

Digital inclusion

Digital inclusion is an EU-wide effort to ensure that everybody can contribute to and benefit from the digital world.



Every day, we use the digital world to perform a range of tasks. This has only increased with the COVID-19 pandemic. We use the Internet and new technologies to work from our homes, learn new skills, watch tv and films, and find out the latest news with the click of a button.

Indeed, the transition to the digital world has brought us many new and exciting opportunities. However, not everyone has equal access to these opportunities. For some people, the digital world is not yet fully accessible. For others, it is not affordable. And, others were not taught the skills to participate fully.

The EU is working to make the Internet more accessible. It has introduced activities such as:

- accessible ICT: making ICT more accessible for all and fostering the development of accessible technologies;
- assistive technologies: supporting the development of ICT that assists people with disabilities in the digital world;
- skills and digital skills: empowering citizens to fight marginalisation and social exclusion,

including in careers, through ICT in Education;

- social inclusion: increasing the participation rate of disadvantaged people in public, social and economic activities through social inclusion projects.

Another barrier to online participation is language. There are 24 official languages of the EU and more than 60 regional and minority languages. No single language can address all EU citizens at once, and the Internet must reflect this.

The EU is taking action to promote multilingualism online. It has invested over €200 million in this area over the last decade. It also launched the Connecting Europe Facility, which has an eTranslation service providing multilingual support to digital services and public administration across the EU.

The EU is fostering digital inclusion through other policy areas, such as digital skills, active and assistive living, and social inclusion.

European Disability Strategy 2021-2030

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

Follow the Commission's work on tech and digital @DigitalEU

Latest

NEWS ARTICLE | 30 July 2021

EU-funded U_CODE project goes on a year-long
Flashmob road trip after receiving prestigious
award

EU funded H2020 project U_CODE goes from
success to success, and two years after the end of
the project it has just received the prestigious

German Award, the Ralf Dahrendorf Award for the European Research Area from the German Ministry of Research. It is also building a start-up to upscale the results from the U_CODE project.

PRESS RELEASE | 19 July 2021

Commission seeks feedback to improve public sector website and mobile apps accessibility

On 19 July, the Commission launched a public consultation on the review of the Web Accessibility Directive.

NEWS ARTICLE | 08 July 2021

Digital Alps: Partnering with Broadband Competence Offices to build a digital connectivity roadmap for the Alpine Region

Mountain regions have much to gain from digitalisation and broadband connectivity. There is great potential for Smart Villages, SMEs, and access to online services in healthcare, education and much more. Mountain communities, however, face greater obstacles than most in becoming full participants in the European Union's Digital Decade. Their remoteness, in terms of distance and topography, combined with smaller populations, make them technically and financially challenging to reach with broadband infrastructure.

NEWS ARTICLE | 06 July 2021

Testers needed for SONAAR project

The EU pilot project SONAAR is looking for social media users willing to help testing this new accessibility feature for Android and Chrome

Browse Digital inclusion and web accessibility

Related Content

Dig deeper

Web Accessibility

Web accessibility allows everyone, including people with disabilities, to perceive, understand, navigate and interact with the Internet.

Learn more

Language Technologies & Multilingualism

The EU supports research, innovation and deployment of language technologies to break down language...

Digital skills

The EU has developed a range of policies and initiatives to increase digital skills in both the...

Source URL: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/digital-inclusion>