

# News from across Europe (2024-2025)

## Resource centers for students with disabilities

"Assistive technology and other support tools can be very effective for students with disabilities. Lesson planning may include identifying and using these resources to support the learning and development of these students." Implementation of the curriculum for children with disabilities in pre-university education . Agency of Quality Assurance in pre-university education (2024)

<https://www.ascap.edu.al/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Zbatimi-i-kurrikules-per-femijet-me-afesi-te-kufizuar-ne-AP.pdf>



## AT development

**Dardan** is an innovative AT project developed in Albania by Firdeus Dikellari, a young researcher passionate about AI and accessibility. The goal is to help children with speech delays or limited fluency in their native language, develop stronger communication skills through natural interaction with an intelligent robot. **Dardan** communicates in Albanian.

[firdeus.dikellari@cit.edu.al](mailto:firdeus.dikellari@cit.edu.al)



## News from *Albania*

### AT needs

In the Albanian education system (mainstream and special schools) teachers:

Need	Teachers' feedback
Awareness of AT	Many teachers don't know what AT is or how it helps
Training & PD	Teachers feel unprepared and unsupported
Access to Devices	Lack of affordable tools limits inclusion
Tech Support	AT breaks down without help
Cultural/Linguistic Fit	Tools must match language & context
Collaboration Networks	Peer support builds confidence and skills

\*preliminary data from a teacher's survey.

### "Donate your voice"

A "National Blind Pupils Institute" project in collaboration with UNICEF Albania, Centre for School Leadership, artists, and other volunteers are creating an audio library in Albanian for people with visual impairments using AT.

<https://aftesitendryshe.org/>



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



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## AAATE-SIG on Standardisation

- Austrian AAATE members promote a SIG on standardisation
- Comment, annotate and influence standards in process of updating
  - Cross-referencing eAccessibility and AT in existing standards
  - Online-platform for access and cooperation
  - 2 to 3 annual meetings in the Austrian Computer Society

## Web Accessibility Certificate Austria

An independent certificate for promoting web accessibility

- [www.waca.at](http://www.waca.at)
- Hosted and run by the Austrian Computer Society
- Supported by industry and accessibility experts
- Cooperation with TuV



## Web Accessibility Expert Certificate

A certification for experts in Web Accessibility for quality consulting, development and evaluation

- <https://www.incite.at/de/zertifizierungen/certified-webaccessibility-expert/>
- Launched and offered by Incite, a company of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce
- Certificate provides access to publicly supported consulting on accessibility in industry and administration



## DigiComp Framework Accessibility

- Analysing, annotating and expanding the DigiKomP Framework for AT and Accessibility
- Recommendations for Schools for online meeting and online learning systems
- Developing Train the Trainer Courses

## Smart Home – Domestic Appliances

- Initiative of the University for Applied Sciences Vienna, Technikum
- Cooperation to work on standards and interface concepts for accessible smart home interaction
- AAL-Austria Event planned for December 2023

# News from AUSTRIA (AT)

## International Camp on Communication and Computers

ICT – AT – Accessibility – Peers - Studying – Work - Social Skills – International Exchange – Advocate for your own interest - FUN!!!

- 10 days summer event for blind and low vision
- youngsters aged 16-20
- 26 countries
- 30+ 3h workshops on important and cool topics
- <https://www.icc-camp.info/>



## IKT-Forum 2024 & 2025

Annual German spoken event on AT, eAccessibility and Inclusion

- 300+ participants
- Johannes Kepler Universität Linz
- 50+ presentations and workshops
- A unique place for exchange for users, practitioners, policy makers, administration, experts, researchers, ...
- <https://www.iktforum.at>

## ICCHP26 Brno, Czechia, <https://icchp.org/>

- Digital Accessibility
- Assistive Technology
- Digital Inclusion
- **Proceedings ICCHP 2024:** ([LNCS 14750 - ICCHP 2024, Part I](#)) ([LNCS 14751 - ICCHP 2024, Part II](#)), [Open Access Compendium](#)

## Projects

- [Athena](#): Accessibility in HE Curricula
- [EasyReading](#): Cognitive Accessibility on the Web
- [RTCN](#): Right to Connect; Digital Inclusion for People with intellectual disabilities
- [IPIP](#): Inclusive Publishing, [www.bookaccess.at](http://www.bookaccess.at)
- [DigiReady](#): Digital Readiness for Inclusive Teaching
- [eTeachers](#): Toolkit to Support and Empower HE-teachers
- [Bwise](#): Skills Needs in Work Integration Social Enterprises (WISEs)
- [AccessibleEU](#): Implementing Accessibility in Europe

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## News from Belgium

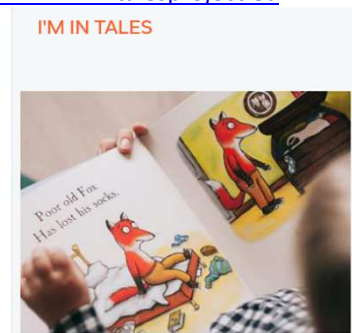
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The I'M IN TALES Erasmus+ project is aimed at **sustaining teachers** in finding new and **innovative educational strategies** to foster **learning and inclusion**. The project main goal is to outline and disseminate a ready to use methodology for **storytelling** educational practices that integrates **tangible and multisensory** materials with **digital reality**, namely Tangible User Interfaces (TUIs).

Innovation in the Erasmus+ i'm in tales project:

- Creating a link between storytelling activities and TUIs
- Sustaining children with special needs with proposals of flexible technological solutions
- Providing information, assessment and training on I'M IN TALES ICT and AT.
- <https://www.imintalesproject.eu>



**EERSTE HULP BIJ MOEILIKHEDEN MET COMMUNICEREN**

Kan jij hulp gebruiken bij het spreken? Kijk hier wat jouw mogelijkheden zijn!

VIND EEN SNEL INZETBAAR HULPMIDDEL OP: [WWW.IKKANNIETPRATEN.BE](http://WWW.IKKANNIETPRATEN.BE)



Thanks to financial support from the King Baudouin Foundation, Modem was able to launch the website: [ikkannietpraten.be](http://ikkannietpraten.be). The website is first aid for those who have difficulties communicating. The tools on this website are simple, cheap, low- or non-technological and can be used quickly. So everyone can start using them right away. [www.ikkannietpraten.be](http://www.ikkannietpraten.be)



Modem is an independent expert network of 20 organisations in innovative assistive technology that aims to maximise participation for everyone with a disability in Flanders (Belgium). Modem helps everyone with tools that written, spoken or digital communication support.



National Contact Person



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## Providing high-tech AAC systems to 180 children and adults with severe speech and motor impairments

As part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria, ASSIST – AT foundation, via its company Interacta, is implementing key activities. These include the provision and financing of high-tech assistive communication devices for individuals with permanent disabilities. Interacta is responsible for the delivery, customization, and training related to augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) technologies that meet the individual needs of users. The activities cover both the technical and user training components, with full compliance to national requirements regarding accessibility, safety, and functional effectiveness. The investment ensures early, free-of-charge access to modern AAC solutions and contributes to building sustainable national capacity for inclusive communication support.

## News from Bulgaria

### 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AAC

The sixth Annual International Online Conference on AAC was organized by ASSIST – Assistive Technologies in 2024. The topic of the conference was “AAC Across the Lifespan”. The conference was funded by UNICEF Bulgaria and the Ministry of Education and Science and was supported by ISAAC, AAATE, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the State Agency of Child Protection.

