



## Deliverable 2: Accessibility Courses

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## Introduction

Accessibility is a critical aspect of ensuring equal opportunities and inclusivity in education and various industries. This report provides an overview of accessibility courses available in several countries. Members of WG2 provided information on the various options available in their countries. These courses cover a range of topics related to accessibility, including media accessibility, human-computer interaction, and accessible communication. The report highlights institutions and organizations offering these courses and provides relevant links for further information. Some institutions offer courses in more than one language (e.g. UAB in Spain and University of Macerata, Italy).

The W3C currently lists 84 courses available pertaining to accessibility. This Course List available at <https://www.w3.org/WAI/courses/list/> provides information about courses, training, and certification on digital accessibility from different providers. Members of LeadMe have contributed information to this document outlining the provision of courses and training that they are aware of in their own country. People, particularly those working in the education sector, are taking accessibility courses for several compelling reasons. Table 1 provides a structured breakdown of the reasons for faculty to consider accessibility courses. It highlights the multi-faceted benefits and the broad impact of embracing accessibility in higher education.

Table 1 Reasons for taking accessibility courses.

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Inclusivity</i>	Ensuring that all students, regardless of their physical or cognitive abilities, have equal opportunities to succeed is a foundational principle of modern education. Accessibility courses can help faculty understand and address the diverse needs of students.
<i>Legal Obligations</i>	Many countries have legislation or regulations requiring educational institutions to provide accessible learning environments. Being knowledgeable about accessibility can help faculty adhere to these regulations and avoid potential legal ramifications.
<i>Diverse Learning Styles</i>	Understanding accessibility is not only about catering to students with disabilities. It's also about recognizing the diverse learning styles of all students. An accessibility course can offer insights into universal design for learning, benefiting a broader range of students.
<i>Effective Use of Technology</i>	As education becomes increasingly digitized, understanding digital accessibility is crucial. Faculty will be better prepared to select and use technology that meets accessibility standards, ensuring that all students can engage with the content.
<i>Professional Development</i>	Engaging with accessibility training is a valuable professional development opportunity. It demonstrates a commitment to continuous learning and the betterment of the educational experience for all students.
<i>Enhanced Reputation</i>	Universities and colleges that prioritize accessibility can improve their reputation and demonstrate their commitment to social responsibility, potentially attracting a wider range of students.

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Ethical Responsibility</i>	Beyond legal and professional reasons, ensuring accessible education is an ethical responsibility. Every student deserves an equal chance at education, and faculty play a central role in providing that.
<i>Collaboration and Innovation</i>	Engaging with accessibility challenges can lead to innovative teaching methods and collaborative solutions that benefit the entire academic community.
<i>Economic Sense</i>	By making courses accessible from the outset, universities can reduce the need for accommodations or retroactive changes, which can be time-consuming and costly.
<i>Broader Perspective</i>	Engaging with accessibility issues can lead to a broader perspective on teaching, challenging faculty to think about their courses in new and diverse ways.

## Belgium

Belgium, with its commitment to inclusivity and diversity, offers various accessibility courses and training programs. These courses range from digital accessibility, built environment accessibility, to courses designed for understanding the needs of people with disabilities. There are open-access training materials on audio description.

## China

Some universities in mainland China offer modules on audio description. Shanghai International Studies University, for example, offers three modules in AVT courses for undergraduates and graduates. Shanghai Yier Information Technology provides training on audio description and SDH for volunteers since 2020.

## Croatia

Courses in Human-Computer Interaction and Interaction Design are available, but no specific courses focusing solely on accessibility are reported.

## Cyprus

Accessibility topics are typically included in HCI or Interaction Design courses offered by universities.

