCESSIBLE EUROPE: ICT 4 ALL 2025
2 – 3 December 2025

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ITU would like to express its appreciation to the **high-level interventions** delivered during the **High-Level Session: International Day of Persons with Disabilities of the second day**, in particular to **Ms. Ana Gallego**, Director-General for Justice and Consumers at the European Commission; **Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis**, President of the European Disability Forum; **Mr. Georges van Montfort**, Deputy Director of the UN House; **Dr. Tawfik Jelassi**, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information at UNESCO; and **Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán**, Director of the European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU).

ITU also wishes to thank the **session moderators** (Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe; Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST); Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Head, Digital Inclusion Service, ITU; Ms. Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe; Ms. Viktoriia Omelianenko, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe; Mr. Guillem Martinez Roura, AI and Robotics Programme Officer; Mr. Alejandro Moledo del Río, Deputy Director, European Disability Forum) whose valuable insight and guidance played a key role in fostering meaningful and productive discussions throughout the Forum.

Finally, ITU extends sincere thanks to all members of the **Programme Committee** who made this event possible: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe and Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST) for chairing the Forum; Ms. Katherine FitzGerald, Administrative Assistant, ITU Office for Europe, Ms. Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe, and Ms. Andrea Matasova, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe for coordinating the delivery of the event; and to Ms. Hanhee Yoon, Junior Accessibility Policy Analyst, ITU Office for Europe for supporting the organisation of the event and developing this report.

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2

1. INTRODUCTION 4

2. PARTICIPATION 5

3. DOCUMENTATION 6

4. WELCOME REMARKS 6

5. CONFERENCE SESSIONS 8

SESSION 1: INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND TARGETS FOR DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY 8

SESSION 2: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN EUROPE: TURNING POLICIES INTO PRACTICE AND ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION 11

SESSION 3: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR 14

SESSION 4: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR 16

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 19

SESSION 5: ACCESSIBILITY IN SMART CITIES & VIRTUAL WORLDS 22

SESSION 6: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) FOR DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY 24

SESSION 8: FIRESIDE CHAT ON DRIVING INNOVATION FOR DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY 27

6. PITCHING COMPETITION 29

NUMBER DRAW FOR PITCHING COMPETITION 29

SESSION 7: PITCHING COMPETITION: DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR ACCESSIBLE EUROPE 30

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS 31

7. CLOSING REMARKS 33

1. INTRODUCTION

The "Accessible Europe 2025: ICT 4 All" was held in Brussels, Belgium on 2nd and 3rd December 2025. The Forum was jointly organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Commission (EC), with the support of Fundación ONCE and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH).

The Forum built upon the successful work of the 2023 edition held in Madrid, Spain. It was held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe "EUR 3: Digital inclusion and skills development" and its objectives, defined and adopted by member states during the 2022 World Telecommunication Development Conference, jointly with the Resolution WTDC 58 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) "Telecommunication/information and communication technology accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs."

The event provided an opportunity for multistakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge sharing on key digital accessibility themes, addressing policy and implementation in light of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) requirement for Member States to implement their transposed national laws by June 2025, as well as emerging innovative fields such as Smart Cities, Virtual Worlds and Artificial Intelligence.

Key topics covered by the Forum included:

- Session 1: International and Regional Perspective on Policies, Strategies, and Targets for Digital Accessibility
- Session 2: Digital Accessibility in Europe: Turning Policies into Practice and Advancing Implementation
- Session 3: Digital Accessibility in the Public Sector
- Session 4: Digital Accessibility in the Private Sector
- Session 5: Accessibility in Smart Cities & Virtual Worlds
- Session 6: Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Digital Accessibility
- Session 7: Pitching Competition on Digital Innovative Solutions for Accessible Europe
- Session 8: Fireside Chat on Driving Innovation for Digital Accessibility

Figure 1 - Accessible Europe 2025



2. PARTICIPATION

The 2025 Accessible Europe: ICT 4 All involved diverse stakeholders the governments, private sector, academia, and civil society organisations. The Forum served as a regional platform for policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and exchange of best practices among European stakeholders, bridging public and private sector perspectives and highlighting the voices of communities and organizations representing persons with disabilities.

Over 90 participants (110+ registered) representing 26 countries participated on-site in the conference, including high-level representatives of the European Commission, European Disability Forum, UN House in Brussels, UNESCO, and European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU).

Participants represented the following countries:
Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Türkiye, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

The Forum was held in person, with virtual streaming of live captioning and International Sign Language (IS) interpretation. Participants also had access to an app providing automated captioning and IS interpretation on personal devices. Specially positioned cameras and seating facilitated sign-to-English translation for participants who use sign language. A ramp to the stage and reserved spaces for wheelchair users were also provided. This format promoted full inclusivity for participants.

Figure 2 – Group photo



3. DOCUMENTATION

The Regional Forum was held in person, with Session 1 being the one exceptional hybrid session to accommodate speakers representing international perspectives beyond Europe. Relevant documentation, including the agenda and speaker list, was made available in electronic form on the event webpage: http://itu.int/go/EUR_ICT4ALL

4. WELCOME REMARKS

The Forum opened with high-level interventions from government representatives, regulators, and international organizations, setting the tone for two days of regional dialogue and cooperation on building a resilient and human-centric digital world.

Marking the beginning of Accessible Europe 2025, **Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, welcomed and thanked all stakeholders for their participation, emphasizing Accessible Europe's mission to serve as a regional platform to advance digital accessibility across Europe. He highlighted digital accessibility as a fundamental principle critical to ensuring the social, economic, and civic participation of persons with disabilities. Mr. Ponder reflected on the recent World Telecommunication Development Conference, where Member States updated Resolution 58 on ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, reaffirming their commitment to upholding digital accessibility. He noted Europe's leadership in the field of digital accessibility with efforts like the European Accessibility Act and emphasized the importance on becoming leading global examples demonstrating the value of harmonization and cooperation. He also noted ITU's broader efforts, alongside the Forum, that provide concrete and practical instruments for supporting ICT accessibility, ensuring no one is left behind. Mr. Ponder took a moment to recognize BDT Director Dr. Cosmas Zavazava's leadership in making accessibility one of the priorities, highlighting the Director's aim to launch Accessible World in 2026, building on the momentum built on the regional levels. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the partners: European Commission, Fundacion ONCE, and EFHOH.

