

How is Web Content in Easy Language Localised? Current Trends and Open Questions

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About today's talk

- **Research context and motivation**
- **Easy Language for (and on) the Web**
 - W3C Recommendations
 - Content selection and adaptation
- **Easy Language in the Multilingual Web**
 - EL localisation strategies
 - Challenges and open questions

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Information for all



Access to information is a universal right
UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP)

Understanding Easy Language (EL)

Easy Language can be considered a controlled language variety that aim at improving the readability and comprehensibility of texts.

Umbrella term for all variants:

easy-to-read

easy-to-read-and-understand

oral communication

Easy Language

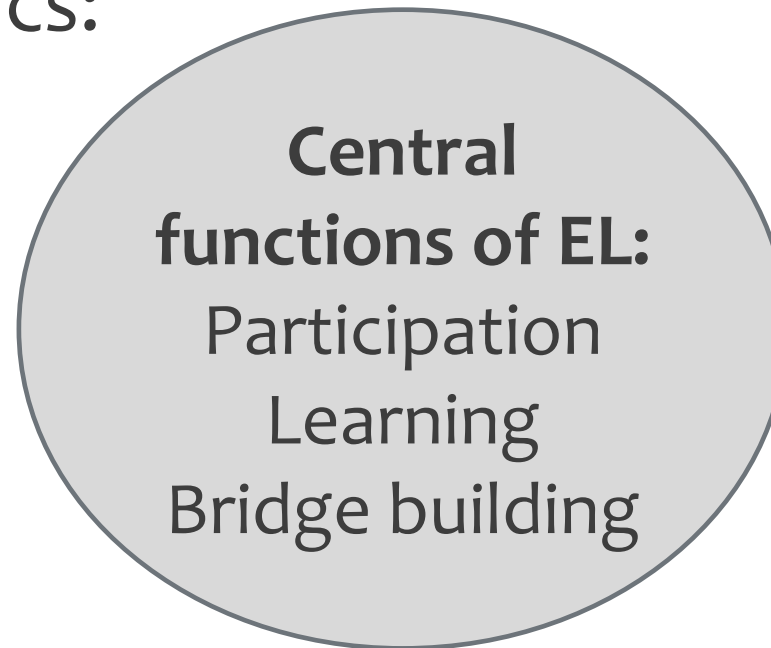
Target group: people with intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties
+
people with dementia, hearing impairments and aphasia; functional illiterates and second language users

Hansen-Schirra et al. 2020

EL texts

Adequate EL texts must have the following characteristics:

