

Information Electronic Accessibility

Definition: Electronic Accessibility

Electronic or E-accessibility refers to the simple use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as the internet, mobile apps and digital documents by people with disabilities. Websites must be developed in such a way as to enable users with disabilities to access the information. For example:



For **blind** people, websites must be capable of being interpreted by programs which read out texts and describe visuals.

For people with **impaired vision**, websites require fonts with adjustable sizes and strongly contrasting colours.



For people who are **deaf** or whose **hearing is impaired**, audio contents should be accompanied by text versions of the dialogue. Videos in sign language can also contribute to making audio material more accessible.



For people with **motor disabilities**, all the contents and functionalities must be accessible and operable through the keyboard or other input devices.

Basis of Electronic Accessibility

Disability Discrimination Act

The [Disability Discrimination Act](#) (DDA) provides the elimination of and desistance from discrimination against people who avail themselves of services. If services are provided by the state, there is a ban on discrimination. People with disabilities are entitled to use government services such as public schools, libraries, public swimming facilities and official publications. In particular, the government's obligation to eliminate or desist from discrimination is also applicable to internet services provided by the political communities (Confederation, cantons and municipalities).



Universal Design

The fundamental idea of e-accessibility is based on that of Universal Design. In this case, the aim is to compose user surfaces in such a way that they can be used by as many people as possible without any special measures, also by people with special needs. Where this is not feasible, Universal Design calls for adaptability to customary assistive technologies such as screen readers and screen voiceover programs for blind people. One important aspect of Universal Design is the demand for highly adaptable solutions for everyone. This is in contrast to various separate solutions for people with different needs.

E-Accessibility Standard eCH 0059 June 2020

Extract from version 3 of the [eCH-0059 Accessibility Standard](#), Published on 25.06.2020
EBGB:

„Digitally available information and services simplify disabled people’s communication with public bodies and thus compensate for limitations to social and political participation.

[...] This present eCH standard is primarily applied to all the information and services provided by public authorities and licensed companies.

[...] The present version, eCH-0059 Version 3.0, is based on the internationally recognised Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WCAG 2.1 of the World Wide Web Consortium W3C and makes additional use of instruments for the promotion of e-accessibility that is inspired by the e-accessibility directive of the EU.

The implementation of the present standard promotes the use of information and services that are on offer on websites and mobile apps and accordingly enables users access regardless of existing limitations or disabilities.“

Guides and Checklists for Accessible Communication

At the Federal Department of Home Affairs, you can find tips and procedures for [accessible digital communication](#).

The University of Leipzig has also published a [video series on digital accessibility](#) on YouTube. Here, too, you can find out about the accessible design of Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, PDFs or videos. The video series is only available in German.

All information on the topic of accessibility can be found described directly in [Canvas](#).



Accessible PDFs

- Accessible PDFs are important for visually impaired people because digital text documents can be read out loud with the corresponding software. However, this only works well with PDF documents which are tagged accordingly, i.e. have the necessary metadata embedded, which is unfortunately often not the case.
- PDFs can be made accessible with the help of the [PAVE](#) tool from the ICT Accessibility Lab of the ZHAW School of Engineering.



Accessible Websites

- The [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) (WCAG) are the international standard for accessible web contents.
- The Swiss [accessibilities checklist](#) and explanations reveal the necessary technical, design-related, and editorial measures for the creation of accessible websites.
- People with disabilities make use of the internet with above-average frequency since accessible websites and apps allow for autonomy in everyday life. Elderly people use the internet, too. Therefore, websites and apps have to be conceptualised as accessible as possible. Accessible digital information and services are generally more user-friendly and less dependent on specific devices. The update accessibility checklist will help you check your website with regard to accessibility ([Access for all](#)).



Audio Description & Subtitling

- Microsoft Teams offers numerous operating aids to make the application more accessible and easy to use.
 - [Accessibility tools for Microsoft Teams](#)
 - [Screen reader support for Microsoft Teams](#)
 - [Tips for using Microsoft Teams in deafness](#)
 - [Keyboard shortcuts for Microsoft Teams](#)



Further Helpful Links

Insight into Digital Accessibility

[Online conference on e-accessibility](#)

[eAccessibility & eInclusion](#)

Download Option for Accessible Icons or Players

[Download Internet Accessibility Icons](#)

[Accessible player](#) from SwissTXT

E-Accessibility at the Federal Level

[E-Accessibility](#)

Inclusion-Sensitive University Teaching

[Swissuniability](#)

Especially for Events

[Accessibility Guide - Accessible Communication at Events](#)



General Advice &
Information on Special Needs and
Disability Issues

Diversity & Inclusion

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