<https://philipsuni.ac.cy/course/human-computer-interaction/>

<https://www.ouc.ac.cy/index.php/el/studies/programmes/master/master-cos/cos/item/190-cos-614>

[https://www.idmaster.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/IFI7329.DT-2022\\_Pedagogical-Script.pdf](https://www.idmaster.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/IFI7329.DT-2022_Pedagogical-Script.pdf)

<https://www.cut.ac.cy/faculties/aac/mga/research/researchlabs/cyprus-interaction-lab/?languageId=1>

There have also been events (without an associated cost) held which have focussed on focus on the use of technology, accessible technology and assistive technology. One recent event held in May 2023 co-organised by AccessibleEU and SKATE presented AccessibleEU and the work of SKATE, three workshops on different perspectives of accessibility were also held which were aimed at different target audiences. The first workshop focussed on the use of assistive products of assessing the accessibility of mainstream technologies and access to technology in general. This workshop attracted users and families of persons with disabilities

as well as other stakeholders involved in the education and employment of persons with disabilities. The second workshop focussed on accessibility in Early Childhood Education and ways to make creating learning and play accessible for young learners. The target audience was ECEC teachers. The third workshop was an introduction to video captioning strategies and tools for accessibility purposes. This workshop addressed professional development needs as recently assessed in higher education and secondary education institutions.

## Ireland

Ireland has been proactive in promoting accessibility and inclusivity, and as such, various institutions and organizations offer courses and training related to accessibility.

Several institutions and training providers offer courses on ensuring websites, apps, and other digital platforms are accessible. Topics often cover Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and techniques to design and test for accessibility.

Irish universities and colleges may offer courses or modules on inclusive education, focusing on adapting teaching methodologies for students with disabilities.

Courses related to accessible design for the built environment can be found, ensuring public spaces, buildings, and transportation are inclusive for all, especially those with mobility challenges. Various organizations or companies specializing in accessibility offer workshops and training sessions, particularly for those in design, architecture, or IT fields.

Some universities offer courses or even degree programs in disability studies, exploring the socio-cultural, historical, and political aspects of disability. With the growing trend of online education, platforms like Coursera, Udemy, host international courses on accessibility, which are accessible to those in Ireland. Entities like the National Disability Authority (NDA) or the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) might provide resources, training, or pointers towards quality courses in accessibility. In recent years a UDL Badge (at no cost) is available to all third-level lecturers. The UDL Badge is offered to third-level lecturers to promote Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Additionally, various short courses and seminars at an institutional level are available to enhance accessibility knowledge.

## Italy

In Italy, as in many countries, there's a growing awareness of the importance of accessibility in various sectors. Various institutions, universities, and organizations offer training and courses on the subject. The University of Macerata (Italy) offers a Master's programme in "Accessibility to media, arts and culture". The one year programme is worth 60 credits, and corresponds to an overall workload of 1500 hours. Students will gain the skills required to work as:

- accessibility experts and consultants in the fields of media (cinema, streaming, internet), entertainment, live events;
- accessibility experts and consultants (museums, monuments, places of artistic and cultural interest);
- inclusive design consultants;
- audio description, interlingual subtitling, and sign language experts;
- diversity and disability managers.

The programme is delivered in English while the practical components of the Master's programme are available in two languages: Italian and English (students will choose their working language when completing their application).

Teaching is delivered remotely with some classes or special events held in person (but available remotely, too). International students facing difficulties also due to different time zones will be provided with the video recordings of the classes.

Learning to Design for All (open to anyone).

Courses offered by Politecnico di Milano.

<https://www.dabc.polimi.it/event/learning-to-design-for-all/>

[https://www11.ceda.polimi.it/schedaincarico/schedaincarico/controller/scheda\\_publica/SchedaPublic.do?&evn\\_default=evento&c\\_classe=795423&polij\\_device\\_category=DESKTOP&\\_pj0=0&\\_pj1=beef38aa843173ca11a1a185657c3f82](https://www11.ceda.polimi.it/schedaincarico/schedaincarico/controller/scheda_publica/SchedaPublic.do?&evn_default=evento&c_classe=795423&polij_device_category=DESKTOP&_pj0=0&_pj1=beef38aa843173ca11a1a185657c3f82)

## Lithuania

Lithuania, like many countries in the European Union, has been taking strides to ensure greater accessibility and inclusivity across various sectors.