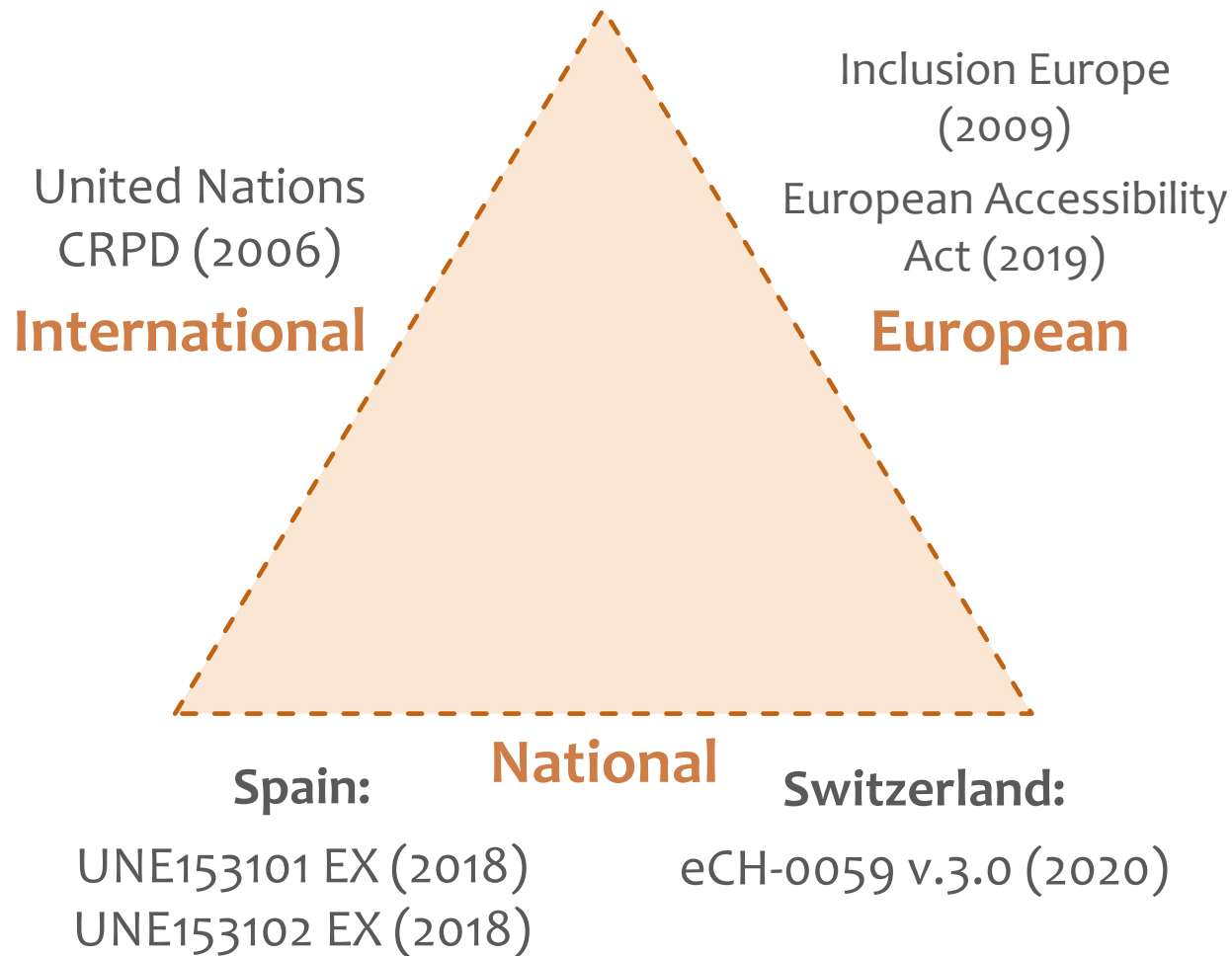
- retrievable
- perceptible
- comprehensible
- acceptable
- action-enabling



Maaß & Rink (2020)



EL recommendations, norms and standards



Their main focus is on:

- **Written text**, generally regardless of the format (e.g. the Spanish norm)
 - Some recommendations by IE (2009) for electronic formats, such as the Web
- General **language guidelines** on limitations in the lexicon; reduced complexity on the morphological, phrasal, syntactic and textual layers; and integration of pictures.
- Some procedural recommendations (e.g. Spanish norm for EL **validators**)

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W3C Recommendations (I)

“Elements related to **cognitive disability** are given **lower priority in web accessibility guidelines** due to limited understanding of the requirements of neurodiverse web users.”

Eraslan et al. (2017)

"**Easy to Read** on the Web is **often seen secondary** to more technical questions of accessibility" and only "general recommendations" are provided.
(WAI 2014)

When it comes to EL ...

1. **WCAG 2.1** (Kirkpatrick et al. 2018) **and 2.2** (Adams et al. 2021)

- **Guideline 3.1 "Readable"** under **principle 3 (Understandable)**
 - Relevant success criteria for EL are Level AAA; i.e.:
 - a) Not essential
 - b) Not satisfiable for all websites and content types
 - c) They require skills beyond those reasonably achievable by content creators
 - d) They might impose limits on the “look and feel” or function of the page
 - e) There might be workarounds if they are not met

WCAG = Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WAI, W3C)

W3C Recommendations (II)

“Elements related to **cognitive disability** are given **lower priority in web accessibility guidelines** due to limited understanding of the requirements of neurodiverse web users.”

