



European Accessibility Requirements in Public Procurement

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Welcome ⁽¹⁾



- Better inclusion is critical

As demographic aging is accelerating, better inclusion of disabled persons and aging population are major challenges for Europe and beyond

- Accessibility is a core value for ESOs

CEN CENELEC and ETSI are integrating the principles of accessibility in their standards and are working together

- Standardization can be a powerful tool

By setting the same frameworks around the world for accessible products, devices, services, environments and facilities

Europe 2020



- Smart , **inclusive** and sustainable growth

3 out of the 7 Flagships initiatives explicitly refer social inclusion:

- "Innovation Union"
- " Digital Agenda for Europe "
- "European platform " to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society.

Future of European standardisation



European Parliament resolution of 21 October 2010

Emphasises that standardisation has great potential to remove barriers that prevent persons with disabilities and elderly people from exercising their capabilities and participating on equal terms in all areas of life

Calls on the Commission and the ESOs to develop and support a systematic approach to their standardisation activities in order to ensure that standards incorporate adequate accessibility requirements, in keeping with Design for All principles.

Calls on the Commission and the Member States to strengthen existing public procurement rules in order to promote the inclusion of accessibility clauses in public contract award procedures, with a view to fostering accessibility and providing incentives for manufacturers to develop and offer accessible products and services

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- There is momentum: lot of work ongoing in different areas

M/376 on eAccessibility (today's workshop), Mandate M/473 on Design for all, Mandate M/420 accessibility requirements for public procurement in the built environment, work on assistive technologies in ICT, work on accessibility to medication like EN 15823 'packaging – braille on packaging for medicinal products'

- European standards are important in public procurement

CEN CENELEC have just submitted a response on the EC consultation on revision of EU public procurement directives where it states that:

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- CEN CENELEC can provide guidance material to help companies in particular SMEs to participate to cross-border bidding and procurers to frame their calls for proposals
- Even further improved use of reference to European Standards as a tool for co-regulation would lower the barriers for economic operator participation
 - Standardization support market access for innovative products
 - European standards contain provisions for horizontal aspects such as sustainability, accessibility, social climate, environmental considerations, social responsibility as so on.
- Good start of work in this critical area !