The conference provoked a great interest in Bulgaria and abroad – 1741 participants from 51 countries took part in the conference covering all continents. The largest number of participants came from Bulgaria (1071), Ukraine (173), Romania (112), and Lithuania (91).

More info at: <https://en.aac2024.assistfoundation.eu>



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



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## News from Croatia

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

As part of the *e-University* project, implemented by the University of Zagreb in cooperation with CARNET and co-funded by NextGenerationEU, a comprehensive set of video lectures has been developed to strengthen inclusive digital education. These lectures serve as practical resources for students and professionals, providing demonstrations, guidelines, and reflections on the use of assistive technology and other inclusive practices in higher education. By integrating theoretical content with hands-on examples, the project aims to promote equal opportunities and support the active participation of students with disabilities in the academic environment.

  
 znanje povezuje

 e-Sveučilišta

 **Financira  
Europska unija**  
 NextGenerationEU

ATscale – the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology – organized the *Unlock the Everyday* initiative, delivered as an online lecture block attended by more than 700 participants. Within the Chamber of Educational Rehabilitators of Croatia, initiatives have been launched to strengthen professional standards, interdisciplinary cooperation, and the systematic integration of assistive technology and AAC into education and rehabilitation practice.



The *Assistive Technology and Communication (ATAAC)* Conference—formally the “Conference on the Advanced Technology for People with Disabilities”—stands as the **largest and most significant regional gathering** of experts, professionals, AAC users, researchers, and industry leaders in assistive technology (AT) and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). Held biennially in Zagreb, Croatia, the conference provides a vibrant platform featuring a comprehensive **expo** showcasing cutting-edge AAC devices (eye-tracking systems, communication aids, educational assistive tools, switches, software solutions, etc.), a rich **program of workshops, presentations, poster sessions**, and interactive “AT & AAC Playground” activities

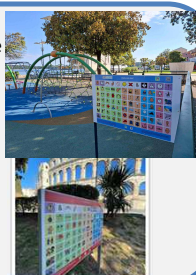


The University of Zagreb – Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences has published the university textbook *Education of Students with Disabilities: Towards Equal Opportunities through Assistive Technology* (eds. Prof. Renata Pinjatela and Ivana Vinceković), officially recognized by the Senate on February 18, 2025, as a contemporary, practice-oriented resource developed within the ATTEND project to advance knowledge and skills in the field of assistive technology in education.



NCP Ines Delzotto  
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The project, initially implemented in cooperation with the City of Pula, has now expanded under the title *Istria County Talks in Pictures*. Building on the pioneering initiative of installing communication boards for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) across public spaces and institutions in Pula, the second phase of the project extends symbolisation to the entire Istria County. This makes Istria the first county worldwide to systematically implement city- and county-wide AAC symbolisation, ensuring equal access to communication for non-verbal children and adults across kindergartens, healthcare facilities, cultural institutions, and public areas. Inspired by this initiative, other organizations and service providers in Croatia have started following the same path, so AAC boards are now being introduced on ferries, trains, hospitals, and other public services.



From **12 to 19 July 2025**, the Croatian Muscular Dystrophy Association (SDDH) organized the educational and rehabilitation youth camp in Petrcane near Zadar, gathering young people with muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular diseases from across Croatia. In a supportive and inclusive atmosphere, participants engaged in a week filled with educational, rehabilitative, and social activities designed to strengthen independence, health, and peer connections. A special highlight of this year's camp was the two-day **workshop “Be KreAtive”**, led by **Ines Delzotto, University Master of Educational Rehabilitation, AT and AAC Specialist**. Through **preliminary user assessments for assistive technology devices**, each participant with MD and NMD received **individualized recommendations and guidelines** on how AT can enhance their independence in everyday life. This personalized approach not only raised awareness of available technologies but also created a foundation for their practical implementation in daily routines.



## Research on accessibility and assistive technology in Cyprus

[The Assistive Technology, Disability and Inclusive](#)

[Education Research Unit of the SoSocieAtH](#)

[Centre of Excellence at EUC](#) is involved in several

AT projects focussing on digital and social

inclusion, and inclusive education

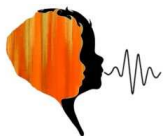


## Examples of New Projects

[BRIDGE- Building Relationships for Inclusive Digital Growth and](#)

[Engagement](#): the aim is to engage groups of autistic youth, families and other stakeholders in co-participatory research for enhancing the use of the internet for healthy, safe and accessible interaction with and through online platforms.

[VoiceKids - Inspiring Children's Vocal Inclusion](#): the aim is to promote inclusive learning environments, for children with complex communication needs, but also reading and visual disabilities, and any child benefited from voice technologies in literacy and storytelling, through integrating AAC and TTS technologies for developing children's voices and storytelling activities



## News from Cyprus

### Policy: Transposition of the EAA to National Legislation

On the 2nd of May 2024 Cyprus announced the introduction of [the Accessibility of Products and Services Law of 2024 \(57\(I\)2024\)](#), upon the ratification of the EU Accessibility Act and the EU 2019/882 directive on the accessibility requirements for products and services.



### AccessibleEU Centre events in Cyprus

Cyprus is represented in the [AccessibleEU Centre](#) initiative of the European Commission by national experts based at the European University Cyprus. **AccessibleEU events in Cyprus during 2025:**

- **April 9<sup>th</sup> National Workshop Event:** Accessible Products and Services: Policy, Experiences & Practical Implications (200 participants)
- **Sept 9<sup>th</sup> European Workshop— [AAATE 2025 Preconference](#):** Enhancing an accessible educational ecosystem
- **October 2025 National Networking:** Accessible Infrastructures and Outdoor Activities (TBC)

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



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## News from Czechia

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### Doma je doma

#### *assistive technologies web portal for everybody*

Assistive technologies are a hot topic for social service providers and their founders, which are mainly state administration units - municipalities and regions. One of the successful projects to pass on information about possible assistive technologies to the general public is a web portal called Doma je doma (translated as Home sweet Home). On this portal, the general public and social service providers will find information about suitable assistive technologies and places where they can try them out.

This platform is operated by the South Moravian Agency for Public Innovation JINAG. JINAG was established with the aim of introducing innovative solutions into public administration at the level of regional and municipal territorial self-government.

The founders of the platform are happy to join similar activities in the EU and share good practices.

<https://www.domajedomu.eu/>



### HEALTH.Lab

#### *Education, Development and Testing Living labs*

HEALTH.Lab, opened in 2022, are two laboratories that correspond to the concept of living laboratories, allowing research and development activities in like-real-world environments.

HEALTH.Lab serves for teaching in the study programs Biomedical Assistive Technology, Biomedical Technology, Biomedical Engineering. It also serves as a showroom of current technologies and trends in all these areas for professionals and the public.

Ongoing projects are focused on unobtrusive fall detection systems and contactless vital signs monitoring systems based on mmwave radars with real-world applications in nursing homes.

The HEALTH.Lab welcomes international partnerships for projects in the field of Assistive Technology and related fields.