Eraslan et al. (2017)

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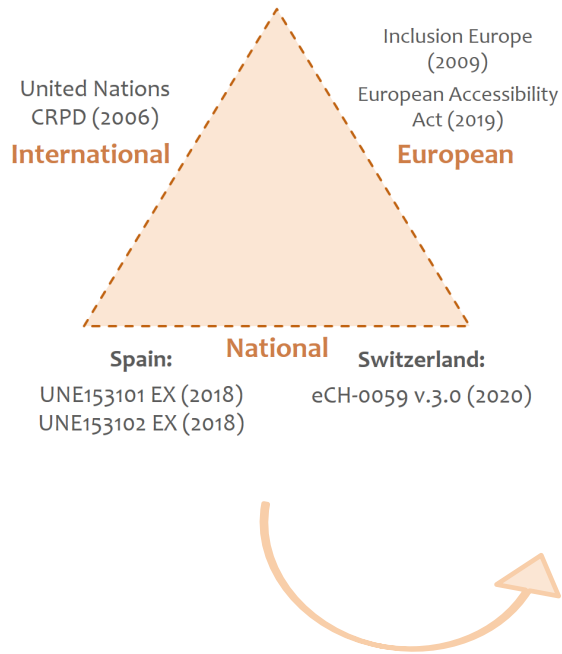
When it comes to EL ...

2. Cognitive and Learning Disabilities Accessibility Task Force (COGA) documents (Seeman-Horwitz et al. 2018; Seeman and Cooper 2019)

- **Advice on design patterns in websites. For instance:**
 - Make the purpose of your page clear (through page titles, headings, and other signposts), including helpful icons (Objective 1)
 - Make the site hierarchy easy to understand and navigate (Objective 2)
 - Avoid too much content (Objective 5)
 - Support simplification (Objective 8)

Content selection

What to publish in EL?



International and European levels:

- voting procedures, facilities and materials (CRPD 2006)
- consumer banking services; installation, maintenance and disposal of technological products (EU)

In Switzerland:

- Information linked to the most important life areas (e.g. rights and obligations, health, laws targeting interested population groups)

In Spain:

- No norm specifying which knowledge areas to cover in EL

2.4.1 Informations relatives aux domaines centraux de la vie en langue facile à lire / langue des signes

Les informations suivantes relatives aux domaines centraux de la vie doivent être disponibles sous forme de langue facile à lire et de vidéos en langue des signes:

- Informations ayant une incidence sur la vie et la santé (conduite en situation d'urgence, sécurité publique etc.)
- Informations relatives à l'exercice des droits politiques et individuels (accès à la justice, informations électorales et sur les votes etc.)
- Informations relatives à la prévention de la violence et de la santé
- Informations relatives à l'exercice des droits et obligations
- Informations pour lesquelles les personnes handicapées constituent le public cible principal (AI, loi sur la protection des adultes etc.)

2.4.2 Informations relatives aux autres domaines de la vie en langue facile à lire / langue des signes

Les informations suivantes relatives à d'autres domaines doivent être disponibles sous forme de vidéos en langue facile à lire et en langue des signes dans le cadre de la proportionnalité:

- Informations relatives au système éducatif
- Informations relatives au travail
- Informations relatives à l'organisation de la famille
- Informations relatives au logement
- Informations relatives à l'organisation des loisirs: Culture et sport
- Informations relatives aux principales prestations fournies par la collectivité

Pour de plus amples renseignements à l'attention du grand public, il est conseillé de fournir des informations dans des vidéos en langue facile à lire ainsi qu'en langue des signes.



Content selection

eCH-0059 v.3.0 (2020)

Content adaptation

How to publish it?

- No clear guidelines published on the matter
- Based on our own observation of sites containing EL content:

file formats

- Power Point
- PDF
- XML/HTML
- Audio

location in the web page /site

- Main navigation menu
- Secondary navigation menu
- Isolated web page
- Language version (subsite) within a main website
- Standalone website

