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Integra Onlus



Association Italiens Guadeloupe

ECHOES and cognitive accessibility

Social integration and job creation

ASPANIAS



**Plena
inclusión**

Castilla y León

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GADELOUPE NOV 2019

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Integra Onlus

ECHOES
NETWORK OF TOWNS

ASPANIAS GROUP and CULTURAL HERITAGE

- ▶ Our main objective as organization in this frame is to make cultural heritage (CH) accessible from a cognitive point of view, encouraging the use of an accessible language, carrying out awareness-raising actions and claiming cognitive accessibility as a right.
- ▶ And consider CH a tool for social cohesion, local development and employment inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

ACCESS TO CULTURE IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY DIFFERENT LEGAL SYSTEMS

- ▶ Starting with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits” (art. 27).
- ▶ Most of the constitutions of the European Union States, directly or indirectly, refer to the issue of culture accessibility, considered a central issue.
- ▶ The work plan for culture (2015-2018) adopted by the European Council in 2014, also mentions an accessible and inclusive culture as a priority.

OK, LETS GO TO MAKE ACCESSIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE. BUT, WHAT DOES IT MEANS?

Given the universal value of cultural heritage, to which everyone should have access, it is important to understand the meaning of the term “accessible”.

► **Physical accessibility**, associated with all human senses and the physical possibility to enjoy CH (participate). It is not limited only to the means providing the physical approach to cultural heritage but also includes the ability to touch, embrace with a look, hear the sounds, smell or taste. So we could call it also sensory accessibility.

► **Cognitive accessibility**, concerns the mental abilities of a person. It is associated with cognitive information about cultural heritage. It is information of different type that facilitates our appreciation of heritage, enables our personal experience, reveals an opportunity for own interpretation and insight.

ACCESSIBILITY, DISABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ The connection of people with the built environment has been underlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which defines **disability** as the result “from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”(UN, 2006).

ACCESSIBILITY

- ▶ The **built environment** should be a place that can enable or disable people in achieving their functioning and consequently their well-being.
- ▶ We can talk also about **contextual factors**, divided into **environmental factors**, that are the physical and social features of the surroundings in which people live their lives, and **personal factors**, which involve the particular background of an individual, like the cultural one.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY

- ▶ There are still some work to do but there are a lot of work already done in this frame. In fact, when we talk about accessibility we usually think in physical barriers to break.
- ▶ And more important, there are a legal frame.



COGNITIVE ACCESSIBILITY



COGNITIVE ACCESSIBILITY

- ▶ Cognitive accessibility is to do easier to understand the documents, spaces like hospitals or town halls or products such as equipment and appliances.
- ▶ There are not a concrete legal frame (legal development).
- ▶ Accessibility is a right of all people. People with difficulties in understanding need it, like people with intellectual disabilities. And other people as people with cognitive problems, old people, migrants and other people that have not a good knowledge of the language.





EASY TO READ EASY TO UNDERSTAND

► Easy-to-read is a method to adapt content, language, presentation and pictures for a target group who has difficulties in reading and understanding information.

Easy-to-read information is easy to find, read and understand.

It is information that has a clear and logical structure.

The text is written with common words.

The sentences are short and simple to read and understand.

The text is presented with an airy layout and with pictures that help the reader to understand the content.

To make information easy-to-read you must know your reader, his/her knowledge and interest about the topic.

HOW TO WRITE EASY- TO-READ INFORMATION I



1. Text adaptation

Components of an easy-to-read information:

Short text

Focus on the most important

Logical flow / structure

Simple and concrete words

Simple sentence structure

Inviting layout

Readable type face

Pictures that support the text



HOW TO WRITE EASY- TO-READ INFORMATION II



2. Validation

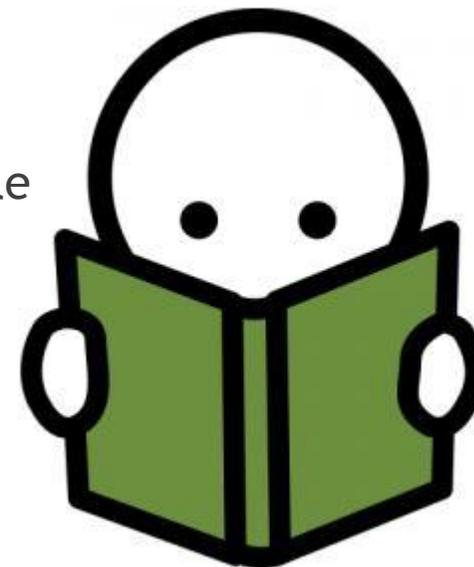
First validation by a group of people with intellectual disability

The adapted text is read to:

Understand it.

Make improvement proposals.

Reject the text or parts of it.



- ▶ This is important: Participation (involvement) in the process of people with intellectual disability. Linked with job creation.

HOW TO WRITE EASY- TO-READ INFORMATION III



3. Validation

Second validation by an expert, in our case by a cultural heritage expert.

The adapted text is checked to verify that the meaning of the adapted text is the same that the original one.



HOW TO WRITE EASY- TO-READ INFORMATION IIII



4. End of the process

Once confirmed the text is easy to read and understand and has the same meaning, the process is finish and we can add the official logo of the “**text easy-to-read**”.

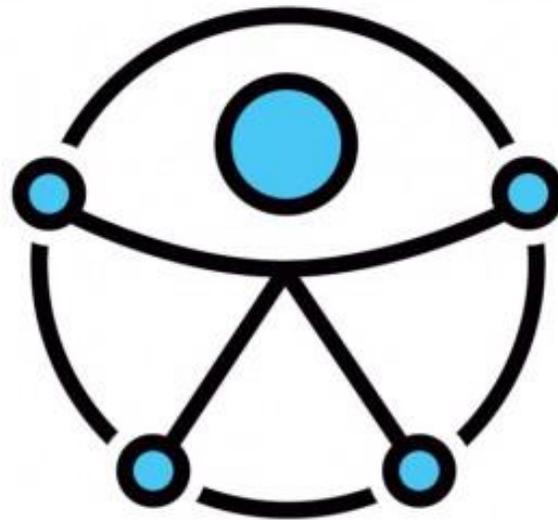


BENEFITS



- ▶ Built up an inclusive and cohesive society.
- ▶ Enhance the audience / visitors of CH elements / events.
- ▶ Democratization of CH.
- ▶ Inclusive CH.
- ▶ Job creation for people with intellectual disabilities (validators).
- ▶ Cognitive accessibility can benefit the 30% of the population.

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY LOGO



ACCEASY



Erasmus+ project

We have just started the development of an Erasmus+ project called “**Easy to Read Easy to Access**”. As Cultural Heritage remains as one priority of Erasmus+, we want to promote through this project an inclusive and accessible heritage, also for those people with cognitive difficulties.

Intellectual outputs:

- Database with cultural heritage concepts in easy-to-read in 5 different languages (English, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Slovak).
- Materials to train CH professionals in cognitive accessibility (manual, training course, etc.)

Results

At the end of the project 4 CH elements, tangible and intangible, will be accessible from a cognitive point of view.

ACCESSIBLE CATHEDRAL



The city of Burgos is currently preparing the commemorative acts of the 8th centenary of the founding of the **Cathedral of Burgos** (1221 - 2021). To organize and coordinate them, the Foundation VIII Centenario has been created, in which Aspanias is an active member, the association has become part of the Board of the cultural foundation representing the social and health organizations of Burgos and its province. We are working in make the Cathedral accessible from a cognitive point of view.

THANKS