

Lighthouse Network: Training on Digital accessibility & Assistive Technology



Wednesday 12th October 2022

Time: 17h30-20h30

Room: Rabat

Venue: San Antonio Hotel located on Triq it-Turisti Saint Paul's Bay, SPB 1024, Malta

Description

EASPD's Member Forum on Person Centred Technology (PCT) will be holding a bespoke training on digital accessibility and assistive technology for service providers. The training is part of EASPD's Lighthouse Network initiative and will be organised together with the Horizon project Smart4Health. The course will cover an introduction to digital accessibility and the types of assistive technologies that can remove barriers, and will end with an interactive session on assessing digital accessibility.

Participants will gain valuable advice on how to remove other kinds of barriers to accessibility, such as language and the consideration of the needs of disabled people.

Agenda

Time	Duration	Description	Speaker
17h30-17h35	5 min	Welcome Speech	Evert Jan Hoogerwerf Chair EASPD's member forum on person-centred technology (PCT)
17h35-18h30	55 min	Training session 1 <i>Intro to Digital accessibility</i>	Ilaria Valoti Project officer AIAS Bologna
18h30-19h30	60 min	Training session 2 <i>Supporting participation using assistive technology: an introduction</i>	Dr May Agius & Sharon Borg Schembri Assistive technology Practitioner Access to Communication & Technology Unit (ACTU)

			Aġenzija Sapport, Malta
19h30-19h45	15 min	Networking break	
19h45-20h30	45 min	Training session 3 <i>An Interactive focus group session on accessibility of Smart4Health Platform</i>	Smart4Health Partners

Learning Outcomes:

Training session 1

Intro to Digital accessibility

- To gain basic understanding of accessibility as a concept.
- To gain knowledge on how digital barriers affect diverse groups in daily life.
- To be able to recognise basic accessibility challenges and issues.
- To understand the benefits of addressing accessibility issues for an organisation.
- To understand the benefits of accessibility for individuals and for society as a whole.

Training session 2

Supporting participation using assistive technology: an introduction

- To gain an overview of what assistive technology is.
- To explore how AT is used to enhance participation.
- To explore the different kinds of assistive technology.
- To identify who can benefit from the use of AT.
- To gain awareness of in-built support in mainstream technology that enhances accessibility.

Training session 3

An Interactive focus group session on accessibility of Smart4Health Platform

- To gain an overview of the case of Smart4Health (as a prototype in development).
- To apply the learned knowledge about digital accessibility in practice.
- To gain experience in assessing accessibility challenges and issues.
- To identify how the case of Smart4Health could be improved regarding accessibility of the platform.

Trainer Bios



Ilaria Valoti

Ilaria Valoti is a staff member of the Projects for Innovation Sector of AIAS Bologna onlus. She has a Master Degree in Communication studies (Bologna) and a Master degree in Museum Studies (Paris). Since 2005 she has been working in the field of cultural and social innovation, focusing on digital technologies and inclusion.

She worked in several French science centres as project officer and in research on critical approach to digital uses and mediations, with the Laboratoire des Sciences de l'information et de la communication, Université Sorbonne Paris Nord.

She was engaged by Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini in the launching of the Innovation Labs of Regione Emilia Romagna in Ferrara and Modena, before joining the AIAS project team in 2020. Today she works in ERASMUS+ projects, in other national/international projects, focused on digital inclusion (ENTELIS+, RTCN, MEME) and she contributes to AIAS's communication and community management.



Dr May Agius

Dr May Agius has 25 years' experience as a speech and language therapist in Ireland and Malta. For the last 13 years, she has worked to build up assistive technology services in Malta through the Access to Communication and Technology Unit (ACTU) in Agenzija Sapport in Malta. Her main area of expertise is augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) for autistic individuals.

Dr May Agius finalised her PhD studies 2 years ago and has presented her research at the last three international ISAAC conferences as well as at the AAATE conference. She has been published in the

journal Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Dr Agius has been invited to speak on person centred technology and disabilities at several international conferences including EASPD and ZeroProject conferences. She is a co-chair for the Person Centred Technology member forum of the EASPD. As well as acting as an advisor on european projects, Dr May Agius is also a Senior Visiting Lecturer at the University of Malta.

Current areas of interest include AAC for multilingualism as well as the assessment and implementation of AAC for autistic individuals.



Sharon Borg Schembri

Sharon Borg Schembri currently works as a Senior Assistive Technology Practitioner (Occupational Therapist) with ACTU (Access to Communication and Technology Unit) an assistive technology service offered by Agenzija Sapport. She holds a Master's degree in Inclusive Education and Communities with the University of Malta.

Her areas of interest and publications are in the use of Assistive Technology (AT) and its role in facilitating access to literacy and participation in inclusive education, the implementation of AAC systems with children with Autism and policy implementation in relation to assistive technology service delivery.

Recent work includes participation in projects related to building a Europe-wide network of inclusion practitioners, and to implement digital structures and accessibility in the educational setting to address all learners' individual needs. Ms.Borg lectures on Assistive Technology and Educational Technologies at the University of Malta and Malta Leadership Institute. She is also an active member of the EASPD person-centered technology forum.