Compliance with WCAG

- Headings and titles
- Meaningful links
- Text alternatives for images

Content adaptation

Example 1

The screenshot shows the Discapnet website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contactar / Mapa web / Accesibilidad / Anúnciate en Discapnet' and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The main header features the 'DISCAPNET' logo and the tagline 'El Portal de las Personas con Discapacidad', along with the 'Fundación ONCE' logo. Below the header is a main navigation menu with items: 'Portada', 'Quiénes somos', 'Áreas Temáticas', 'Participa', 'Actualidad y Eventos', and 'Premios Discapnet', plus a search icon. A breadcrumb trail reads 'inicio / áreas temáticas / salud / enfermedades /'. On the left, a vertical sub-menu is displayed under the 'Enfermedades' category, with a black arrow pointing to it. The sub-menu items include: 'Actualidad Salud', 'Discapacidades', 'Enfermedades', 'Información sobre el coronavirus en Lectura Fácil' (highlighted with a blue bar and a minus sign), 'Enfermedades Discapacitantes', 'Enfermedades Endémicas', 'GRIPE A (H1N1)', 'Enciclopedia', 'Educar en Salud', and 'Los riesgos Psicosociales'. The main content area displays the selected item: 'Información sobre el coronavirus en Lectura Fácil'. It features a colorful illustration of three people (a woman with red hair, a woman with yellow hair, and a man with red hair) wearing masks and gloves, surrounded by green coronavirus particles. The text 'Información sobre Coronavirus en lectura fácil' is prominently displayed. Below the illustration, a blue arrow points to a sub-menu item: '¿Qué es el coronavirus?'.

Discapnet, El Portal de las Personas con Discapacidad (Spain)

- Submenu under main left navigation menu
- All text in web format

Content adaptation

Example 2

The screenshot shows the 'Portal de Salud' website. At the top, there are logos for Sacyl and the Junta de Castilla y León, along with social media icons and a search bar. A blue navigation bar contains 'Ciudadanos', 'Profesionales', 'Institución', and 'Transparencia'. Below this, a yellow banner features the text 'Nuevo Coronavirus COVID-19'. A breadcrumb trail reads: 'INICIO > CIUDADANOS > Nuevo Coronavirus COVID-19 > Información para la población > Información complementaria > Documentos en lectura fácil'. A secondary submenu titled 'Documentos en lectura fácil' is highlighted with a blue border and contains two items: 'Ficheros disponibles' (with a sub-menu icon), 'Información sobre aislamiento en casa (11 páginas)' (354 KB), and 'Recomendaciones en centros de salud-urgencias (1 página)' (228 KB). A black arrow points to the 'Documentos en lectura fácil' link in the breadcrumb, and an orange arrow points to the 'Ficheros disponibles' sub-menu icon.

OPCIONES DE ACCESIBILIDAD

Sacyl | Junta de Castilla y León

Twitter Facebook YouTube

Buscar...

Portal de Salud

Ciudadanos Profesionales Institución Transparencia

Nuevo Coronavirus COVID-19

INICIO > CIUDADANOS > Nuevo Coronavirus COVID-19 > Información para la población > Información complementaria > Documentos en lectura fácil

Documentos en lectura fácil

Ficheros disponibles

Información sobre aislamiento en casa (11 páginas)	354 KB
Recomendaciones en centros de salud-urgencias (1 página)	228 KB

Consejería de Sanidad, Junta de Castilla y León (Spain)

- Secondary submenu (5th level)
- PDF documents

Content adaptation

Example 3



Plena inclusión (Spain)

- Standalone website
- Combination of different formats (PDF, web, audio)

Limitations of existing support resources

EL and the Web

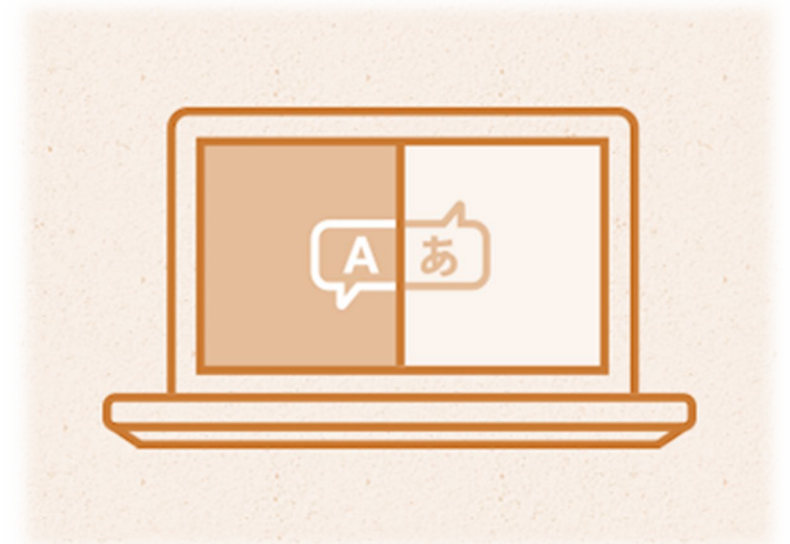
- Unspecific indications about **how to publish** EL content on the **Web**
 - Preference for a limited number of knowledge areas
 - What is translated into EL and what is not remains discretionary: no regulation body and/o monitoring and control mechanisms in place
 - Mention of formats, but what is better?
 - Lack of evidence-based recommendations
 - What about other web elements (not main text) such as menus, footers) or structure preferences?
- **Not legally binding**
- **Not well known** among web content creators
- No reference to **interlingual translation** mechanisms
 - **What to do in multilingual websites?**