<https://healthlab.vsb.cz/en>



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## News from Estonia

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### Reform of integration of assistive technology and medical devices

There are 2 parallel systems in Estonia regarding assistive technology . The Social Insurance Board allocates and finances aids that support activities of daily living and the Health Insurance Fund finances medical devices. Medical devices are within the meaning of law products that have a direct medical purpose, but are not classified as medicines, their intended effect is not pharmacological, immunological or metabolic, but is of a physical nature (e.g. orthopedic insoles). In 2025, it is planned to carry out a reform of the integration of assistive technology devices and medical devices. The aim of which is to reduce duplication and bureaucracy and bring the system of aids and medical devices to a common basis, to create a clear, digitalized and comprehensive system that operates under common conditions for the professional who identifies the need, the person in need of assistance, companies and the state, which ultimately simplifies and accelerates the availability of aids and medical devices for end user.

Assistive devices and medical devices can be requested by people with health insurance, and the need for both is proven by a digital medical device card. All products must be registered in the Medical Devices Database.

General Practitioners, Consultants and various health professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, etc.) have the right to issue a certificate for an assistive device within their area of competence. The right to issue a certificate for an assistive device is guaranteed by the nationally established competence requirements and stipulated in the Regulation on Assistive Devices.

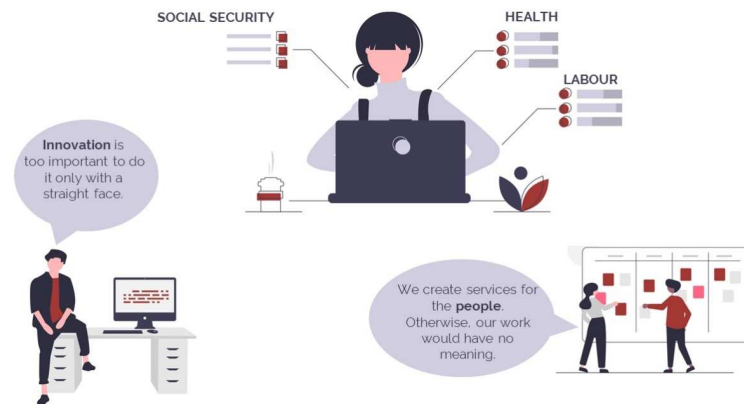
### Rehabilitation and social services integration project TERVIK (WHOLE)

TERVIK is a project in Estonia launched to provide better and more effective services to people with chronic diseases and various special needs. The TERVIK project was launched this year, and the reform will be completed by 2027.

TERVIK is county cooperation network that includes healthcare providers, family medicine centers and local governments in a specific region. The goal is to ensure that people who need both health and social services receive a comprehensive approach and service provision (through a digital health management desktop).

Health managers (specialists with social work or nursing education and advanced training) will start working for TERVIK, their task will be to comprehensively assess clients referred through the healthcare system and prepare a wellness plan.

TERVIK will map the need for prevention and services in its region (which services are needed in this specific region) and will purchase those social (including assistive devices) services that cannot be provided by the local government.



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## News from France

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### Handicap 2026 French Speaking Conference

Organised by IFRATH, with several French universities, the 14<sup>th</sup> French speaking conference Handicap 2026 will take place in the Centre de Colloques du Campus Condorcet, Paris-Aubervilliers from June 10 to 12, 2024. Research works about Assistive Technologies will be presented. <https://ifrath.fr/handicap2026/>

### Workshop JCJC 2025 – Young Researchers in AT

“Jeunes Chercheurs Jeunes Chercheuses” is a French speaking workshop of young researchers on AT. JCJC 2025 was held at the Campus Condorcet, Paris-Aubervilliers on June 10. 12 young researchers – PhD students, Master students or young Doctors have been presented their work. The day was concluded with the presentation of the Best PhD Award – this year the jury was unable to decide between 3 candidates and finally delivered 3 awards !



L'IFRATH (“Institut Fédératif de REcherche sur les Aides Techniques pour les personnes Handicapées”) is an association bringing together most labs working in the AT field in France.

Since more than 25 years, IFRATH organises the Handicap conference and the JCJC Workshop every 2 years. In addition 3 morning workshops are organised every year attracting about 50-60 attendees.

Acknowledgement :

This slide was prepared with the help of **Gérard Uzan**, president of **IFRATH**

### European Accessibility Act Implementation

As we are celebrating the 20 years of the law of February 2005 *for equal rights and opportunities, and for the participation and citizenship of people with disabilities*, a foundational text that aims to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities by guaranteeing their autonomy, their free choice and their full and complete participation in society. The implementation of the EAA into the national legislation entered into force in

**June 2025**, extending the obligation of accessibility to new domains :

- E-commerce platforms
- Banking and payment services
- Transport applications and ticketing systems
- Hardware and software interfaces for consumers
- Digital documentation and product information

### Challenge Handicap et Technologie 2025



This competition of students projects, about assistive technologies and accessibility, took place in Metz on May 23-24, 2025. Around the booths of participants, 2 days of conferences and demonstrations. With of course a few prizes awarded projects selected by a panel of experts.

Picture: Rayane Mokhtari, from Master Technology and Disability (Paris 8) receives a prize for his project “*Wheely: Facial fatigue detection system for electric wheelchair users*”



National Contact Person



**Dominique Archambault**  
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## "Mensch und Computer - where the German HCI community meets"

The annual "[Mensch und Computer](#)" conference, held in September, is highly relevant to the field of assistive technologies, providing a prominent platform for presenting and discussing innovations that enhance accessibility and promote inclusion.

By showcasing advances in barrier-free interface design, adaptive systems and novel interaction methods, the event directly improves the digital participation of people with disabilities and addresses their diverse needs. As the leading gathering of the German-speaking Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) community, the conference brings together researchers, practitioners and designers from academia, industry and public institutions. The conference covers topics such as user experience design, usability, interaction techniques, and the societal impacts of digital technologies, fostering collaborations that bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and real-world applications.

## News from Germany

### Rehabilitation technology in transition: a human-technology-environment perspective



In 2024, the Chair of Rehabilitation Technology at the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at TU Dortmund University celebrated its 20th anniversary. At the same time, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Bühler, who in 2004 became the first professor of rehabilitation technology, retired.

Over the past two decades, intensive work and research has been carried out on implementing participation for and with people with disabilities. Along the way, many cooperation, practice, and project partners supported this overarching goal. To mark Christian Bühler's retirement, an [anthology was published with a total of 41 articles](#) on diverse and current rehabilitation technology topics that are currently driving science and practice.

[Open call for papers](#)

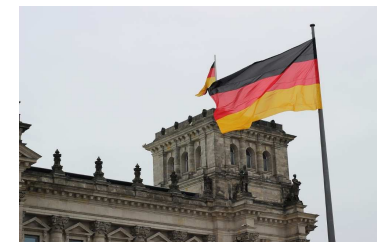
### Committee for Accessible Information Technology

The [committee](#) brings together experts from a wide range of disciplines in the field of digital accessibility. In addition to the committee plenary, there are various working groups (WGs) on specific topics, currently: WG Accessible Higher Education, WG Website, WG Maximum Possible Level, WG Mobile Applications, WG People with Learning Disabilities, WG German Sign Language in Digital Applications, WG Digital Administration, and WG Software.

### Current projects

In the participatory project [KARLA – Communication Assistance in Relevant Areas of Life for All](#) funded by the German TV Lottery Foundation, an AI-based application is being developed that enables people with learning difficulties to independently translate official documents into plain language. The areas of application are selected together with the target group, and the content generated with the AI tool is evaluated in terms of its comprehensibility and applicability. The AI-based application is iteratively optimized together with the target group based on the evaluation results.

