

Support-EAM

Supporting the creation of an eAccessibility Mark

Background

Support-EAM will explore the possibility to create an **eAccessibility Quality Mark** for Web services, as part of the Action Plan "eEurope 2005: An information society for all".

This support action makes clear reference to the Council Resolution on "eAccessibility" - improving the access of people with disabilities to the Knowledge Based Society (doc. 5165/03), inviting the Commission and the member states "to consider the provision of an "eAccessibility mark" for goods and services which comply with relevant standards for eAccessibility".

Needs

The "eEurope 2005: an information society for all" calls upon Member States and invites the Commission to tap the Information Society's potential for people with disabilities and tackle the removal of technical barriers for their effective participation in the Knowledge Economy and Society. It also refers to the W3C/WAI recommendations.

Making the thousands of applicable Web services (both public and private) accessible within the next few years will require a major effort across Europe, in terms of practical implementation and R&D. There will be a need for new accessibility standards for 'cutting edge' technologies, new technical solutions for existing technologies, new access technologies for people with disabilities, new web content authoring tools (which automatically create accessible content) and new tools for accessing web content.

However, to achieve the best results all of this must be prepared in light of a better understanding of how eAccessibility should be implemented in harmony all over Europe – something, which is now more important than ever, as more and more initiatives within different countries are leading to further divergence in peoples understanding of what is considered to be accessible.

Objectives

- To develop a **harmonised methodology** used for assessing Web Accessibility (single-site or large-scale)
- To recommend requirements for a **Web Accessibility certification scheme**,
- **To disseminate knowledge over Europe.**

Partners

- **Association BrailleNet** (France)
- **Fundosa Teleservicios** (Spain)
- **Bartimeus Accessibility Foundation** (Netherlands)
- **Dublin City University** (Ireland)
- **Universität Linz** (Austria)
- **Katholieke Universiteit Leuven** (Belgium)
- **AccessInMind Ltd** (United Kingdom)

Web site

www.support-eam.org

Funding

Support-EAM is a Specific Support Action Project (contract number 004754) co-funded by the INFSO DG of the European Commission within the RTD activities of the Thematic Priority Information Society Technologies of the 6th Framework Programme".

Duration: 18months, Start date: 01/10/2004, End date: 31/03/2006.