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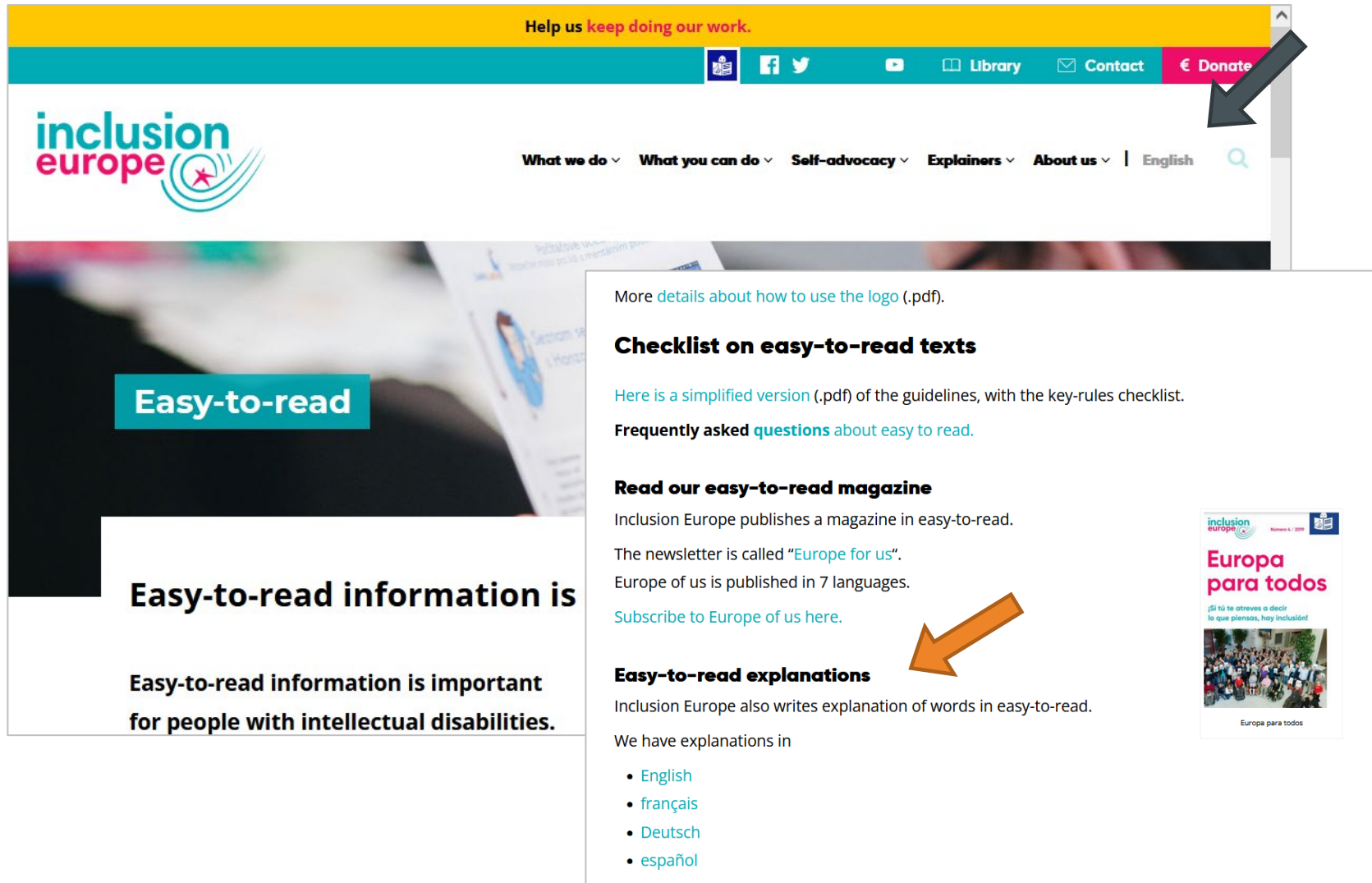
EL localisation strategies