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



### National Contact Person



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## The National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2024-2030

A 'Technical Committee' was established for the preparation and monitoring of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2024-2030

(<https://amea.gov.gr/strategy/strategy-2024-2030>). The Committee was chaired by the Minister of State and its members were representing Ministries, the National Accessibility Authority, the National Confederation of Disabled People (NCDP) and the Coordination Mechanism of the Government.

The National Strategy has now been finalised, and is a successor to the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2020-2023. Its broader framework is defined by the European Union Strategy "Union for Equality: Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030". The National Strategy evolves around six pillars forming its main strategic priorities:

1. Universal accessibility
2. Independent living in the community
3. Access to health
4. Inclusion in education at all levels
5. Access to employment
6. Social awareness and visibility of persons with disabilities.

## News from Greece

### The National Accessibility Authority of Greece (NAA) at the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the UN Conference of States Parties to the CRPD



The **Conference of States Parties (COSP)** is held annually at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The Conference covers a range of themes and issues in round-tables, interactive dialogues and side-events.

In the context of 17th Session (11-13 June 2025) **Sub theme 3: Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities to decent work and sustainable livelihood**, was co-chaired by Greece Vice President of the bureau and the president of the National Accessibility Authority, who presented expert opinion and recommendations relating to "Facilitating the Mobility of Students with Disabilities"

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Session (10-12 June 2025), the NAA participated and contributed to the round table discussions for **Sub theme 2: "Leaving no one behind: using AI as a tool for supporting inclusivity to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities."**

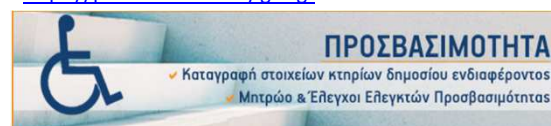
### Exemplary AAA-Accessible online public consultation process deployed for the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Motivated by the need to design and develop policies for persons with disabilities with their own active engagement, Greece deployed a fully accessible public consultation process for its National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2024-2030, through a WCAG-AAA accessible online platform (<https://amea.gov.gr/consultation>). The exemplary accessible nature of this consultation process enabled the direct engagement of many disability organizations and stakeholders and hundreds of persons with disabilities, demonstrating in practice how accessibility barriers can be overcome, ensuring the active participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in policy formulation, through an open, inclusive, transparent and accessible mechanism.

### Online platform recording the Accessibility of buildings of public interest

An online platform monitoring the accessibility of buildings of public interest has been developed by the Technical Chamber of Greece and is available at

<https://prosvasimotita-dy.gov.gr>



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



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## News from Hungary

AAATE 2025  
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Nicosia

### The Disability Science Council is established under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior

- On 7 March 2025, the Disability Science Council (DSC) was established in Budapest. Disability is not just a policy or social issue, but an area that requires the practical application of cutting-edge science, said at the opening of the first meeting.
- The aim of the DSC is to support the involvement of the scientific community in improving the quality of life of people with disabilities, thus promoting their social inclusion and equal opportunities.
- President: László Lovász PhD
- Representatives of the Social Sciences:
  - Judit Gombás PhD, Hegedűs Hanga, Nóra Laoues-Czimbalmos PhD, Tamás Kertész PhD, Alinka Molnár-Tóth PhD, Csaba Bernáth, Erzsébet Földesi, Tamás Joó PhD,
- Representatives of Natural Sciences:
  - Prof. J. Róbert Bedros, Prof. Cecília Sik-Lanyi, Erika Jókai, PhD, Prof. Ilona Kovács, Éva Mikics PhD, Prof. András Szarka, Prof. György Cserey, Prof. Imre Kacs Kovics, Renáta Cserjési PhD, Tamás Laki PhD
- <https://kormany.hu/hirek/megalakult-a-fogyatekossagugyi-tudomanyos-tanacs>



### Collaboration between the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE, Budapest) and the University of Pannonia (UP, Veszprém)



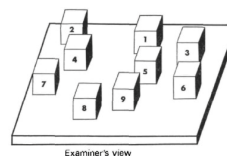
Virtual Reality  
implementation  
Corsi test



Testing spatial-visual  
memory

Using a well-known and  
proven test in a VR  
environment

No need for a test driver  
Less stress  
More accurate  
measurements  
Easy to change



Different 3D  
environments

National Contact Person



Cecilia Sik-Lanyi  
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## Working to build a national AT Ecosystem



The HSE's CREATE fund has now issued its third round of funding with the goal of supporting a diverse range of AT-related innovations across Ireland.

Projects supported to date include:

- AT libraries
- AT Passport
- Supporting independent living through environmental controls and smart home technologies
- Standing power wheelchairs



The Irish Government commissioned the WHO to undertake an AT Capacity Assessment with a view to the development of a robust AT ecosystem. A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken and the final report from the WHO is expected imminently.

## News from Ireland



### The AT Passport

Funded by the HSE CREATE grant programme, the AT Passport prototype has been developed by Enable Ireland and the Disability Federation of Ireland in partnership with St John of God Services, Headway Ireland and Multiple Sclerosis Ireland. It places the AT user at the centre of their own journey providing them with a central repository where all information relating to their AT needs can be stored and shared with whomever they choose.



The Digital & Assistive Technology Network is led by Rehab and includes 11 partners, all of whom are service providers. A series of introductory AT webinars are in development, with a target audience of the general public, as well as AT professionals. All webinars will be available in 2026 on [atandme.com](http://atandme.com)

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



National Contact Person

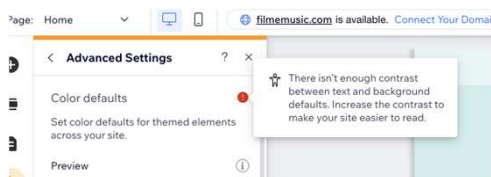


Siobhán Long  
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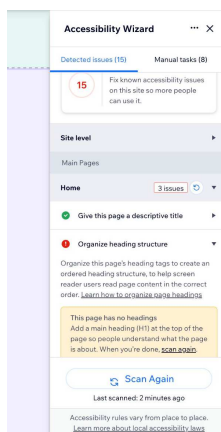
## Accessibility in Wix

Wix believes in the power of the web to **include everyone**, and **accessibility** plays a central role in that vision. One of the company's key achievements this year is the development of the **new Accessibility Wizard**: an in-editor tool that helps users easily detect and fix accessibility issues on their sites. The Wizard is part of Wix's broader commitment to accessibility, which includes continuously improving the accessibility of the Wix Editor and components, designing UI elements with accessibility in mind, and providing tools and features that help users build accessible websites and apps from the start. Wix also invests in raising awareness and providing education for both internal teams and users, offering practical guidance to support accessible design.

- [Wix accessibility Wizard](#)
- [Wix accessibility checklist](#)
- [Wix online course](#)



A warning in the Editor when selected colors don't meet contrast requirements



Wix accessibility Wizard

## News from Israel

### Ministry of Health: actions to strengthen the integration of assistive technologies into the healthcare system

- **Mental health:** As part of incentive programs for the health funds (HMOs), **triage mechanisms** and a program to implement **digital therapeutics**.
- **Rehabilitation:** An **accelerator** was established to address **national rehabilitation challenges**, followed by support for the development of technologies in **18 rehabilitation centers**.
- In collaboration with the Israel Innovation Authority, **pilot programs** in **mental health** and **child development**.
- In 2025, the mental health program was expanded to **psychiatric hospitals**, and a new model is being advanced for **HMOs** to adopt technologies in **rehabilitation** and **child development**.
- A joint call for rehabilitation **pilot programs** is also being promoted in partnership with the Innovation Authority and the Class Action Fund.