Examples of courses available:

BA in Audiovisual Translation at Vilnius University. Media accessibility research center (National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center).

<https://www.knf.vu.lt/en/studies/for-more-information/17-en/studies/989-audiovisual-translation>

<https://apcis.ktu.edu/SHMMF/lt/site/katalogas?more=7992>

## Poland

Poland, as a member of the European Union, adheres to directives and standards that emphasize the importance of accessibility and inclusivity. Various institutions, organizations, and universities in Poland offer training and courses related to accessibility.

Some courses include:

SWPS University: Polish language course for deaf students and courses on accessibility.

Online courses for academic staff organized by Jagiellonian University.

Government-organized free courses on digital accessibility. Accessibility Coordinator function in government structures with dedicated courses. Audio description and arts and disability courses. Online WCAG courses. Two-day course on Introduction to Accessibility and Accessible Design. Postgraduate courses in Accessibility Management at various universities.

SWPS University:

<https://english.swps.pl/academics/968-accessible-university/32968-support-in-the-learning-process>

<https://swps.pl/nauka-i-badania/projekty/96-projekty-strukturalne/31868-moj-uniwersytet-swps-uczelnia-dostepna>

Jagiellonian University

<https://przelamuj.uj.edu.pl/szkolenia/online/dla-pracownikow-uczelni>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/dostepnosc-cyfrowa/o-szkoleniach-z-dostepnosci-cyfrowej>

<https://senseconsulting.pl/centrum-dostepnosci/kurs-koordynator/>

<https://www.sukcescr.pl/kurs-koordynator-ds-dostepnosci-poziom-podstawowy/>

<https://frdl.org.pl/tematy/kpa-prawo-administracyjne-organizacja-urzedu-archiwa/dostepnosc-komunikacyjna-a-prosty-jezyk-zasady-skutecznej-i-dostepnej-komunikacji-z-roznymi-grupami-odbiorcow/50813> d.

Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny, Wrocław

[https://www.szkolenia.ue.wroc.pl/117,343,koordynator\\_do\\_spraw\\_dostepnosci.html](https://www.szkolenia.ue.wroc.pl/117,343,koordynator_do_spraw_dostepnosci.html)

Arts and Disability - a series of courses organized by British Council:

<https://www.britishcouncil.pl/en/programmes/arts/arts-and-disability>

Online WCAG courses:

[https://strefakursow.pl/kursy/projektowanie/kurs\\_wcag\\_dostepnosc\\_cyfrowa\\_w\\_projektowaniu\\_stron\\_i\\_aplikacji.html](https://strefakursow.pl/kursy/projektowanie/kurs_wcag_dostepnosc_cyfrowa_w_projektowaniu_stron_i_aplikacji.html)

Two-day course Introduction to Accessibility and Accessible Design, with two free spots for NGOs:

<https://www.learnndesign.pl/warsztaty/wprowadzenie-do-dostepnosci-i-projektowania-bez-wykluczen>

There are postgraduate courses in Accessibility Management available at several universities. For example:

a.

<https://www.gwsh.pl/studia/studia-podyplomowe-zarzadzanie-dostepnoscia-koordynator-ds-dostepnosci.html>

b. <https://www.studiapodyplomowe.ukw.edu.pl/kierunek/zarzadzanie-dostepnoscia/>

c.

<https://wsipa.pl/nasze-kierunki/studia-podyplomowe/projektowanie-uniwersalne-koordynator-dostepnosci/>

d.

<https://ckp.lazarski.pl/studia-podyplomowe/akademia-menedzera/zarzadzanie-dostepnoscia/>

## Spain

Spain has recognized the importance of accessibility across various sectors, and as such, various institutions and organizations offer training and courses related to accessibility.

Some courses include:

MA in Audiovisual Translation (including MA). Accessibility to the scenic arts (free MOOC course). Course in Accessibility Management and Promotion: Accessible Services, Information, and Communication. Course in Accessible Digital Communication: Easy-to-Understand Language. Course in Digital Accessibility: accessible documents, websites, and social media. Self-learning educational materials on Easy-to-Understand Language. Self-learning educational materials on Sign Language (Catalan Sign Language).