- **No clear patterns** on how to localise EL content in existing documentation
- **If EL considered as another language**, then:
 - EL localisation strategies may depend on the localisation level of the website (Jiménez-Crespo 2013), as per:
 - Commissioner instructions
 - Knowledge and know-how of localisation stakeholders
 - Resource availability
- **Other solutions** also possible?



EL localisation strategies

Example 1



Help us **keep doing our work.**

Library Contact € Donate

inclusion europe

What we do What you can do Self-advocacy Explainers About us English

Easy-to-read

Easy-to-read information is

Easy-to-read information is important for people with intellectual disabilities.

More [details about how to use the logo](#) (.pdf).

Checklist on easy-to-read texts

Here is a [simplified version](#) (.pdf) of the guidelines, with the key-rules checklist.

Frequently asked [questions about easy to read](#).

Read our easy-to-read magazine

Inclusion Europe publishes a magazine in easy-to-read.

The newsletter is called "Europe for us". Europe of us is published in 7 languages.

[Subscribe to Europe of us here.](#)

Easy-to-read explanations

Inclusion Europe also writes explanation of words in easy-to-read.

We have explanations in

- [English](#)
- [français](#)
- [Deutsch](#)
- [español](#)

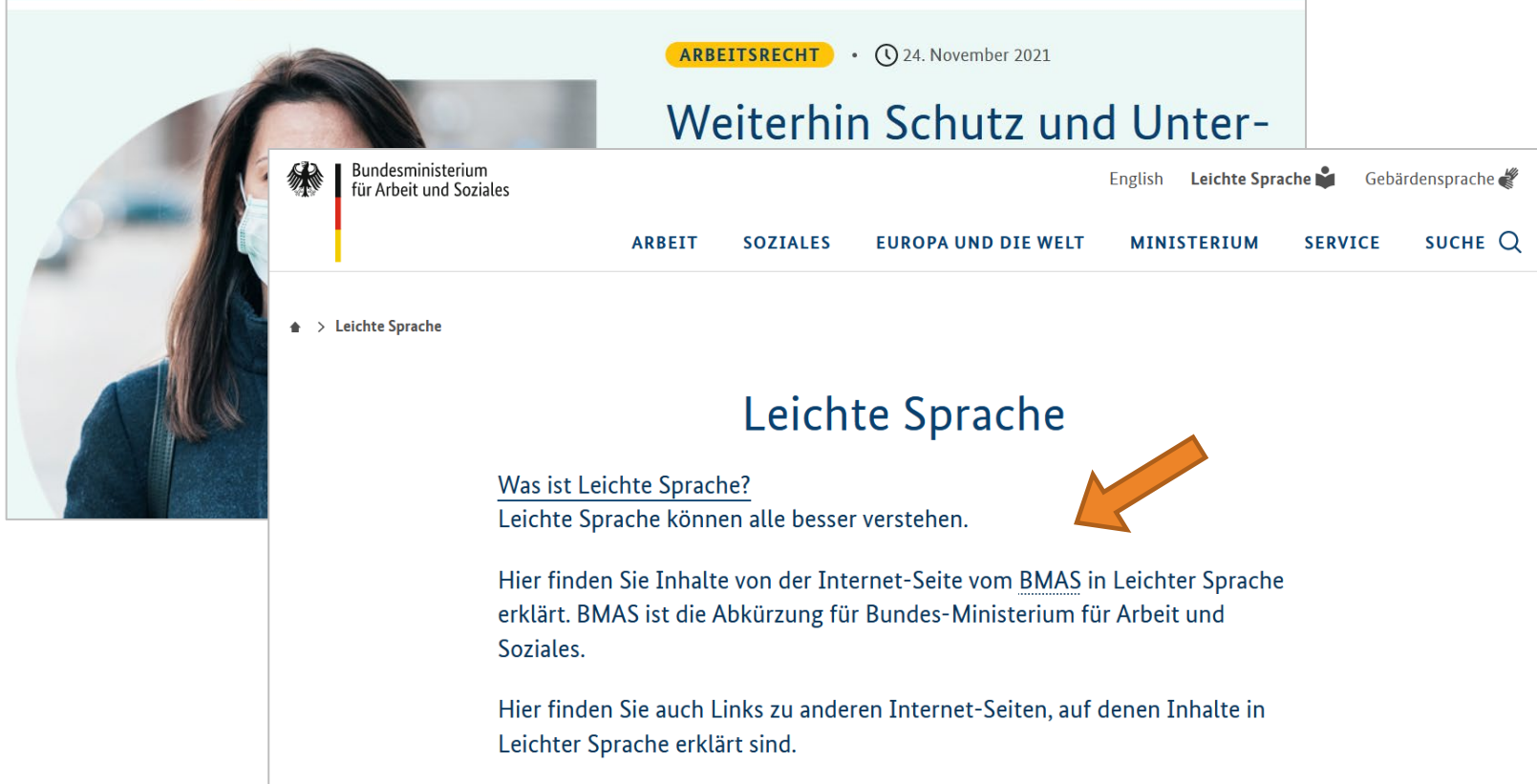
[Europa para todos](#)

