



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Regional Training of Trainers workshop on ESCWA e-Accessibility templates for National Policy and Technical Guidelines

Online workshop

Date: 23-25 November 2021

Preliminary Information Note

Background

This regional Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop aims to provide hands-on training and knowledge to nominated delegates on the use and adaptation of the ESCWA templates on e-Accessibility. Participants would become certified trainers to support the roll out of e-Accessibility policies and technical guidelines in their national context. This ToT is part of ESCWA Arab Digital Inclusion Platform (ADIP).

In the Arab region, people with disabilities are still among the most marginalized population groups, facing multiple barriers hindering their ability to participate on an equal basis in the society, in terms of literacy, education and employment, where they remain disadvantaged. This situation is unfortunately accentuated with women with disabilities in rural areas who are particularly marginalized with lower access to education, health and employment.

It is important to note the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in empowering people, promoting better access for all and building more inclusive societies. In the Arab region, the ICT sector has fortunately made some positive strides in development in the past few years and has the potential to support digital inclusion throughout the region.

In this context, ESCWA has launched the Arab Digital Inclusion Platform (ADIP) project in 2020 to support policy makers in the Arab countries to develop/improve their national policies and guidelines for enhanced e-Accessibility. This would help to bridge the digital divide and enable all society members to access and use ICT.

Under the framework of the ADIP project, ESCWA has developed two templates namely:

- National e-Accessibility Policy Template for the Arab Region.
- National Technical Guidelines on e-Accessibility for the Arab Region.

The National e-Accessibility Policy Template for the Arab Region focuses on developing a general framework for a national policy in order to support enabling access of persons with disabilities to ICT and public services, for a more inclusive society.

The National Technical Guidelines on e-Accessibility for the Arab Region includes several guidelines that range from the simple and easy to implement to the more challenging and harder to follow. Adopting these guidelines by governmental policymakers will make the lives of persons with disabilities easier and more productive by supporting websites accessibility and accessible digital platforms.

Currently, ESCWA is developing the ADIP online platform to assist Arab policy makers in using those templates in an interactive way. A first prototype is ready and includes the developed templates, best practices, and other related material, and an online community of practice dedicated space for disability focal points.

Objectives

The main objectives of this regional ToT workshop are:

- Provide in-depth knowledge to the nominated delegates on the use and adaptation of the templates and the interactive toolkits developed by ESCWA on the national policy and technical guidelines for e-Accessibility.
- Establish a group of trainers in the field of digital accessibility policies within the framework of ADIP to roll out the use and adaptation of those templates/tools at the national level in the Arab region.

Format

This Regional Training of Trainers workshop on ESCWA e-Accessibility templates for National Policy and Technical Guidelines will run online over 3 days from 23 to 25 November 2021 and will be conducted in Arabic.

Expected Accomplishments

The main outcomes of the workshop will be to guide participants in the use and adaptation of the ESCWA templates on national policy and technical guidelines on e-Accessibility. This ToT workshop will allow experts in the Arab region to use those templates efficiently at the national level to enhance e-Accessibility, which will help in bridging the digital divide and enable all society members to access and use ICT.

Discussion Topics

The workshop will mainly cover the following topics:

Under the track of the e-Accessibility national policy:

- 1- General framework for developing an e-Accessibility national policy
- 2- Main components of an e-Accessibility national policy
- 3- Practical case studies and exercises

Under the track of the e-Accessibility technical guidelines:

- 1- How to generate technical requirements based on the different scenarios proposed by ESCWA template
- 2- Overview on the various technical guidelines, including: WAI, WCAG, ATAG, UAAG, and other Standards.
- 3- Introducing testing tools of conformance
- 4- Hands on exercises

Partners and Beneficiaries

Ministries of information and communication technology, administrative reform, e-government bodies and ministries of social affairs.

For information, ESCWA Focal Points

Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar

Programme Management Officer

United Nations Economic Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

E-Mail: barbarm@un.org

Mr. Nawar Al-Awa,

Regional Adviser on Technology for Development

United Nations Economic Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

E-Mail: alawa@un.org