Welcome Remarks by the European Commission

Ms. Ana Carla Pereira, Director of Equality and Non-discrimination, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), European Commission, reiterated the significance of the week, which includes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. She emphasized the Commission's commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities, noting that accessibility is a prerequisite for equality and inclusion. She underscored Europe's longstanding work on accessibility, including the European Accessibility Act, the Web Accessibility Directive, EU Public Procurement Directive, and EU-funded digital infrastructure initiatives. She highlighted the importance of mutual learning in facilitating policy implementation, especially for enlargement countries. She recognized cooperation with ITU as a key partnership to staying informed of global developments and to support enlargement countries in aligning with EU standards.

Ms. Pereira highlighted that accessibility is one of the eight objectives pursued through the European Commission Strategy that notes its commitments until 2030. She underscored the event's role in inciting reflection and input on the many new challenges that must be embraced to achieve the object of accessibility. Finally, she expressed gratitude particularly to civil society, as well as Fundacion ONCE and the European Disability Forum.

Welcome Remarks by the European Disability Forum

Mr. Alejandro Moledo del Río, Deputy Director of the European Disability Forum, extended his gratitude to the ITU and EC for inviting EDF to the event, as well as Fundacion ONCE and EFHOH as partner organizations for their active advocacy for accessibility. He recognized Europe's significant achievements in building a robust legal framework for accessibility, promoting harmonization and addressing past inconsistencies across Member States. Mr. Moledo recalled the resistance encountered during negotiations of the EAA, particularly arguments claiming accessibility would be costly or hinder innovation, noting that the lack of ambition on the scope of accessibility persists in legal frameworks. Despite remaining gaps, he emphasized that EAA provides the foundation for systemic and normative change. To ensure continued advancements, he proposes the inclusion of EAA elements in important legislation such as the AI Act. He underlined the need to build capacity across all actors and advocated for establishing a European Agency for Accessibility to consolidate expertise and support implementation. Finally, Mr. Moledo warned against simplification and urged continued protection and promotion of accessibility in digital legislation, highlighting the importance of harmonized international uptake of the EAA. To this end, he recognized ITU for its work in harmonization. He lastly reaffirmed the disability movement's readiness to support initiatives toward more accessible societies and technologies.

Figure 3 - Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder



Figure 4 - Ms. Ana Carla



Figure 5 - Mr. Alejandro Moledo del Río



5. Conference Sessions

Session 1: International and Regional Perspective on Policies, Strategies, and Targets for Digital Accessibility

Focus: International and regional perspective on policies, strategies, and targets for digital accessibility. The session focused on the international perspective on advancing digital accessibility by highlighting both legislative progress and practical implementation examples and challenges. Speakers addressed the European Accessibility Act, the Web Accessibility Directive, and related sectoral legislation, emphasizing the importance of strong legal frameworks as a foundation for normative change and inclusive design. The discussion also explored the role of standards, enforcement, and capacity building for Member States, industry, and disability organizations. Panellists collectively emphasized the value of international cooperation, harmonization, and active engagement of persons with disabilities to ensure accessibility, equality, and full participation in the digital society.

Moderator: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe

Panellists: Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Head, Digital Inclusion Service, ITU; Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, Director of the Brussels Office, UNESCO; Ms. Sarah Malelu, Team Lead & Secretariat Global Disability Summit, GIZ, Germany; Dr. Sachin Pavithran, Executive Director, US Access Board.

Figure 6 - Session 1 Panel



Figure 7 - Audience Q&A



Key points:

Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe

- Introduced each speaker and their representative organizations: ITU, CRPD, UNESCO, GIZ, and US Access Board.
- Introduced the focus of the session, presenting the international perspective, highlighting that the deliberate composition of the panel provides insights into key initiatives at the UN level as well as the Member States perspectives.

Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Head, Digital Inclusion Service, ITU

- Emphasized accessibility as crucial for digital inclusion, human rights, and the future of work.
- Underscored the economic and social benefits of implementing digital accessibility.
- Stressed the importance of addressing the accessibility gap alongside the connectivity gap.

Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST); Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- Emphasized the shift of focus towards implementation now that the turning point has been reached this year with the EAA becoming enforceable.
- Stressed the need for capacity-building and encouraging the integration of accessibility into innovation, even for those shaping future technologies without formal legal obligations.
- Noted progress in reviewing alignment of national legislation with EAA requirements, with several Member States finalized, ready to provide clarity for economic operators.

Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, Director of the Brussels Office

- Noted the adoption of UNESCO's Disability Inclusion Strategy 2026–2029, largely aligned with the EU strategy, promoting intersectoral coordination to mainstream accessibility across programs and regions.
- Outlined practical resources, including the Digital Inclusion Resource Guide, aimed to support harmonization of approaches for interoperable digital accessibility.
- Stressed the importance of consultation with persons with disabilities and civil society to inform planning, implementation, and evaluation of accessibility initiatives.

Ms. Sarah Malelu, Team Lead & Secretariat Global Disability Summit, GIZ, Germany

- Shared the outcomes of the Global Disability Summit 2025, highlighting the Amman Declaration and 800+ commitments to accelerate disability inclusion.
- Described the concrete implementation of a comprehensive accessibility concept for the Global Disability Summit, including removing all inaccessible features from the website.
- Highlighted GIZ's Digital Inclusion Toolbox to provide practical support especially to those working on accessible projects in low and middle-income countries.

