



Recent and on-going research projects

DREAM – Disability Rights Expanding Accessible Markets: Monitoring the Implementation and Enforcement of National eAccessibility law and policy

European Union Framework Programme 7, People 2010-Initial Training Network, European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation

Duration: 2011–2015

Lead Partner: National University of Ireland, Galway

Partners: NOVA, Norway (Rune Halvorsen and Bjørn Hvinden); Fundosa Technosite S.A., Spain; Universiteit Maastricht, Netherlands; University of Leeds, UK; Haskoli Islands, Iceland; Schweizer Paraplegiker–Forschung AG, Switzerland

Project website: www.nuigalway.ie/dream/

G. Anthony Giannoumis, Marie Curie Fellow at NOVA and Early Stage Researcher in the DREAM network, is currently researching the monitoring, implementation and enforcement of eAccessibility law and policy in the UK, US and Norway for his PhD. He is examining how the national systems for monitoring and enforcement affect the implementation of international, regional and national eAccessibility policy. Giannoumis' work does not examine pedagogical issues or the use of technology in the classroom, but it does address educational technology procurement and design. His dissertation will include an examination of assistive technology provision as it applies to web accessibility in compulsory education.

DISCIT: Making Persons with Disabilities Full Citizens

European Union Framework Programme 7, Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities 2012-2 (Work Package 7 Active Citizenship through the Use of New Technology)

Lead partner: NOVA, Norway (G.A. Giannoumis and Rune Halvorsen)

Partners: Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Germany in collaboration with DISCIT's other consortium members. www.discit.eu

Duration: 1 February 2013–31 January 2016

Project website: www.discit.eu

DISCIT aims to produce new knowledge, enabling Member States, affiliated European countries and the European Union to achieve full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and the economy.

First of all, Work Package 7 (WP7) 'Active Citizenship through the Use of New Technology' provides integrated knowledge of the regulatory forces, social and market factors which will have the desired impact on the inclusion of men and women with disabilities in Europe through the use of new technologies, based on cross-national and multi-level analyses. Secondly, WP7 generates original insight about diversity and change in the effective use of new technologies, with a special focus on comparing the experiences of three age cohorts of persons with disabilities, as a step towards the development of more user-responsive services for ensuring accessibility and availability of new technologies. Thirdly, WP7 summarises and provides an overview of the accomplishments, shortcomings and possible gaps in existing arrangements and potentials for improvements and better synergies, both horizontally (between assistive technology delivery systems and social regulation of the technology market to ensure



accessibility of new products) and vertically (between international, European, national, federal/regional and local levels of governance), with the aim of making these arrangements more relevant and appropriate in the pursuit of full accessibility and innovative use of new technologies.

Monitoring eAccessibility in Europe

The objective of the 'Monitoring eAccessibility' study is to monitor the status of eAccessibility and the progress made in selected countries (EU Member States and other countries), identifying the best practices in the fields of legislation, policy and practice, including evaluation of policies to enhance eAccessibility in education.

Programme: SMART 2008/0066, European Commission Directorate-General for Information Society and Media

Duration: 2009–2011

Lead Partner: Technosite, Spain

Partners: NOVA, Norway (Rune Halvorsen) and CNIPA, Italy

Sub-contractors: The Blanck Group, US; Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland; 12BC, Spain

Project website: www.eaccessibility-monitoring.eu

RDI projects funded by research foundations and/or the Research Council of Norway

Between 1998 and 2012, the Research Council of Norway ran a small research and development programme with the task of promoting innovation on inclusive ICT. The programme, called IT Funk (ICT for the disabled), funded research and innovation based on active user involvement and collaboration between suppliers, research communities and relevant public bodies, such as schools and special education centres. Projects generally targeted ICT accessibility for persons with specific impairments (e.g. visual, cognitive, mobility or hearing-related), and the results are relevant in many settings, including education. A description of the IT Funk programme and projects funded between 1998 and 2012 is available at www.itfunk.org

Examples of IT Funk-funded projects relevant for inclusive ICT in schools:

Projects conducted by Karde AS, a company specialising in ICT for people with disabilities and the elderly: http://www.karde.no/DSQ_Rodevand_etal_paper.pdf

Projects headed by MediaLT AS, a company specialising in ICT accessibility and universal design (www.medialt.no). Information on user involvement and other external collaborators is provided under each project (see links):

- Synthetic speech with children's voices (boy and girl). Project acronym: KuBa. Synthetic speech in Norwegian to be used in educational and other settings where assistive technology involving synthetic speech is involved, e.g. spell-checkers. The project partners were end-user organisations, research institutes, special education services and suppliers of assistive technology. Final report 2012. Links to project presentations in English: <http://www.medialt.no/news/en-US/first-version-of-a-synthetic-norwegian-child-voice/790.aspx> and www.forskningsradet.no/en/Newsarticle/Norwegian_success_in_creating_an_artificial_childs_voice/1253973194004
- Development of a tactile, talking world atlas (to be used as educational assistive technology in schools). Final report 2006. <http://www.medialt.no/atlas-2006/4.aspx>



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- User experience with full-text DAISY books (provided free of charge to students with visual impairment). Final report 2006 includes guidelines for production of DAISY books. <http://www.medialt.no/brukererfaring-med-fulltekst-daisy-boeker/5.aspx>