### TechAbility – Tech Innovation for People with Disabilities

TechAbility is a national innovation community promoting technology for people with disabilities. Established by JDC-Israel, in collaboration with the National Insurance, the Ministry of Economy, the Israel Innovation Authority, and Hackaveret – The Social Innovation Hub, the community brings together tech developers, professionals, and individuals with disabilities to foster joint advancement and scale impactful solutions. One of its core programs, the Innovation Leadership Program, creates an essential pipeline for scouting, supporting, and integrating promising disability-tech startups.

[hackaveret.org/techability/](https://hackaveret.org/techability/)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T\\_3mc5BHs4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T_3mc5BHs4)



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



National Contact Person



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## News from Italy

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### Assistive Technology Milestone Reached in Italy

Italy is taking a major step forward in enabling access to assistive technologies through its public health system (SSN). In 2017 the Catalogue of Reimbursable Medical Devices introduced reimbursement for modern devices, but regional tariffs were still missing. Today, it is possible to access tools like eye gaze systems, tablet-based communicators, environmental control remotes, keyboards, mouse emulators, and selected domotics components.

### Italy to Adopt New Medical Device Classification (CID) in 2026

Starting from January 1, 2026, a multilayered structure compliant with the European Medical Device Nomenclature (EMDN) will be introduced in Italy



### WHO: Global Report on Assistive Technology translated in Italian

GLIC – centriusili.it translated the summary of the “Global report on assistive technology” report developed by WHO and UNICEF in Italian.



### People & Recognition

#### Head of AIAS Bologna among Forbes' Accessibility 100



Italian based AAATE member Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf (Head of AIAS Bologna's AT department and Secretary General of the Global Alliance of Assistive Technology Organizations) was included by Forbes in the Accessibility 100 list, featuring the 100 most influential figures driving accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities globally.

#### Italian the vice-president of EASTIN



Claudia Salatino - Biomedical Engineer Research and Clinical Unit DAT (Smart homes, Assistive technology and Occupational Therapy) at Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi ONLUS, Milan – is vice-president of Eastin, the European network of national organizations, specialized in disseminating information in AT



National Contact Person



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## News from Malta

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### University Projects

There are 2 projects related to the development of assistive technologies currently underway at the University of Malta:



#### 1. *EyeCon — EOG-Based Eye-Gaze Interface*

This project aims to:

1. **Enhance communication accessibility** by developing a robust, low-cost eye-gaze control system that functions without cameras, supporting users with severe motor impairments to interact naturally with computers and communication devices.
2. **Improve usability and adaptability** by integrating advanced signal processing algorithms to compensate for head movement and environmental noise, enabling smoother, more reliable eye control in everyday settings.

#### 2. *Smart Gaze Project — EOG-Driven Smart Home Control*

- Launched March 11, 2025, the Smart Gaze initiative—led by Prof. Eng. Keith Camilleri and funded by the Parliamentary Secretariat—aims to help individuals with ALS or spinal paralysis control home devices (lights, curtains, TV) via eye gaze using AI-enhanced EOG wearables
- **Highlights:**
  - Lightweight eye-tracking masks for improved comfort.
  - Prototypes are being tested with end-users to iterate design and usability.

### E.A.S.E Project

- **E.A.S.E. Project (Easy, Accessible, Simple, and Effective)**
- **Funding Source:** Erasmus+ Key Action 2: Adult Education.
- **Project Duration:** March 2024 to February 2025.
- **Lead Partner:** Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Malta
- **Collaborators:** Boarve Konsult (Sweden), Puzzle Se (Greece), Kypriaki Etaireia Pistopoiisis Limited (Cyprus).
- **Objective:** Develop and promote Easy Read guidelines to make information accessible for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- **Outcome:** Creation of certified training modules and guidelines for service providers.

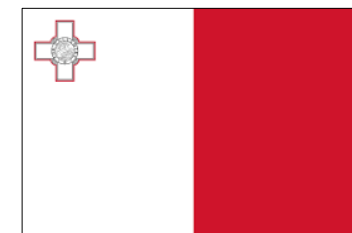
### Independent Living Hub Opening

Opened in 2024:

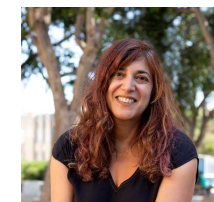
**Objective:** Provide access to assistive technologies and digital inclusion services for individuals with disabilities.

**Services Offered:** Training, assessments, and access to various assistive technologies.

**Funding Source:** Malta Government.



National Contact Person



Dr May Agius  
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## News from North Macedonia


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### National Digital Accessibility Law in Progress

A **draft law for digital accessibility** of public sector websites and mobile apps is in the process of being adopted by the Macedonian Assembly (as of July 2025). The law aligns with the EU Web Accessibility Directive and is expected to be implemented from June 2026. This represents a landmark step towards digital inclusion in the country and will significantly improve access to online services for people with disabilities.

### New National Association: Accessibility and Inclusion (AAI)

Founded in October 2024, AAI is the second assistive technology-focused NGO in North Macedonia, joining "Open the Windows" in this mission. AAI is led by a mixed team of disabled and non-disabled professionals working in accessibility, inclusion, and AT. In November 2024, they organized the international workshop "The Visual Made Verbal" with renowned American expert Dr. Joel Snyder. AAI contributes to national policy and promotes AT as a key to independent living.

 [accessibilityandinclusion@gmail.com](mailto:accessibilityandinclusion@gmail.com)

 LinkedIn: [Association for Accessibility & Inclusion](#)  
Instagram: [api.skopje](#)



National Contact Person



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## Assistive Equipment Rental Service

The assistive equipment rental service run by the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PFRON) offers free access to modern devices that support the daily functioning of people with disabilities. The offer includes rehabilitation, orthopedic, assistive, and communication equipment tailored to various types of disabilities and individual needs. The initiative aims to increase the independence, mobility, and overall quality of life of its beneficiaries. The rental process is simple, user-friendly, and carried out online, ensuring convenient and inclusive access to necessary technological solutions across all regions of Poland.

## News from Poland



### Migam.AI – Innovative support for the deaf

MIGAM.AI, part of [Migam S.A.](#), is an innovative platform using AI and Transformer-based models to translate sign language into text and vice versa. A key feature is a digital avatar that provides live translations into Polish Sign Language (PJM) and American Sign Language (ASL), improving communication for deaf individuals. On April 29, 2025, [MIGAM.AI successfully demonstrated real-time ASL translation](#) during a live online event, showcasing the system's accuracy and fluency. The platform partners with companies such as Microsoft, Orange, and Credit Agricole to enhance accessibility in public and commercial services. It is recognized for helping remove communication barriers and supporting social inclusion for people with hearing disabilities.

