



Caruso, G. Dini, S., and Ferlino, L. (2008) *Providing a Tangible Response to the Needs of Low Vision Students* Conference paper in K. Miesenberger, J. Klaus, W. Zagler and D. Burger (Eds.). *ICCHP 2008. Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, vol. 5105, Springer, Heidelberg, 801–808

Abstract

This paper addresses the needs of students with low vision by examining the development of ZoomLinux, a DVD containing specially selected open source educational software product. The DVD was created in 2008 by a group of researchers and professionals who have gained extensive experience in visual impairment through studies conducted over many years. ZoomLinux differs from similar products devoted to people with special needs by being 'especially normal': the software applications and the platform itself are readily usable by every student in the classroom, thus satisfying the most important requirement of e-inclusion. This approach offers new opportunities for educational and methodological settings: the teacher can customise system and software options in order to meet different special needs. For each educational software program, the DVD provides accessibility analyses, detailed information about its strengths and weaknesses for use with students with low vision and notes explaining how teachers can customise the interface.