Dr. Sachin Pavithran, Executive Director, US Access Board

- Acknowledged Europe's commendable work with the EAA, noting that the US is observing the EU's experience to draw lessons and guide its ongoing efforts, particularly in the private sector.
- Noted that the current focus in the U.S. is on Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which primarily emphasises compliance with WCAG 2.0, but agencies are encouraged to adopt WCAG 2.1 to exceed minimum accessibility requirements.
- Highlighted that, starting in 2026, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act will enforce accessibility standards across all state and local governments, ensuring nationwide compliance.
- Noted the freeze in federal regulatory work, with the focus under the new administration on evaluating internal accessibility across federal agencies, with a Section 508 compliance report due to Congress by the end of December.

Points made during discussion

- Question: Audience asked about how to accelerate digital accessibility, noting that laws and standards exist but many developers and organizations fail to implement them effectively.
- Answered by Ms. Widmer and Ms. Porrero: Emphasized establishing clear legal frameworks, building capacity and training from the start, using harmonized standards, monitoring and enforcing compliance, integrating accessibility into emerging digital regulation, and involving persons with disabilities in creating, monitoring, and enforcing.

SESSION 2: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN EUROPE: TURNING POLICIES INTO PRACTICE AND ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION

Focus: This session focused on the European perspective of advancing accessibility and inclusion, highlighting progress, challenges, and future developments in legislation, standards, and practices to ensure practical implementation. Panellists discussed the Web Accessibility Directive, the European Accessibility Act, assistive technologies, and initiatives like Accessible EU, emphasizing the need for professional training, community involvement, and knowledge dissemination. Key themes included ensuring accessibility in emerging technologies such as AI, fostering universally designed digital services, addressing gaps between legislation and implementation, and promoting a mindset shift to make accessibility mainstream. The session also stressed collaboration among policymakers, experts, and end users to ensure that accessibility measures are practical, effective, and inclusive.

Moderator: Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST); Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Panellists: Mr. Robin Massart, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect), European Commission; Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán, Director, European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU); Ms. Lidia Best, President, European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH); Dr. Mario Hernandez Ramos, Professor and Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Council of Europe; Ms. Susanna Laurin, Representative to the EU, International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP)

Figure 8 - Session 2 Panel



Figure 9 - Ms. Lidia Best and Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán



Key points:

Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST); Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

- Introduced the speakers and the focus of the session: insights from the European perspective.
- Stressed the importance of designing AI from the outset with accessibility in mind, analyzing context, potential impacts, and the needs of people with disabilities and others who may face barriers.

Mr. Robin Massart, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect), European Commission

- Provided an overview of the Web Accessibility Directive, highlighting the latest developments including the WCAG 2.2 and harmonization to support the EAA.
- Expressed hopes that these developments will push the accessibility market to increase professional skills, accessibility professional certifications, and the overall ease of creating and monitoring accessible digital content.
- Noted progress in implementation, with Member States showing strong efforts to make public web services accessible, but highlighted varying levels of compliance, emphasizing that accessibility is an ongoing journey.
- Highlighted key challenges including low usage of feedback mechanisms for reporting inaccessibility of public sector websites, the need for more training and access to accessibility experts, and the inherent difficulty of monitoring mobile applications and documents.

Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán, Director, European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU)

- Noted Fundcaion ONCE's focus on employment for persons with disabilities and accessibility, working to break barriers in municipalities, leisure, and tourism.
- Highlighted the Innovation Lab, working on robotics and AI, collaborating with governments, universities, and disability organizations to integrate accessibility across all areas of society.
- Shared Accessible EU's achievements in implementation, including the organization of 268 event with 57,000 participants, provision of 850 good practice references, and development of 30 indicators to monitor accessibility progress across countries.

Ms. Lidia Best, President, European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH)

- Introduced EFHOH's work on supporting people with hearing difficulties, noting the need for support through assistive listening technologies and captioning for accessibility.
- Highlighted global progress with international standards on hearing loops improving access to audio at events, noting the growing adoption in the built environment.
- Emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between legislation and practice, shifting mindsets, and continuing to push for better accessibility despite challenges and fatigue in the community.
- Reinforced Ms. Laurin's point that "accessibility is not that hard," urging the mindset shift.

Dr. Mario Hernandez Ramos, Professor and Chair of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Council of Europe

- Noted concerns about the role of AI in society, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- Shared the progress of the committee for studying the feasibility of an international instrument on AI, human rights, democracy, and law, having completed the negotiation and drafting of the first international, legally binding instrument on AI, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.
- Provided an overview of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, human rights, democracy, and rule of law as a future-proof legal framework, noting Article 18 of the international treaty which obliges states to consider the specific necessities for persons with disabilities.
- Highlighted the ongoing development of methodologies to assess AI risks and impacts, involving relevant stakeholders in the process of assessing AI impact on human rights.

Ms. Susanna Laurin, Representative to the EU, International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP)

- Stressed that accessibility must be mainstreamed across all developers, designers, UX designers, and content managers to achieve scalable impact, as relying solely on experts is not enough.
- Emphasized that accessibility is straightforward and self-evident, cautioning against framing standards as complex, instead urging immediate action for implementation.
- Outlined updates to three existing ICT and built environment standards (EN 301 549, EN 17161, EN 17210) and the creation of three new standards on digitalisation, support services, and emergency communication, emphasizing their importance for implementation and public procurement.
- Noted a gap between accessibility experts and understanding in technical aspects including AI, urging for increased collaboration between AI and accessibility experts.

Points made during discussion

- Question: Audience asked about how the Commission will ensure that the legal framework translates into universally accessible and inclusive digital services in the workplace.
- Answered by Ms. Porrero: It is the combination of ensuring accessibility of tools as well as the individual employer responsibility to ensure accessibility of the environment.