### The SMART Pathway for Accessibility at [PARP](#) and [NCBiR](#)

The SMART Pathway for Accessibility is a program by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) supporting mainly SMEs in developing and implementing innovative technologies to improve accessibility in physical, digital, and communication areas. It includes mandatory R&D and deployment modules, with optional digitalization and skills development. The program funds up to 80% of eligible costs from a budget of hundreds of millions PLN. PARP manages calls for SMEs until June 2025, and NCBR for larger companies cooperating with SMEs until October 2025. The program fosters advanced assistive technologies and accessibility barrier removal.

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



National Contact Person



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## News from Portugal

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### Prospective Meeting on Assistive Technologies in Portugal



On May 9, the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar hosted TAPeP 2025, bringing together over 80 participants. The goal was to identify challenges and collect proposals to advance assistive technologies in Portugal. A national “Agenda for Action” was drafted and refined through public consultation.

### Espaços com Sentido Fundação MEO



This new initiative supports the assessment and use of Assistive Technology and AAC. It is hosted in certified partner institutions, with technical and legal capacity to issue prescriptions. Fundação MEO provides updated technologies, equipment, and training for professionals.

### Accessible Literature



CRID® (IP Leiria) develops multi-format books that include braille, pictograms, LGP, and audio versions. These books ensure access to literature for all, including people with visual, hearing, and intellectual disabilities. In 2025, two new guides were co-developed with UFRJ to support AAC and accessible book creation.

### APELA explores AI and Voice Technologies



APELA supports over 700 PALS annually, embracing innovation in communication and care. Recent advances include voice cloning, identity-preserving speech systems, and EMG-based control. Key partners include Eleven Labs, ACAPELA, Unbabel, and the Scott-Morgan Foundation.



### Worldwide Survey on Wheelchair Provision

Researchers from Portugal, Spain, and the U.S. launched a global survey on wheelchair service delivery. It targets professionals such as OTs, PTs, engineers, and suppliers. Responses are anonymous and aim to inform better international practices.

[English Survey](#)   [Spanish survey](#)

### Jaime Filipe Award Innovation for Inclusion



The INR honored outstanding inclusive technologies during the 2024 award ceremony. Winners included *O Mundo na Ponta do Dedo*, with honorable mentions for *One Arm for Margot* and *Halo*. The prize reflects Portugal’s commitment to social innovation; the next edition will take place in 2026.



National Contact Person



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## Design and Evaluation of Technological Support Tool to EMPOWER stakeholders in Digital Education

Evidence-based digital platform co-developed with and for the neurodivergent children for training executive functions and emotion regulation.

[www.project-empower.eu](http://www.project-empower.eu)



**EMPOWER**

## News from ROMANIA

### SeeYou by AMAIS

- SeeYou by AMAIS is the first application in Romania that connects people with visual disabilities with guides who can accompany them in various activities across our still inaccessible cities.
- Its goal is to make cities more accessible by enabling people with visual disabilities to become more mobile and visible, while fostering greater empathy among those around them.

<https://amais.ro/>  
<https://seeyou.ro/landing>



### Accessible movies for the blind on MovieReading

- The Traveling Book Foundation has made 33 films accessible for the blind with the support of ORANGE Foundation, and they have been uploaded on the MovieReading platform. Thus, on the MovieReading platform there are currently more than 80 accessible movies available for the visually impaired in Romania whenever they want, either at home or at the cinema.

### MUNICODE - accessible math for the blind

- The Municode language allows the transformation of two-dimensional mathematical formulas into a linear form that can be easily explored by the blind with the help of the keyboard and a synthetic voice. The Municode application transforms a MSWord file with mathematical formulas written in Equation Editor into a MSWord file with formulas written in the Municode language.
- To manually write a formula in the Municode language, an application has been developed that transforms the ordinary keyboard into a keyboard that allows the input of over 400 Unicode characters. The Municode language is language independent.

[www.fcc.ro](http://www.fcc.ro)



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



National Contact Person



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## ASTEK 2025 CONFERENCE



In Serbia, the annual international conference ASTEK – Assistive Technologies and Communication is organized in Belgrade, bringing together researchers, practitioners, educators, and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and present innovative solutions in the field of assistive technologies. The conference, held every year, features plenary sessions, workshops, and poster presentations that emphasize practical applications supporting daily life, education, and rehabilitation. The upcoming ASTEK 2025 will take place in Belgrade on 14 November 2025.

## Enhancing Abilities with AI - An Erasmus+ project



AI 2 Empower Hub (Enhancing Abilities with AI): An Erasmus+ project that equips therapists, special educators, and support professionals with the digital and AI-related skills necessary to design and deliver inclusive, person-centred assistive technology. The initiative offers a free MOOC featuring video tutorials, guides, and practical tools, as well as in-person AI training workshops in education, rehabilitation, and social care. Notably, one training module—developed by the Society of Special Education and Rehabilitation Therapists in Serbia—focuses specifically on how AI can support personalized learning.

<https://ai2empowerhub.com/>

## News from *Serbia*

### Key Themes in Serbian Assistive Technology Research (2025)

In 2025, research on assistive technologies in Serbia addressed both strategic frameworks and practical implementation. The paper International Models for Assistive Technology Selection: A Systematic Review and Expert Evaluation in the Serbian Context (1) provided a systematic overview of international AT selection models and offered expert recommendations for adapting these frameworks to the Serbian educational and rehabilitation systems. At the same time, the study Assistive Technology Provision at Mainstream Schools – Experiences of Serbian Resource Centers (2) analyzed the provision of AT in Serbian schools using a SWOT framework, highlighting dedicated staff and motivation as strengths, while pointing out weaknesses such as insufficient training, financial limitations, and lack of systemic coordination. Together, these studies underline that the main themes of AT research in Serbia this year revolve around the need for structured selection frameworks, capacity building among professionals, and systemic improvements in resource allocation and policy support.

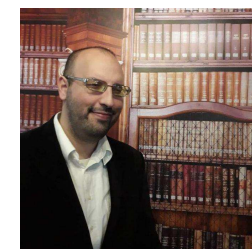
#### References

- 1.MEDENICA, V., IVANOVIĆ, L., STEPANOVIĆ, S., & BOLIĆ, E. B. (2025). International models for assistive technology selection: A systematic review and expert evaluation in the Serbian context. *education*, 31(1), 29-53.
- 2.Glumbić, N., Đorđević, M., Slavković, S., Schembri, S. B., Agius, M., Magni, R., ... & Desideri, L. (2025). Assistive technology provision at mainstream schools—Experiences of Serbian resource centers. *Technology and Disability*, 10554181251322382.

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



### National Contact Person



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## News from Slovakia

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### National Coordination Role Strengthened

Access center at Technical University of Košice (AC TUKE) as special pedagogical units for supporting students with special needs, continues its legally mandated role resulting from its over institutional national function of methodological, knowledge and coordination centre in Slovakia, as one of two special educational institution.

In 2024, it delivered training for university coordinators and teachers, created methodology guidelines, and organized a national seminar with 43 stakeholders including ministries, NGOs, and assistive service providers.

The centre provided tailored support to 95 students and collaborated with 10 faculties.

### New Assistive Technologies and Student Training

AC TUKE expanded its portfolio of assistive technologies to support diverse student needs. Students with dyslexia benefited from LexiLight reading lamps and speech-to-text tools; visually impaired users accessed tactile DotPad displays and Envision Glasses.

Over 320 hours of direct consultation and training were delivered in 2024, including mentoring and navigation support.