Upcoming Courses (2023/2024):

MA in Accessible Communication for a Diverse Society. Pg Diploma in Managing Accessibility in Information and Communication. Specialisation Course in Information and Communication Accessibility. Specialisation Course in Innovation in Information, Technologies, and Communication.

MA in Audiovisual Translation. MA in Accessibility (forthcoming). MA in Translation Studies (including AVT). MA in Cultural Accessibility. Workshop on audio description at the University of Alicante.

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/accessibility-scenic-arts>

<https://webs.uab.cat/transmedia/course-accessibility-management/>

<https://webs.uab.cat/transmedia/curs-accessibilitat/>

<https://transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/easit/>

<https://transmediacatalonia.uab.cat/signem/>

## Turkey

Turkey, like many countries around the world, is increasingly recognizing the importance of accessibility in various sectors.

Some courses include:

Karadeniz Technical University

Human computer interaction. Online learning and accessibility (for teachers/trainers in university).

Samsun University

<https://katalog.ktu.edu.tr/DersBilgiPaketi/course.aspx?pid=3678&lang=2&dbid=590997>

Many institutions do not offer a specific course but efforts are being made to raise awareness through research and articles are ongoing, with a desire to participate in international events.

## United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has been a forerunner in promoting accessibility and inclusivity, with various institutions and organizations providing dedicated courses and training.

Some courses include:

Audio Description Association (ADA) Audio Description Training. Creating audio description: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion course. Deaf awareness and digital subtitle training with StageTEXT. Blindness awareness training RNIB. VocalEyes training in audio description, blindness awareness, and digital content training.

<http://audiodescription.co.uk/training/>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/creating-audio-description-for-equality-diversity-and-inclusion>

<https://www.stagetext.org/for-venues/training/>

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/health-social-care-education-professionals/education-professionals/training-for-professionals-supporting-learners-with-vi/>

<https://vocaleyeyes.co.uk/services/training/>



## Organisations in EU Member States with responsibility for monitoring compliance (accessibility)

As the institutional offerings change over time it is worth noting that the organisations responsible for monitoring compliance with accessibility in EU member states is a useful point of contact for information on available training courses.

Table 2 Organisations responsible for monitoring compliance in EU member states

State	Organisation Responsible for Monitoring Compliance
 <a href="#">Austria</a>	Austrian Research Promotion Agency <a href="https://www.ffg.at">https://www.ffg.at</a>
 <a href="#">Belgium</a>	Federal Public Service Policy and Support, Directorate-General Digital Transformation <a href="https://dt.bosa.be/language_selection">https://dt.bosa.be/language_selection</a>
 <a href="#">Bulgaria</a>	State e-Government Agency (SEGA) <a href="https://e-gov.bg/wps/portal/agency/home">https://e-gov.bg/wps/portal/agency/home</a>
 <a href="#">Croatia</a>	Not easily found online. There may be localised information available. Details not available on <a href="https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/web-accessibility-monitoring">https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/web-accessibility-monitoring</a>
 <a href="#">Cyprus</a>	Monitoring Committee (no url) Enforcement: Department of Information Technology Services, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy <a href="https://dits.dmrid.gov.cy/dmrid/dits/dits.nsf/home/home?openform">https://dits.dmrid.gov.cy/dmrid/dits/dits.nsf/home/home?openform</a>
 <a href="#">Czech Republic</a>	Ministry of the Interior <a href="https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/pristupnost-internetovych-stranek-a-mobilnich-aplikaci.aspx">https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/pristupnost-internetovych-stranek-a-mobilnich-aplikaci.aspx</a>
 <a href="#">Denmark</a>	Agency for Digitisation <a href="https://digst.dk">https://digst.dk</a>
 <a href="#">Estonia</a>	Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority) <a href="https://ttja.ee">https://ttja.ee</a>
 <a href="#">Finland</a>	Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland) <a href="https://www.saavutettavuusvaatimukset.fi/yhteystiedot/">https://www.saavutettavuusvaatimukset.fi/yhteystiedot/</a>
 <a href="#">France</a>	Directorate General for Social Cohesion <a href="https://sante.gouv.fr/ministere/organisation/organisation-des-directions-et-services/article/organisation-de-la-direction-generale-de-la-cohesion-sociale-dgcs">https://sante.gouv.fr/ministere/organisation/organisation-des-directions-et-services/article/organisation-de-la-direction-generale-de-la-cohesion-sociale-dgcs</a>
 <a href="#">Germany</a>	Federal Monitoring Body for Accessibility of Information Technology) <a href="https://www.bfit-bund.de/DE/Home/home_node.html">https://www.bfit-bund.de/DE/Home/home_node.html</a>
 <a href="#">Greece</a>	Ministry of Digital Governance, General Secretariat of Digital Governance and Simplification of Procedures, Directorate of Digital Strategy, Department of eAccessibility and Social Affairs <a href="https://mhdisef.mindigital.gr">https://mhdisef.mindigital.gr</a>
 <a href="#">Hungary</a>	Governmental Agency for IT Development <a href="https://kifu.gov.hu/en/main-page/">https://kifu.gov.hu/en/main-page/</a>
 <a href="#">Ireland</a>	<i>Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais</i> (The National Disability Authority, NDA)