SESSION 3: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Focus: The session focused on digital accessibility in the public sector, emphasizing that accessibility is not just a technical requirement but a matter of governance, equity, and citizen rights. Key highlights included the persistent gap between legal compliance and real user experience, the importance of embedding accessibility from the design stage in public services, and the critical role of training, skills development, and user involvement, especially persons with disabilities, in monitoring and co-creating accessible solutions. Speakers shared experiences from Slovenia, Moldova, Croatia, and Poland, highlighting challenges such as enforcement, outdated platforms, and the need for systematic audits, while also pointing to opportunities for innovation, universal design, and inclusive digital governance.

Moderator: Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Head, Digital Inclusion Service, ITU

Panellists: Mr. Tonko Obuljen, President, Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM), Croatia; Dr. Dusan Caf, Chairman, Electronic Communications Council of the Republic of Slovenia; Director, Digitas Institute; Mr. Vitalie Boboc, Head, Electronic and Postal Communications Policy Directorate, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, Moldova; Mr. Rafał Kanarek, Main Specialist, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

Figure 10 - Session 3 Panel



Figure 11 - Mr. Rafał Kanarek



Key points:

Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu, Head, Digital Inclusion Service, ITU

- Emphasized that millions of Europeans still face barriers to accessing essential public digital services, making real-world implementation of accessibility frameworks essential.
- Discussed the need for public institutions to lead by example, acknowledging that ITU websites are not yet fully compliant with Web Accessibility, noting ongoing efforts towards it.

Mr. Tonko Obuljen, President, Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM), Croatia

- Acknowledged that HAKOM website lacks accessibility, promising improvement soon.
- Highlighted the new establishment of three formal advisory mechanisms (for persons with disabilities, children, and older adults) to involve users, academics, operators, and public institutions in improving accessibility and sharing knowledge.
- Emphasized that "the most effective regulatory mechanisms are sanctions" for compliance.
- Advocated for accessibility education and training at all levels, from schools to universities, to ensure future developers integrate accessibility into digital services sustainably.

Dr. Dusan Caf, Chairman, Electronic Communications Council of the Republic of Slovenia

- Highlighted that the main barriers to accessibility in Slovenia are in the implementation aspects including enforcement, lack of proper technical skills, governance, and awareness.
- Noted that many public sector websites remain inaccessible due to outsourcing, lack of skilled developers, and overreliance on automated tools, despite good legislation.
- Emphasized the importance of training for developers, policymakers, and users, developing a common curriculum, and involving persons with disabilities not only in auditing but also in monitoring, policymaking, and enforcement.

Mr. Vitalie Boboc, Head, Electronic and Postal Communications Policy Directorate, Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalisation, Moldova

- Noted that as an EU candidate state, they have transposed the EU accessibility framework and ratified the CRPD.
- Explained that public authorities have a legal obligation to ensure websites and electronic services comply with accessibility approaches and model provided by the central Egov agency.
- Emphasized that involving users and organizations of persons with disabilities helps close the gap between accessibility on paper and in practice, with market surveillance and legal enforcement mechanisms available to address noncompliance.

Mr. Rafał Kanarek, Main Specialist, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

- Acknowledged that despite adopting the Web Accessibility Act in 2019, no Polish public website has yet achieved full compliance.
- Highlighted the Ministry's approach to bridging the gap between governance and reality by embedding user experience into monitoring, requiring audits to include input and personal comments from persons with disabilities to ensure real-world usability is reflected in reports.
- Emphasized the importance of early consultation with persons with disabilities ("Nothing About Us Without Us") and integrating accessibility into operational and maintenance processes to ensure continued web accessibility.

Points made during the discussion:

- Audience urged regulators to ensure live subtitling for all major announcements as hard of hearing people were excluded from access to critical information during the COVID time.
- Audience asked if there is hope for effective implementation of existing solutions. Mr. Obuljen responded that, beyond sanctions, progress could also come from requiring public institutions to allocate a dedicated portion of their budgets to accessibility improvements.
- Audience asked how countries are shifting mindsets to integrate universal design from the start of development. In response, Mr. Kanarek underscord that early accessibility boosts usability and market potential while Mr. Boboc added that it also drives innovation, particularly for startups.

SESSION 4: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Focus: The session focused on the challenges and opportunities of embedding digital accessibility in the private sector. Key ideas included the importance of accessibility by design, integrating accessibility from the start of product development, and ensuring accountability, governance, and cultural commitment within organizations. Panellists highlighted the role of AI and digital technology in enhancing accessibility, the need for practical guidance and education, and the value of involving persons with disabilities early in the process. The overall message emphasized shifting the mindset from "making products accessible" to creating inherently accessible products, making inclusion a standard and sustainable practice across industries.

Moderator: Ms. Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe

Panellists: Ms. Karen Massin, Head, Government Affairs and Public Policy - EU Institutions, Google; Mr. Klaus-Peter Wegge, Head, Accessibility Competence Center, Siemens; Mr. Roel Van Gils, Founder, Eleven Ways; Ms. Alexia Papadimitriou, Senior Research and Innovation Manager, Digital Europe; Dr. Mārcis Pinnis, Chief AI Officer, Tilde, Latvia

Figure 12 - Session 4 Panel



Figure 13 - Mr. Klaus-Peter Wegge



Key points:

Ms. Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe

- Set the session's focus on moving accessibility from isolated efforts to impactful systemic adoption through shared understanding, practical solutions, and private sector innovation.
- Emphasized the importance of digital accessibility in the private sector, noting that the best designs are those that removes barriers.
- Highlighted that despite good intentions, accessibility remains inconsistent and siloed due to competing priorities, legacy systems, and organizational structures not built for inclusion.