### Enhancing Inclusion through Diagnostics and Feedback

All students registered with AC TUKE undergo individual functional diagnostics to receive tailored study accommodations.

In November 2024, a satisfaction survey revealed high approval (8.76/10) for centre services. Feedback is used to refine support strategies, improve learning environments, and inform institutional policy.

### International Collaboration via Erasmus+ Projects

AC TUKE is actively engaged in the international Ulysseus European University alliance, contributing to the work package on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Community Engagement (CE). The centre brings its expertise in supporting students with disabilities into a wider European context, collaborating with partner universities to foster inclusive educational environments and promote equal opportunities across the alliance.

It is also an active partner in the ongoing “Design2Freedom” (2023–2026) project with COCEMFE (Spain), focusing on integrating inclusive design into higher education curricula across the EU.

In 2024, AC TUKE completed the Erasmus+ project “Bez-Tíže” aimed at improving academic adaptation of young Ukrainian students.



#### National Contact Person



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## (co)financed adaptation of vehicles for mobility impaired persons

A service that covers 85-100 %\* of vehicle adaptations introduced:

- for drivers with mobility disabilities
- for fellow passengers with disabilities that cannot be transferred to a vehicle without adaptations

\*(co)financed by Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Photo by courtesy of URI Soča.



## University Textbook Physical activity, aging and health

New textbook in preparation for University of Ljubljana, including:

- Assistive technology to enable better QoL for older people
- Increased motivation through Exergames / somatosensory games for aging population to keep FIT.

## News from Slovenia

### Project Actively - Inclusively

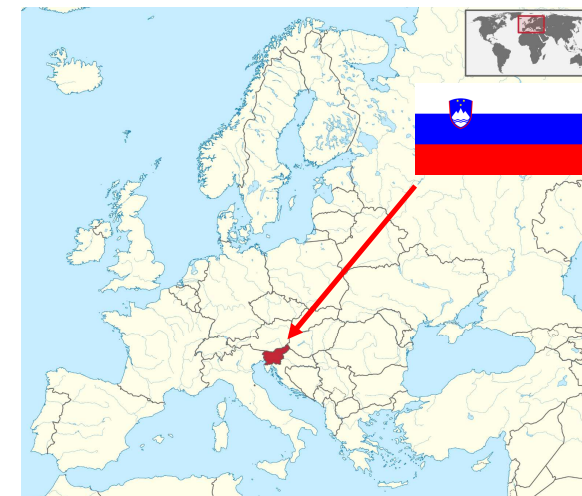
Stimulation of social integration of people with disabilities in  
**sports:**

- Sport activities already IN and AFTER the time of rehabilitation
- promotion of parasports in general.

Photo by courtesy of URI Soča.



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



National Contact Person



Mojca Debeljak  
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## Orthosis for Patients with Radial and/or Ulnar Nerve Paralysis. ORÁCULO Project (Valencia, Spain, 2024–2026).

Principal Investigator Dr. Carlos Roldán Blay |

[carrolbl@die.upv.es](mailto:carrolbl@die.upv.es)

Department of Electrical Engineering | Universitat  
Politécnica de València

During 2024–2025, the ORÁCULO project significantly enhanced a hand orthosis for individuals with radial and/or ulnar nerve paralysis. Evolving from a rigid, complex design, the new version is articulated, customizable, and user-friendly.

The base is now a 3D-printed, hinged structure tailored to the hand's back. Redesigned ergonomic traction rods with higher torque snap into place without tools.

A functional thumb joint improves opposition. Springs with multiple anchors replace elastic bands, allowing precise force control and improved durability. Velcro fastenings were replaced by one-handed, self-adjusting straps, and breathable padding enhances comfort.

The design has been fully parameterized based on a 3D hand model generated from just eight one-dimensional measurements. This allows the device to be adapted to each patient without manually redesigning the model, streamlining clinical use and enabling personalized manufacturing.

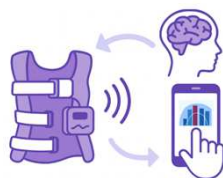


## C6880, a treatment table for pregnant women and individuals with prominent abdomens

CEO Paulo Vieira | [carrolbl@die.upv.es](mailto:carrolbl@die.upv.es)

Ecopostural | [ecopostural.com](http://ecopostural.com)

The ECOPOSTURAL C6880 features a patented pneumatic system with a removable center and inflatable cushion that adapts to the abdomen, chest, or head. It fits users from 1.50 to 2 meters tall and up to 250 kg, with manual pressure adjustment for greater comfort and therapist access.



To develop an intelligent orthopedic brace, applicable to both pectus carinatum and scoliosis, that integrates sensor technology and artificial intelligence to optimize therapeutic outcomes.

Dr. Carlos Gutiérrez ([gutierrez\\_carsan@gva.es](mailto:gutierrez_carsan@gva.es))

Dr. José María Baydal ([chema.baydal@ibv.org](mailto:chema.baydal@ibv.org))

Dr. Juan José Rodenas ([jjrodена@mcm.upv.es](mailto:jjrodена@mcm.upv.es))



Powerup platform consists of a 3d-printed orthosis and a gamification environment for promoting the upper limb rehabilitation of children with Cerebral Palsy. It is a research project funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and developed by the Bioengineering research team of San Pablo CEU University in Madrid (Spain). Currently, we are working in the NeuroMetrics projects aiming at measuring the motor control of children with Cerebral Palsy using Electromyography (EMG) and Biomechanics. This research was funded by the SPANISH GOVERNMENT (FEDER/Ministry of Science and Innovation/AEI.), grant number POWERUP project RTI2018-097122-A-I00/ AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and PID2021-127096OB-I00 NeuroMetrics project (2022-2025)

[www.exopowerup.com](http://www.exopowerup.com)



## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



National Contact Person

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## News from Sweden

**AAATE 2025  
Conference  
Nicosia**

### AccessCoVe



*The AccessCoVe logo*

AccessCoVe aims to structure excellence in Vocational Education and Training in the field of Accessibility. Twenty-five partners from four different countries (Greece, Sweden, Spain, and Italy) joined forces to establish a European multi-level, innovative, and constantly growing Centre of Vocational Excellence - AccessCoVe - in the field of accessibility for individuals with disabilities (i.e., individuals with impairments and the elderly).

[Project description.](#)

### Visualization for universal design in planning and building processes

The project will develop visualization tools intended to be used in order for universal design to be better taken into account throughout the planning and building process.



*Image showing consequences in a digital twin. Since there isn't any ramp or elevator, the wheelchair users are stuck by the stairs. ([Magnusson et al, 2024](#))*

The core of the project will be to explore which/which types of visualization work in different stages of the urban planning process, and based on the obtained results we will develop visualization tools with associated educational materials.

[Project description.](#)



National Contact Person



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## News from Switzerland

AAATE 2025  
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Nicosia

### HackaHealth Go! Initiative launched



HACKAHEALTH

Since 2018, [HackaHealth](#) has brought together hundreds of participants across hackathons, courses at ETH Zürich and EPFL Lausanne, and other events. Their concept makes individuals with and without disabilities co-create meaningful solutions to real-life challenges.

In 2025, HackaHealth launched “HackaHealth Go!”, an initiative financially supporting projects aligned with their values and mission. The initiative is supported by [Google.org](#) and the [Google Accessibility Discovery Center in Zurich](#).

Get in touch via [go@hackahealth.ch](mailto:go@hackahealth.ch) if you have a challenge or a project idea and want to explore how they can support you!