Inclusion Europe

- No systematic use of language selector
- List of documents/pages in other languages (localisation level 1 – Jiménez-Crespo 2013)
- Combination of different formats (PDF, web)

EL localisation strategies

Example 2



Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), Germany

- Subsite under main site, treated as another language version (~Level 3, Jiménez-Crespo 2013)
 - English version in standard language only
- Combination of different formats (PDF, web)

EL localisation strategies

Example 3

The screenshot shows the website of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) in Switzerland. The page is titled 'Corona virus: information in easy-to-read language'. The navigation menu includes 'The FOPH', 'Healthy living', 'Diseases', 'Medicine & research', 'Insurances', 'Strategy & policy', 'Health professions', 'Laws & licenses', and 'Figures & statistics'. The 'Diseases' menu is expanded, showing 'Infectious diseases: Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics', 'Current outbreaks and epidemics', and 'Coronavirus'. The 'Easy-to-read language' link is highlighted. The main content area features a large heading 'Corona virus: information in easy-to-read language' and a sub-heading 'All people have many questions about the corona virus. Certainly you too! You can get sick. You can protect yourself. When do you have to stay at home? Here will you find information.' Below this, there are three sections of information, each with a red icon of a book and a thumbs-up. The first section is 'Information about the coronavirus', the second is 'Information about rules and prohibitions', and the third is 'Information about the COVID certificate'. Each section has a 'Find out more here' link. A red arrow points to the 'Easy-to-read language' link in the navigation menu, and a black arrow points to the 'Find out more here' link for the 'Information about the COVID certificate' section.

Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), Switzerland

- Subsite under main site, treated as another language version (~Level 3, Jiménez-Crespo 2013)
 - EL content available for all languages (DE, FR, IT, EN)
 - Only info about COVID-19 pandemic
- Combination of different formats (PDF, web)
- Non-compliance with other web accessibility recommendations (link “Find out more here”)

EL localisation strategies

Example 4

The screenshot shows the website of the Swiss Federal Bureau for the Equality of People with Disabilities (BFEH). The page is titled "Informations en langue facile à lire" (Information in easy-to-read language). The navigation menu includes "Thèmes", "Documentation", "Services", and "Le DFI". The main content area features a heading "Informations en langue facile à lire" with a printer icon. Below the heading, there is a sub-heading "Nous sommes le Bureau fédéral de l'égalité pour les personnes handicapées." and a paragraph "On dit aussi: BFEH." followed by "Vous trouvez ici des informations sur nous en langue facile à lire." A red icon of a hand holding a document is shown. At the bottom, it states "Ces informations sont rangées dans des rubriques." The search bar is labeled "Recherche" and the language selection is set to "FR".