Ms. Karen Massin, Head, Government Affairs and Public Policy - EU Institutions, Google

- Stressed that technology should adapt to people, not the other way around, ensuring inclusion for all types of disabilities, including temporary or age-related impairments.
- Highlighted the importance of consistent legislation, like the Accessibility Directive, to provide a unified baseline across countries and avoid creating multiple product versions.
- Described practical accessibility innovations in technology, such as screen enlargement, voice/eye commands, vibrations for notifications, and live captions, emphasizing continuous improvement and user-cantered design.
- Emphasized that consulting with affected users and embedding accessibility from the design stage are crucial to creating products that truly meet users' needs.
- Emphasized a practical, iterative approach: leveraging technology, working with experts, constantly improving processes, and starting early rather than waiting for perfection to make accessibility part of everyday practice.

Mr. Klaus-Peter Wegge, Head, Accessibility competence Center, Siemens

- Emphasized that accessibility should be simple, achievable, cost-effective, and treated as a self-evident quality criterion in products and services.
- Criticized overcomplication of accessibility due to excessive legal debates and law firms issuing warnings, which can distract from practical implementation.
- Highlighted the importance of functional and content accessibility, urging companies to actively engage their brains to ensure usability, not just rely on AI or text generation.
- Noted that standards are essential for a common understanding internationally, despite being difficult to read or implement.
- Pointed to emerging technologies like AI and virtual/augmented reality as areas where accessibility solutions are still uncertain but expected to evolve significantly.
- Stressed that accessibility must be embedded from the design stage, supported by internal competence centres, standardized guidelines, low-code tools, and early testing to ensure efficiency and avoid redundant efforts.

Mr. Roel Van Gils, Founder, Eleven Ways

- Identified lack of accountability as key reason accessibility efforts often fail, with responsibility scattered across roles rather than assigned to a dedicated person.
- Warned that treating accessibility as a temporary project or mere compliance task undermines meaningful implementation.
- Emphasized that top-down responsibility with clear mandate and engagement is essential, as bottom-up awareness alone is insufficient.
- Noted that smaller companies often start on the wrong foot, and success depends on understanding accessibility, engaging users, creating a roadmap, and wisely investing budgets rather than relying solely on external audits.

Ms. Alexia Papadimitriou, Senior Research and Innovation Manager, Digital Europe

- Emphasized that sustainable accessibility requires shifting from a specialized task to a shared organizational responsibility with clear governance, roles, and ownership.
- Highlighted the importance of fostering a culture of inclusion and transparency, as well as involving persons with disabilities throughout design, evaluation, and feedback.
- Stressed the need for human oversight and accountability in AI, embedding accessibility into everyday decision-making rather than treating it as a reactive fix.
- Highlighted that long-term accessibility success requires an ecosystem with trained teams, clear guidance and standards, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and regulatory support.

Dr. Mārcis Pinnis, Chief AI Officer, Tilde, Latvia

- Questioned whether institutions truly grasp the importance of accessibility, noting that cost-cutting often leads to reduced services even when lives or inclusion are affected.
- Highlighted that some technologies, like multilingual machine translation, are perceived as a luxury rather than essential accessibility tools, reflecting inconsistent understanding of accessibility's value.
- Emphasized that legal requirements alone do not guarantee meaningful accessibility, and broader commitment is needed to ensure equitable access.
- Highlighted that AI accessibility requires language equity, ensuring AI models treat all languages equally through careful data representation and training approaches to provide consistent outputs across under-resourced languages, while recognizing the considerable difficulty in achieving language equity.

Points made during the discussion:

- Accessibility must be embedded from the start in product design, making it a core competence rather than an optional or reactive task.
- Key barriers include organizational culture, awareness, and education; technical solutions are often straightforward, but effective implementation requires informed teams and user involvement.
- Reinforcing the shift in mindset: "stop speaking about making digital products accessible, and start making accessible digital products," ensuring accessibility is inherent, inclusive, and future-ready across all products and services.

HIGH-LEVEL SESSION: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Focus: The session was dedicated to observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, highlighting the importance of digital accessibility, inclusion, and the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Leaders from the ITU, European Commission, European Disability Forum, UN House in Brussels, UNESCO, and European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU) shared experiences, best practices, and examples of initiatives advancing accessibility in Europe and globally. The session emphasized collaboration between public and private sectors, the role of legislation, inclusive design, and the transformative potential of accessible technologies to ensure equal participation, employment, and social engagement for all.

Co-Moderator: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head, ITU Office for Europe; Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert, Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), Member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Panellists: Dr. Cosmas Zavazava*, Director, Telecommunications Development Bureau, ITU; Ms. Ana Gallego*, Director General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), European Commission; Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis*, President, European Disability Forum; Mr. Daniel Casas, Accessibility Policy Officer, European Disability Forum; Mr. Georges van Montfort, Deputy Director, UN House in Brussels; Dr. Tawfik Jelassi*, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO; Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, Director of the Brussels Office, UNESCO; Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán, Director, European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU)

* High-level video messages
Representatives were present in the on-site panel to introduce and support high-level video messages.

Figure 14 – High-Level Panel



Figure 15 – Dr. Cosmas Zavazava (ITU)



Figure 16 – Ms. Ana Gallego (EC)



Figure 17 – Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis (EDF)



Figure 18 – Mr. Georges van Montfort (UN House in Brussels)



Figure 19 – Dr. Tawfik Jelassi (UNESCO)



Figure 20 – Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán (Accessible EU)



Key points from high-level messages:

Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Director, Telecommunications Development Bureau, ITU

- Emphasized digital inclusion as a driver for education, healthcare, employment, and social participation, and the importance of regional events for multistakeholder dialogue and sharing best practices.
- Reaffirmed ITU's commitment to advance ICT 4 All, supporting the 1.3 billion persons with disabilities globally.

Ms. Ana Gallego, Director General, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), European Commission

- Highlighted accessibility as a driver of rights and innovation, benefiting everyone through flexible, adaptable, and personalized technologies.
- Stressed the need for awareness and capacity-building among digital professionals to implement accessibility legislation effectively.

Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis, President, European Disability Forum

- Emphasized strong legislation, involvement of disability organizations, and provision of resources as key to effective accessibility policies.
- Called for continued advocacy, accessibility AI legislation, forming a European accessibility agency, business investment in accessibility skills, and inclusion in education.