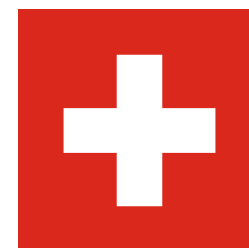
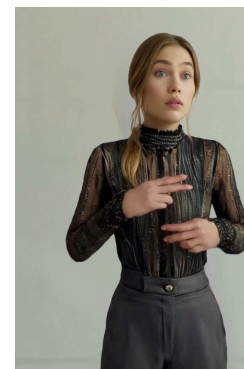
### The third CYBATHLON took place from October 25-27, 2024

From 25 to 27 October 2024, the third edition of the [CYBATHLON](#) competition, in which teams consisting of technology developers from universities, companies or NGOs and a person with disabilities tackle various everyday tasks with their latest assistive technologies, took place in a global format in the SWISS Arena in Kloten near Zurich and in local hubs all around the world. 67 international teams from the worlds of academia and industry competed in a unique competition organized by ETH Zurich. Two additional disciplines were added to the original six: a race using smart visual assistive technologies and a race using assistive robots.

### Deep....I hear you! from HandysSystem

With Deep....I hear you! we wanted to take a step forward in breaking down communication barriers for deaf people. We have developed an avatar capable of understanding Italian sign language (LIS) and translating it into speech (and vice versa). Capturing every detail of LIS, which is not limited to hand gestures but also includes body movements and facial expressions, and producing an accurate translation was particularly challenging for an artificial intelligence system.

All this was made possible thanks to the collaboration with the local deaf community, which provided us with over 62 hours of recordings, allowing us to create an LIS corpus. [www.handysystem.ch](http://www.handysystem.ch)



### Raising the Floor contributes to accessibility standard

Raising the Floor - International has been a pivotal contributor to the development and evolution of the EN 301 549 accessibility standards.

<https://raisingthefloor.org/>

### Morphic makes computers easier to use

With Morphic's AT-on-Demand, users gain instant access to their personalized assistive technologies on any computer, regardless of location or time.

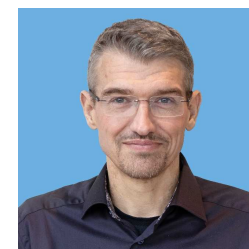
<https://morphic.org/>

### PAVE 2.0 PDF remediator released



PAVE 2.0 is an AI-powered tool to remediate PDFs. Building upon the success of its predecessor, it introduces a redesigned and simplified remediation workflow, divided into eight easy-to-follow steps and the support of our cutting-edge AI technology.. <https://pave2.cloudlab.zhaw.ch>

National Contact Person



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## News from the 5 academic centers (networks) for assistive technology

Since July 2022, the Dutch Organization for Health Research and Development **supports 5 Networks (academic centers) for Assistive Technology**. Each network involves knowledge centers, client organizations and care organizations. Output of the research conducted within the centers includes insight into (cost)effectiveness of AT (i.e. social robot Tessa), a place where citizens can try-out assistive technology, durable ways to produce prostheses, and a selection tool for AT to put on and off elastic stockings. The research centers together also work on methodology for AT, by investigating research designs which are appropriate for AT research.

## Policy – relevant developments

Research conducted on behalf of the ministry showed an increase in the number of assistive technology users, a rise in the costs per user, and an increase in the use of assistive technology due to labour market issues. They identified various bottlenecks, including a lack of insight into the effects of market concentration and insufficient attention to the users' perspective. They also noted that the parties involved lack a shared understanding of the value of a medical device, the benefits and what it should cost. Recommendations include a shared understanding of the value of assistive technology devices, full implementation of function-oriented prescription and attention to medical devices in national agreements.

## News from The Netherlands

### Assistive technology provision in municipalities - challenges

The umbrella organisation for people with physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities or chronic illnesses monitored whether the improvements in the provision of assistive technology agreed with municipalities and suppliers have been realised.

Many people feel that the municipality does not keep them well informed about their application. The long processing time is also frequently mentioned. Opinions are mixed when it comes to the delivery of aids. Two-thirds feel that the supplier provided information in understandable language. On the other hand, around half were not kept properly informed about the progress of the delivery. Seventy per cent are satisfied with the aid that was ultimately delivered, while 30% would have preferred a different or better aid. The reports show that emergency operations are often performed too late.

A new procedure for the provision of assistive technology (in complex situations) will be tested in a pilot. The most important feature is that the advice of occupational therapist and/or rehabilitation doctor is decisive for the choice of aids.

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia



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## News from Ukraine

## AAATE 2025 Conference Nicosia

### Rehabilitation of veterans



#### *Development of the rehabilitation system project*

In Ukraine, the direction of medical rehabilitation of combatants is rapidly developing, with the support of the Ministry of Health and WHO. The project of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine "Development of the rehabilitation assistance system" within the framework of the National Strategy for creating a barrier-free space.

At the same time, rehabilitation activities are carried out in conditions of high risk. Dr. Jarno Habicht, head of the WHO office, reported that since 2022, WHO has verified more than 2,200 attacks by the Russian Federation on the Ukrainian healthcare system. This list includes medical facilities, medical transport, warehouses, laboratories, and more.

To provide medical care and primary rehabilitation, in coordination with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health (MOH), WHO has launched a project to install two types of modular medical facilities in areas where medical facilities have been damaged or destroyed. [WHO](#)

### Facts and figures

- 545 medical rehabilitation facilities provide active rehabilitation in Ukraine
- 12000 rehabilitation sessions per a day occurs in the country
- 81% of medical institutions have barrier-free rehabilitation units
- More than 90 thousands of rehabilitation means (AT) were distributed to persons with disabilities in Ukraine in 2025
- Handbook of Rehabilitation Assistive Devices is approved in 2025

Source: [Ministry of Health](#), [Ministry of Social policy](#)

### Impact of war



According to Ukraine's Ministry of Health, over 250,000 people each year require physical rehabilitation due to the ongoing war.

**Rehabilitation for Ukraine (Rehab4U)** is a project of the National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities that aims to establish a resilient and inclusive rehabilitation system that improves the functional abilities, social participation, and economic opportunities of all Ukrainians.

**Momentum Wheels for Humanity Hub**, in partnership with **Results for Development (R4D)**, **Project Hope**, the **National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities (NAPD)** in Ukraine, and Deloitte, is leading activities to address both immediate needs and long-term systemic changes. Rehab4U works in close coordination with the Ukrainian government, national and regional-level authorities, key donors and stakeholders in the rehabilitation sector, NGOs, community-based organizations, OPD, patients' organizations, and professional associations. Source [nau.org.ua](#)

### Mines action

Halo-Trust Ukraine INGO educates demining actors to educate and support the affected population with a special focus on persons with disabilities and AT users.

### International actors

The Interagency Age and Disability Technical Working Group and organizations of people with disabilities will coordinate to ensure assistance is delivered in accordance with IASC principles and address the factors contributing to persons with disabilities remaining in front-line areas. Source: [Humanitarianaction.info](#)

### Inforesource EnableMe

More than half a million people with disabilities in Ukraine need individual means of support, and each of them seeks to improve the quality of their lives. NGO EnableMe has compiled a list of companies that manufacture assistive technologies in Ukraine.

List of Ukrainian producers of AT is accessible via the qr-code.



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