 <a href="#">Italy</a>	Agency for Digital Italy <a href="https://www.agid.gov.it">https://www.agid.gov.it</a>
 <a href="#">Latvia</a>	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development <a href="https://www.varam.gov.lv">https://www.varam.gov.lv</a>
 <a href="#">Lithuania</a>	Information Society Development Committee <a href="https://ivpk.lrv.lt">https://ivpk.lrv.lt</a>
 <a href="#">Luxembourg</a>	Information and Press Service <a href="https://sip.gouvernement.lu/fr.html">https://sip.gouvernement.lu/fr.html</a>
 <a href="#">Malta</a>	Malta Communications Authority <a href="https://www.mca.org.mt">https://www.mca.org.mt</a>
 <a href="#">Netherlands</a>	Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations <a href="https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-binnenlandse-zaken-en-koninkrijksrelaties">https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerie-van-binnenlandse-zaken-en-koninkrijksrelaties</a>
 <a href="#">Poland</a>	Minister responsible for informatisation: currently the Minister of Digital Affairs <a href="https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja">https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja</a>
 <a href="#">Portugal</a>	Administrative Modernization Agency, Public Agency <a href="https://www.ama.gov.pt">https://www.ama.gov.pt</a>
 <a href="#">Romania</a>	Romanian Agency for Digital Agenda <a href="https://www.aadr.ro">https://www.aadr.ro</a>
 <a href="#">Slovakia</a>	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments and Informatization: Government and Public Sector IT Division, Architecture and eGovernment Department) <a href="https://www.mirri.gov.sk">https://www.mirri.gov.sk</a>
 <a href="#">Slovenia</a>	Information Security Administration of the Republic of Slovenia) <a href="https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/vladne-sluzbe/urad-vlade-za-informacijsko-varnost/o-uradu/">https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/vladne-sluzbe/urad-vlade-za-informacijsko-varnost/o-uradu/</a>
 <a href="#">Spain</a>	Ministry of Territorial Policy and Civil Service) <a href="https://mpt.gob.es/index.html">https://mpt.gob.es/index.html</a>
 <a href="#">Sweden</a>	Agency for Digital Government <a href="https://www.digg.se">https://www.digg.se</a>

## Conclusion

Accessibility courses vary in scope and availability across different countries. These courses play a crucial role in promoting accessible communication, design, and technology to create more inclusive societies. Access to these courses is certainly vital for professionals and students interested in the field of accessibility and inclusion. However, it is clear that a campaign highlighting the availability of courses is also necessary if the uptake in participation is to be increased.