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SPECIAL TRACK DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

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Editorial

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Monika Maria Möhring

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- Dean, Faculty of Management and Communication

- Technical University of Middle Hesse, Germany

- Background in STEM and Information Technology

- Professor of Logistics

- Research in Industry 4 and Innovation Management

Inclusive Education at THM

- Students with handicap empowered for regular courses

- Special service by the Center for Blind and Visually Impaired Students (BliZ) with eleven staff

- Focus on STEM subjects, business studies, health management, logistics, and architecture

- Research and development projects around disability and accessible IT.

Digitale Barrierefreiheit in der Bildung weiter denken

Innovative Impulse aus Praxis, Technik und Didaktik

- Edited Book with
Goethe University Frankfurt
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Information Technology and Inclusion

IT and media content are poorly accessible by users with impairments.

The **United Nations' Directive 2016/2102** (Web Accessibility Directive) and the **EU Directive 2019/882** (European *Accessibility* Act), among others, have lately been postulating digital inclusion for persons with e.g. visual and hearing-related disabilities. The United Nations' Convention On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities (CRPD) Article 24 demands the right for **inclusive education**.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (**WCAG**) have been set out accordingly by W3C. Until these directives and guidelines are brought to fruition, affected users will continue to experience hurdles in education, in the workplace, and everyday life.

Current Status – EU

Only **public sector** required to implement digital accessibilities for websites and IT applications. Even this is often not feasible due to the nature of the basic technologies.

Companies and IT manufacturers are not yet required to provide accessible IT to their staff, customers and the public. Whether **Corporate Social Responsibility** will require them to do so, remains to be seen.

Inclusive education is a theoretical fundamental right to all children and students. Publishers still refute the high cost of accessible media.

Special Track Digital Accessibility

Today's part of the track will have three blocks.

In the first one, from 11:00 – 12:45 o'clock,

- Barriers and success criteria for implementing (digital) accessibility at a **German university** from the perspective of various stakeholders will be explored.

- **Audio-tactile technologies** for teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (**STEM**) are explained and demonstrated.

Special Track Digital Accessibility

- In the second block, from 14:15 – 16:00 o'clock,

- a workshop will focus on the **legal framework** and relevant **standards** of digital accessibility.

- In a live demonstration, the **perspective** of blind and visually impaired computer users on electronic documents is shown.

Special Track Digital Accessibility

The third block, from 16:15 – 17:30 o'clock, is dedicated to the second part of the **MS Word accessibility workshop**.

- Exercise: create and review accessible Microsoft Word documents and converting to PDF
- For this part of the workshop, participants need to **bring their own laptop** with Microsoft Office 2010 or higher, or 365 installed, The content of this workshop is based on Microsoft (MS) Word 365.

Welcome to Part 2 of this Special Track!

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