



What does inclusiveness mean concretely?

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Overview of disability

- 15% of the world's population has a disability
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD): key framework
- Article 5 on Equality and non-discrimination, Article 9 on accessibility and Article 19 on living independently and inclusion in the community
- EU policy and legislation, including standardisation also ensures the rights of persons with disabilities are respected



The situation of persons with deafblindness

- Representing 0.2% to 2% of the population
- Some are completely deaf and blind, but many have a little sight and/or hearing they can use
- Each person with deafblindness connects, communicates and experiences the world differently
- Services must meet individual needs and not a combination of services designed for blind OR deaf people
- Deafblindness is more common among older age groups, increasing the prevalence up to 6%



SHAPES: Smart and Health Ageing through People Engaging in Supportive Systems

- 4-year project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme
- It aims to address the needs and expectations of older adults
- One of its key elements is to integrate accessible technology
- The project is composed by a consortium of 36 organisations, including WFDB
- SHAPES is an example of a good practice where a broad project mainstreams disability

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 857159



Why is SHAPES an example of a good practice?

- 2 disability organisations are consortium partners
- WFDB was involved from early planning stages
- Reasonable accommodations are reflected in the budget (i.e.: sign language interpreters)
- Accessibility meetings are often held
- Inclusion and accessibility has been adopted as a cross-cutting requirement

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Why is SHAPES an example of a good practice? (2)

- WFDB has maintained ownership of the project and decision-making power
- The disability community is connected with hundreds of key stakeholders around the EU
- Direct involvement and participation of end users with different types of disabilities
- Increased awareness on disability, inclusion, accessibility internally and externally
- Collects data and information on older persons with disabilities



S H A P E S

Examples of WFDB's work



- Creation of Persona 8 : an older person with deafblindness (man from Norway)
- Internal accessibility reports
- Resource sharing and check lists
- Deliverable review template includes a section on accessibility and inclusion
- Testing of platform and digital solutions
- Direct involvement and consultation of different groups of persons with deafblindness: interviews, focus groups, dialogues workshops

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General barriers to inclusion

- Attitudinal barriers: ageism, ableism, racism and other forms of discrimination
- Lack of awareness on inclusion, discrimination, etc.
- Lack of public funding and programmes that ensure inclusion and measures it
- Lack of consultations and involvement of civil society
- Little to no available information or resources, in accessible and easy to understand formats (i.e.: events)
- Policies and schemes do not mainstream disability (i.e.: target separately different age groups and persons with disabilities)



Barriers encountered within the SHAPES project

- Many SHAPES partners lacked disability awareness and inclusiveness
- Lack of accessible resources (promotional materials, events, deliverables) and/or inclusive language
- Lack of involvement from the beginning in some processes (i.e.: the organisation of workshops, development of digital solutions)
- Difficulties for us to provide feedback where relevant, and lack of initiative from partners
- Not all components to SHAPES are currently accessible (past deliverables, digital solutions, etc)
- In general, accessibility and inclusion is often an afterthought, becoming less the case



General recommendations for projects

- Collaborate with civil society and representative organisations from **FP1** the beginning
- Create a work package/task on inclusion and measure progress
- Partnerships between government or private sector with civil society **FP0**
- Do not leave underrepresented groups behind, adopt an intersectional approach in your work
- Less privileged groups such as older people and people with disabilities should be empowered and involved in decision making

Diapositive 10

- FP0** Suggestion along : technologies should be used to open up options (possibility of choice)
Frankie Picron; 2022-09-13T13:54:43.900
- FP1** let them know that accessibility for deafblind people will ultimately benefit everyone (positive impact)
Frankie Picron; 2022-09-13T13:59:02.438



General recommendations for organisations

- Listen and educate yourself and your team
- Fund trainings with experts specifically on inclusion for staff and members
- Seek feedback and measure progress on inclusion
- Select a focal point on inclusion or an inclusion council
- Allocate resources and a budget to ensure inclusion
- Collect disaggregated data and statistics

Remember: Inclusion and accessibility is a shared responsibility!



Thank you!

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