Federal Bureau for the Equality of People with Disabilities, Switzerland

- Dedicated section in main site for EL
 - Section fully available in 3 languages
- Combination of different formats (PDF, web)

EL localisation strategies

Example 5

English | Català | Español | Galego | Deutsch | Italiano | Slovenščina | Svenska


UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Easy Access for Social Inclusion Training (EASIT)




Dissemination | **Inicio** | Socios ▾ | Asesores | Resultados ▾ | Eventos ▾ | Vídeos | Cursos | Contacto

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 🔊



EASIT es un proyecto para crear información **fácil de comprender**.
Para crear información fácil de comprender
podemos usar la Lectura Fácil
y el Lenguaje Llano.

EASIT son las iniciales de las palabras en inglés **E**asy **A**ccess for **S**ocial **I**nclusion **T**raining.
En español significa **F**ormación en **A**cceso **F**ácil para la **I**nclusión **S**ocial.



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Disclaimer

**Download the EASIT
Fact-sheet [here](#).**

EASIT Project Fully multilingual website

Highlights:

- All pages written in EL
- Audiodescription of the page
 - Including contact info of the translator
- Use of breadcrumbs
- Use of target language names for language selector


EL localisation strategies

Example 5

English | Català | Español | Galego | Deutsch | Italiano | Slovenščina | Svenska


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Dissemination | Inicio | Socios ▾ | Asesores | Resultados ▾ | Eventos ▾ | Vídeos | Cursos | Contacto

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EASIT son las iniciales de las palabras en inglés **Easy Access for Social Inclusion Training**.

En español significa **Formación en Acceso Fácil para la Inclusión Social**.



SERVICIO ESPAÑOL PARA LA INTERNACIONALIZACIÓN DE LA EDUCACIÓN

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Disclaimer

Download the EASIT Fact-sheet [here](#).

EASIT Project Fully multilingual website

Potential challenges (for people with cognitive or other types of disabilities):

- Untranslated content
- Disclaimer page
- Non-compliance with other web accessibility recommendations (link “here”)


EL localisation strategies

Example 5

[English](#) | [Català](#) | [Español](#) | [Galego](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Italiano](#) | [Slovenščina](#) | [Svenska](#)

UAB Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Easy Access for Social Inclusion Training (EASIT)



[Home](#) | [Partners](#) ▾ | [Advisors](#) | [Results](#) ▾ | [Events](#) ▾ | [Videos](#) | [News](#) | [Courses](#) | [Dissemination](#) | [Contact](#)

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English
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Español
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What is missing to keep moving forward?

Practical Resources

- **Definition of clear EL guidelines for the Web**
 - Combination of linguistic and technical recommendations.
 - Clear narratives. Personalization.
 - Evidence-based documentation
- **Training materials for localisation stakeholders**
 - In line with work done by EASIT project for audiovisual translation (EL for subtitling and audiodescription)
 - Focus on the translation process and tools

Research Work

- **Usability and Web Design Studies**
 - Evaluation of text comprehension by end users taking into account other variables (specific web features)
 - Eraslan et al. (2020): study on the visual complexity of web pages and the distinguishability of web page elements by people with autism
 - Schmutz et al. (2019): usability aspects measured in conventional vs. EL versions



Thank you
Gracias
Merci

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Notes

- **The last access** to all the **websites** shown in this presentation was November 28th 2021.
 - Discapnet, El Portal de las Personas con Discapacidad, Spain - <https://www.discalpnet.es/>
 - Consejería de Sanidad, Junta de Castilla y León, Spain - <https://www.saludcastillayleon.es/en>
 - Plena inclusión, Spain - <https://www.plenainclusion.org/>
 - Inclusion Europe - <https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/>
 - Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS), Germany - <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Startseite/start.html>
 - Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), Switzerland - <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/barrierefreie-inhalte/leichte-sprache.html>
 - Federal Bureau for the Equality of People with Disabilities, Switzerland - <https://www.edi.admin.ch/edi/fr/home/fachstellen/bfeh/informationen-in-leichter-sprache.html>
 - EASIT, Easy Access for Social Inclusion Training - <https://pagines.uab.cat/easit/es>
- Due to a cyberattack, the **EASIT website** and platform are down since 11 October 2021. The screenshots used for this presentation were taken from a legacy website stored in the Internet Archive that dates from July 2021. **The website might have undergone changes since that date.**

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