Mr. Georges van Montfort, Deputy Director, UN House in Brussels

- Shared lessons from inclusive recruitment, stressing the importance of not making assumptions and providing accommodations.
- Outlined priorities: inclusive design from the start, a twin-track approach combining mainstream and specific tools, and scaling local innovation.

Dr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO

- Emphasized accessibility as essential for human rights, equitable access to information, and inclusion in digital spaces.
- Highlighted priorities of multilingual information access and digital media accessibility, supported by UNESCO resources and guides.

Dr. Jesús Hernández Galán, Director, European Accessibility Resource Centre (Accessible EU)

- Celebrated achievements in accessibility, employment, and inclusive services across Europe.
- Shared the Accessible EU campaign promoting accessible, suitable, and useful environments and services.

SESSION 5: ACCESSIBILITY IN SMART CITIES & VIRTUAL WORLDS

Focus: The session on Accessibility in Smart Cities & Virtual Worlds explored how emerging technologies, including AI and digital twins, can shape inclusive smart city and virtual environments. Panellists emphasized the importance of strong European legislation, human-centred data governance, and standards implementation to ensure accessibility by design. Discussions highlighted challenges in representation, interoperability, and education around data, as well as promising developments such as the city verse and immersive technologies to improve access for persons with disabilities.

Moderator: Ms. Viktoriia Omelianenko, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe

Panellists: Dr. Pilar Orero, FG-MV WG8 Co-Chair; Professor, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain; Mr. Karl-Filip Coenegrachts, Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC), Belgium, (Vice-Chair of ITU Global Initiative on Virtual Worlds); Mr. Klaus Höckner, CEO, Austrian Association for Blind and Visually Impaired (Hilfsgemeinschaft); Dr. Carlos Duarte, Associate Professor, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Figure 21 - Session 5 Panel



Figure 22 - Mr. Karl-Filip Coenegrachts



Key points:

Ms. Viktoriia Omelianenko, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe

- Set the session's focus on accessibility in smart cities and virtual worlds, framing critical questions on legislation, human-centred design, and inclusive technologies for discussion.

Dr. Pilar Orero, FG-MV WG8 Co-Chair; Professor, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

- Advocated for "human first" accessibility, where individuals control their own data rather than being profiled solely as consumers.
- Emphasized that AI and speech-to-text technologies must accommodate diverse voices, accents, languages, and speech disorders to ensure inclusivity.
- Highlighted the role of ITU Focus Group research in promoting digital inclusion and accessibility in immersive environments like the city verse.

Mr. Karl-Filip Coenegrachts, Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC), Belgium, (Vice-Chair of ITU Global Initiative on Virtual Worlds)

- Highlighted challenges in implementing European regulations at the municipal level due to limited knowledge and resources.
- Emphasized interoperability and support for public servants to enable accessible service delivery in cities.

Mr. Klaus Höckner, CEO, Austrian Association for Blind and Visually Impaired (Hilfsgemeinschaft)

- Urged strong legislation and oversight for AI, data usage, and accessibility, highlighting the underrepresentation of persons with disabilities in standards development.
- Stressed the importance of education and transparency in data usage, ensuring individuals understand how their data is collected and used.
- Pointed out infrastructure and accessibility challenges in developing regions, that would provide the crucial foundation for developing inclusive smart city initiatives worldwide.

Dr. Carlos Duarte, Associate Professor, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal

- Stressed the need for strong legislation in Europe to make smart cities, virtual worlds, and AI accessible, learning from past failures in digital accessibility.
- Suggested accessibility impact statements for smart cities, and virtual worlds similar to environmental impact assessments.
- Highlighted the potential of digital twins and brain-computer interfaces to improve accessibility in both physical and virtual spaces.

Points made during the discussion:

- Emphasized the role of standards, EU initiatives, and ITU-led projects, including city verse and digital twins, in supporting accessible smart cities and providing frameworks for policy, research, and implementation.
- Showcased examples of leading cities and projects (e.g., Rotterdam, Barcelona, Helsinki, smaller municipalities in Europe) and stressed the need to share best practices and develop guidelines for global replication of inclusive, accessible urban environments.

SESSION 6: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) FOR DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Focus: The session explored the intersection of AI and digital accessibility, highlighting both opportunities and challenges for persons with disabilities. Panellists shared real-world use cases, from AI-powered sound recognition for the Deaf community to local AI tools enhancing daily autonomy for neurodivergent users. Discussions emphasized privacy, inclusive datasets, standards, and regulatory frameworks to ensure accessibility and safety. The session also addressed online protection for children, women, and minority groups, highlighting both risks and AI-enabled solutions while advocating for accessibility by design and early involvement of end-users in AI development.

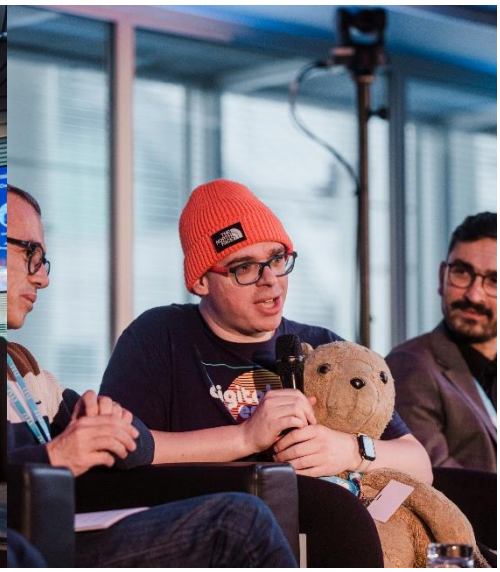
Moderator: Mr. Guillem Martinez Roura, AI and Robotics Programme Officer, ITU

Panellists: Mr. Manel Alcaide Dias, CEO and Co-founder, Visualfy; Ms. Antonella Candiago, Policy Officer, European Network on Independent Living (ENIL); Mr. Boris Radanović, Head of International Development, SWGfL, UK; Mr. Jamie Knight, Director, Jamie + Lion, UK; Ms. Chiara Giovannini, Senior Manager, Policy & Innovation, Deputy Director-General, European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation AISBL (ANEC)

Figure 23 - Session 6 Panel



Figure 24 - Mr. Jamie Knight



Key points:

Mr. Guillem Martinez Roura, AI and Robotics Programme Officer, ITU

- Framed the session around AI and digital accessibility as an urgent, human-centered topic with potential to empower persons with disabilities and remove communication barriers.
- Highlighted real-world AI applications (speech recognition, adaptive interfaces, personalized assistive tools) while stressing the need for responsibility, accuracy, and privacy.

