InSIDE - Including Students with Impairments in Distance Education

https://www.inside-project.org

Newsletter No. 2

InSIDE marks the end of its first year

Welcome to the second Newsletter of the InSIDE project. In this newsletter, we want to inform you about the progress in the project "Including Students with Impairments in Distance Education (InSIDE)". It has been a year now that the project has been going on. In this issue, we will provide information about what we have accomplished in the second six months of the project.

1st Progress meeting-Linz, 16-17 September 2019 (2nd Project meeting)

Representatives from the partner organizations attended the first progress meeting of the project on 16-16 September 2019 at Linz, Austria. They discussed the project implementation progress and relevant challenges.

Figure 1. Project members of the InSIDE consortium during the first progress meeting at Linz, Austria

Figure 2. Project members attended the first progress meeting of the InSIDE project at Linz, Austria

Highlights of the second 6 months

- **InSIDE website**: We created a multi-lingual website (https://www.inside-project.org/) where all of our work will be publicly available during the next years. The user interface of this website is provided in four languages: English, which is our common language, French, Greek, and German. On this platform, you will find all material developed during the project.

- **Building the Network**: An Electronic Index of all related end-users organizations (i.e., Associations of individuals with impairments and Higher Educational Institutions) all over the Europe, Partner Countries and South Mediterranean countries (Region 3) was integrated into the website so that the outcomes of the project would be exploited and end-users could be reached effectively. The index of organizations will be continuously expanded to include all possible stakeholders in the above regions. Interested organizations can apply via our website to be added to the index.

- **Project Social Media**: f facebook, twitter, in linkedin

Results

- ## D1.1: State of the Art concerning Distance Education (DE) programs

This is the first delivery of the InSIDE project. It includes the following chapters: Learning Educational Technologies, Distance Learning, and Disability, Learning Education Technologies and Disability, Requirements for accessible educational environment, Distance Education as a favorable environment for accessibility, Inclusion vs. special education for Individuals with Impairments, DE programs for people with special needs, Improvements in the current status of DE programs. It concludes that DE is growing in size, social importance, and usefulness. Technology has changed completely the landscape of this method of teaching. In the last times also, it has been improved more the accessibility and inclusion of people making it easy for all the access to the knowledge. However, the human part of DE, besides technological one, needs improvements. It is the inclusion and for that, the key is awareness and the requirement of following the accessibility standards, procedures, and guidelines of accessibility and inclusion. DE is affected by this need for awareness, training, and regulation like traditional education. But, the increasing importance, in society and between Persons with Special Needs, of DE makes it especially affected, and the great improvements should be made on it.

- ## D1.2: In-depth recording of educational materials

This is the second delivery of the InSIDE project. It includes the following chapters: Mainstream Learning Content and Learning Content in Distance Education. It proposes the formats to support accessible content in DE in the framework of the InSIDE project (Table 1).

Table 1. Proposed formats for accessible content in DE

	Blind students	Students with LowVision	Deaf and hard of hearing students	Students with Dexterity impairment
Web pages (.html, .xml)	+	+	+	+
Rich Text Format (.rtf)	+	+		+
PDF accessible (.pdf)	+	+		+
Digital Talking Book DAISY3	+	+		+
ePUB 3.x	+	+		+
Large print (.docx)		+		
Braille Ready File (.brf)	+			
Tactile Diagrams (.jpeg, .psd)	+			
Plain text (.txt)	+	+		+
MS-Word (.docx)	+	+		+
MS-Power Point (.pptx)	+	+		+
LaTeX (.tex)	+	+		+
Video with captions (.srt)			+	
Signed video			+	
Video with transcript (.txt)			+	
Video (or audio) description	+	+		
MathML	+	+		
MusicXML	+	+		
ChemML	+	+		
R data (.rdata, .rda)	+	+		+

- **D1.3 Recording of the Learning Management Systems (LMSs)**
  This report presents a review the current available alternatives of LMSs based on the study of the literature, previous researches and projects. A detailed list of LMSs with their advantages and drawbacks, their specifications and additional information by the manufacturer, as well as their potential use in the case of students with impairments, has been composed in order to serve as an updated guide in LMSs.

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