Mr. Manel Alcaide Dias, CEO and Co-founder

- Advocated "nothing for us without us" by involving Deaf people directly in design and development of AI-powered accessibility solutions.
- Highlighted universal accessibility benefits, noting that systems designed for Deaf users also improve usability for the wider population.
- Clarified that AI speech-to-text tools complement but not replace interpreters or hearing loops.

Ms. Antonella Candiago, Policy Officer, European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)

- Highlighted the role of AI in promoting independent living for persons with disabilities by increasing autonomy and reducing reliance on human intermediaries.
- Noted that persons with disabilities are often early adopters of AI tools, including assistive technologies, smart home devices, voice assistants, and generative AI for daily tasks.
- Emphasized digital accessibility and safety as critical for inclusion, particularly for women with disabilities, including protection from online harassment and abuse.
- Advocated for inclusive research and direct engagement with persons with disabilities to inform AI deployment and independent living initiatives.

Mr. Boris Radanović, Head of International Development, SWGfL, UK

- Reported rising online harms against children, women, and minority groups, highlighting disproportionate abuse for those with disabilities or other vulnerabilities.
- Introduced AI-enabled tools like "Take it Down" and "StopNCII.org" to mitigate intimate image abuse while protecting privacy.
- Emphasized that online safety requires education, meaningful age restrictions, and inclusive AI design to protect users without causing harm.
- Advocated using AI as an accessibility multiplier and co-navigator rather than a generic tool, adapting to users' physical, sensory, and emotional needs.

Mr. Jamie Knight, Director, Jamie + Lion, UK

- Shared experiences in developing a local AI tool which calculates microwave times to support the daily life of persons with autism, emphasizing autonomy and independence.
- Highlighted AI design bias and the need for user-specific adaptations, noting issues when models misinterpret neurodivergent traits.
- Advocated local/on-device AI for trust, safety, privacy, control, and sustainability, enabling personalized experiences without cloud dependency.
- Emphasized small AI models as a pathway for accessible innovation and rapid improvements.

Ms. Chiara Giovannini, Senior Manager, Policy & Innovation, Deputy Director-General, European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation AISBL (ANEC)

- Advocated for accessibility by design in AI standardization to ensure compliance, usability, safety, fairness, and transparency.
- Highlighted the importance of inclusive datasets, human oversight, impact assessments, and stakeholder mapping to mitigate bias and ensure accessibility.
- Emphasized standards as a tool for consumer protection and empowerment, ensuring AI systems meet legal and regulatory requirements.
- Provided practical examples, such as quality management standards for AI, that embed accessibility and verify compliance through measurable requirements.

Points made during the discussion:

- Persons with disabilities must be involved from the start in AI design and development to ensure systems meet real needs and support autonomy, with community-led innovation and funding support being essential.
- AI can empower daily decision-making and independent living, from mobility to household tasks, while local processing ensures privacy, trust, and user control.
- Bias in algorithms, exclusion in employment or housing, and safety risks highlight the need for inclusive datasets, human oversight, impact assessments, and standards that embed accessibility and fundamental rights.
- Supporting grassroots projects, SMEs, and civil society participation, alongside advocacy, legislation, and ITU-led guidelines, is crucial for creating safe, transparent, and inclusive AI systems.

SESSION 8: FIRESIDE CHAT ON DRIVING INNOVATION FOR DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Focus: The fireside chat focused on the innovation ecosystem and innovation in digital accessibility, highlighting examples from AI, robotics, and holistic accessibility programs. Speakers emphasized the importance of user-driven solutions, the involvement of persons with disabilities in design and development, and how assistive technologies for persons with disabilities often create broader societal benefits. Panellists shared real-world examples of successful digital accessibility initiatives, demonstrating the value of inclusive design and community engagement in driving innovation.

Moderator: Mr. Alejandro Moledo del Río, Deputy Director, European Disability Forum

Panellists: Dr. Lourdes Gonzalez Perea, Head, Technological Accessibility Department, Fundacion ONCE; Ms. Anna Königseder, Director, Business Partnerships & Operations, Zero Project; Dr. Klaus Miesenberger, Head, Institute Integriert Studieren, Johannes Kepler University Linz; Mr. Ashod Derandonyan, Representative, Migam.AI

Figure 25 - Session 8 Panel



Figure 26 - Mr. Ashod Derandonyan



Key points:

Mr. Alejandro Moledo del Río, Deputy Director, European Disability Forum

- Opened the session by framing it as a continuation of the discussion on innovation in digital accessibility and introduced the panellists.
- Highlighted the principle that accessibility solutions developed for “extreme users” often benefit everyone, referencing known accessibility mottos and examples.
- Reinforced the importance of meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities in product development, noting that superficial or informal consultation, such as asking a relative, is not sufficient.

Dr. Lourdes Gonzalez Perea, Head, Technological Accessibility Department, Fundacion ONCE

- Shared personal experiences with AI-driven applications and robotic innovations that support independent navigation and daily activities.
- Highlighted the importance of integrating people with disabilities in product development from the start.
- Described programs in Spain that train persons with disabilities as experts in accessibility and smart city initiatives.

Ms. Anna Königseder, Director, Business Partnerships & Operations, Zero Project

- Provided an overview of Zero Project's role in researching and awarding innovations in accessibility, including a rigorous peer review process.
- Highlighted a Polish public policy initiative embedding digital and physical accessibility in holistic programs.
- Shared the Czech "one-stop shop" example providing accessibility audits, training, and resources to improve digital inclusion.

Dr. Klaus Miesenberger, Head, Institute Integriert Studieren, Johannes Kepler University Linz

- Emphasized that innovation is user-driven, integrating personal and environmental factors to succeed.
- Highlighted AI advancements, including controlled and personal AI, with logic-based rules for compliance and traceability via blockchain.
- Stressed that assistive technologies developed for persons with disabilities often provide benefits for society as a whole.

Mr. Ashod Derandonyan, Representative, Migam.AI

- Focused on AI language recognition technologies developed with input from deaf professionals.
- Emphasized the importance of deaf community expertise in ensuring linguistic and cultural appropriateness.
- Explained that inclusion of the community ensures high-quality data and effective technology for the intended users.

Points made during the discussion:

- Effective innovation requires structured, continuous collaboration between developers and end users, with investment and compensation to ensure meaningful participation.
- User involvement must go beyond one-off feedback to include daily communication, consideration of the full support environment, and empowerment of participants with knowledge and skills.
- Platforms and initiatives exist to connect universities, companies, and users, but stronger communication, dissemination, and incentives are needed to fully engage persons with disabilities in product development.

6. PITCHING COMPETITION

NUMBER DRAW FOR PITCHING COMPETITION

During the *Networking Break and Number Draw for Pitching Competition*, the order of pitching was determined by a random draw using ITU pins. One representative from each team selected a pin at random, and the number on the back of the pin determined their position in the pitching order (for example, a pin with the number 6 meant the team would pitch sixth). This ensured a fair and unbiased sequence for the contestants.

Figure 27 – Competitor selecting pin



Figure 28 – Number Draw for Pitching Competition



Figure 29 – Pitching Number 12



Figure 30 – ITU 160 pin



Figure 31 – Pitching Number 2



SESSION 7:

PITCHING COMPETITION: DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR ACCESSIBLE EUROPE

Pitching Competition Finalists		
Category 1: Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing		
Signly	Deafcom Solutions	Turkish Deaf Association
Category 2: Persons with visual impairments		
.lumen	Mediavoice	PoiLabs
Category 3: Persons with speech impairments		
Inclutech	Funktionsrätt Stockholms stad	Voiceitt
Category 4: Persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities		
3Dthinks	Happybots	
Category 5: Persons with physical disabilities		
SensePilot	Asociación de Personas con Movilidad Reducida	

Figure 32 – Pitching Session



Figure 33 – Pitching Session



Figure 34 – Pitching Session



Figure 35 – Pitching Session Audience



Figure 36 – Audience Voting Forms



ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

Scores from the audience voting forms were calculated and winners were determined as follows:

Category 1: Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing

- Winner: Signly
- Runners-up: Deafcom Solutions; Turkish Deaf Association

Category 2: Persons with visual impairments

- Winner: .lumen
- Runners-up: Mediavoice; PoiLabs

Category 3: Persons with speech impairments

- Winner: Inclutech
- Runners-up: Funktionsrätt Stockholms stad; Voiceitt

Category 4: Persons with cognitive and intellectual disabilities

- Winner: 3Dthinks
- Runners-up: Happybots

Category 5: Persons with physical disabilities

- Winner: SensePilot
- Runners-up: Asociación de Personas con Movilidad Reducida

Figure 37 – Pitching Competition winners group photo



Figure 38 –Pitching Competition finalists group photo



Figure 39 – Pitching Competition winner trophies



Figure 40 – Category 1 winner



Figure 41 – Category 2 winner



Figure 42 – Category 3 winner



Figure 43 – Category 4 winner



Figure 44 – Category 5 winner



7. CLOSING REMARKS

The ITU–EC Regional Forum Accessible Europe 2025 concluded with reflections on the two days of insightful dialogue, collaboration, and Pitching Competition, reaffirming the region's shared commitment to prioritizing and advancing accessibility in the digital field. Marking the end of Accessible Europe 2025, Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, expressed his gratitude to the audience and all stakeholders for participating in the two days of networking, co-creation, and sharing innovations. He emphasized the importance of Europe's momentum and leading efforts to inspire global efforts in digital accessibility, highlighting the role of the ITU in promoting European excellence worldwide. He also extended his gratitude to the support teams in captioning, sign language, and technical support.

Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero thanked participants for their active engagement, emphasizing the rich sessions, discussions, and networking. She highlighted that both formal discussions and informal exchanges during networking breaks provided valuable opportunities to learn from each other, especially given that the digital accessibility community is still relatively small. She also thanked Accessible EU and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing for supporting the event, recognizing the community expansion. She lastly shared that she was pleased seeing the European Accessibility Act and related standards becoming increasingly useful both inside and beyond the European Union, facilitating knowledge exchange with other regions and UN bodies.

Accessible Europe 2025: ICT 4 All resulted in strengthened connections, learning, and collaboration across the digital accessibility community, serving as the crucial platform in connecting organizations for persons with disabilities, the public sector, the private sector, and academia. The event, through its sessions and dedicated networking breaks, facilitated knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices, and collaborative discussions, helping participants to better understand and advance accessibility initiatives. It contributed to strengthening and expanding the relatively small accessibility community, reinforcing European capacity to implement and promote digital accessibility standards, and consolidating the impact of the European Accessibility Act. Overall, the forum demonstrated Europe's leadership in accessibility and provided momentum for regional and global efforts to implement the significant progress that had been made to build a more inclusive digital future.

Figure 45 – Closing remarks



Figure 46 - Networking



Figure 47 - Networking

