

DIEGO VISINTIN

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

15. Oktober 2025 - Independent L.

Basics

Accessibility

What does that mean?

Digital accessibility

The European Union and digital barriers

Stand 2023



5%

The percentage of people in the EU who do not use the internet because of a disability.



27% (> 101 Millions)

The number of people (over 16 years old) with some form of disability in the EU.



< 10%

The number of websites accessible to people with disabilities in the EU

Source : [L'inclusione digitale nell'UE - infografica, sito web dell'UE](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/de/infographics/disability-eu-facts-figures) <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/de/infographics/disability-eu-facts-figures>

Why is digital accessibility important?

Inclusion

Expansion of the audience

Improved user experience

Regulatory Compliance

Ethics

Who benefits from digital accessibility?

People with disabilities

People with temporary disabilities

Elderly people

People with limited literacy skills

All users

Some examples of digital content...

Websites

E-Books

Social media

Video

PDF documents

Apps

e-Mail

Podcast



Assistive technologies...

Screen-reader

Playback

Voice

Mouse Emulators

Software to enlarge

Contrast Generators
colored

Subtitles / Transcripts

Keyboard Aids

Braille
keyboards



BASICS

Legal

General conditions

Different frames of reference

for Accessibility in General and Digital Accessibility



Accessibility



Digital accessibility

Digital accessibility

Laws and Conventions

1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
2. EU Directives
3. DIN standard

International Normen

1. WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Policy)
2. PDF/UA (Universal Accessibility)

UN CONVENTION – CRPD

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

EU Directives

EU-Norm EN 301 549

Web Accessibility Directive(WAD)

European Accessibility Act(EAA)

European Accessibility Act

Digital devices, such as smartphones

Online Stores

Public self-service kiosks

Audiovisual Media & E-Books

Communication, banking and transport services

W3C - WCAG 2.2

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Structuring

4 Principles

13 Guidelines

86 success criteria, i.e. verifiable requirements

3 levels of compliance:

A = Must

AA = should (basic requirement for public bodies)

AAA = gold standard (at least for the homepage)

4 Principles

perceptible

usable

comprehensible

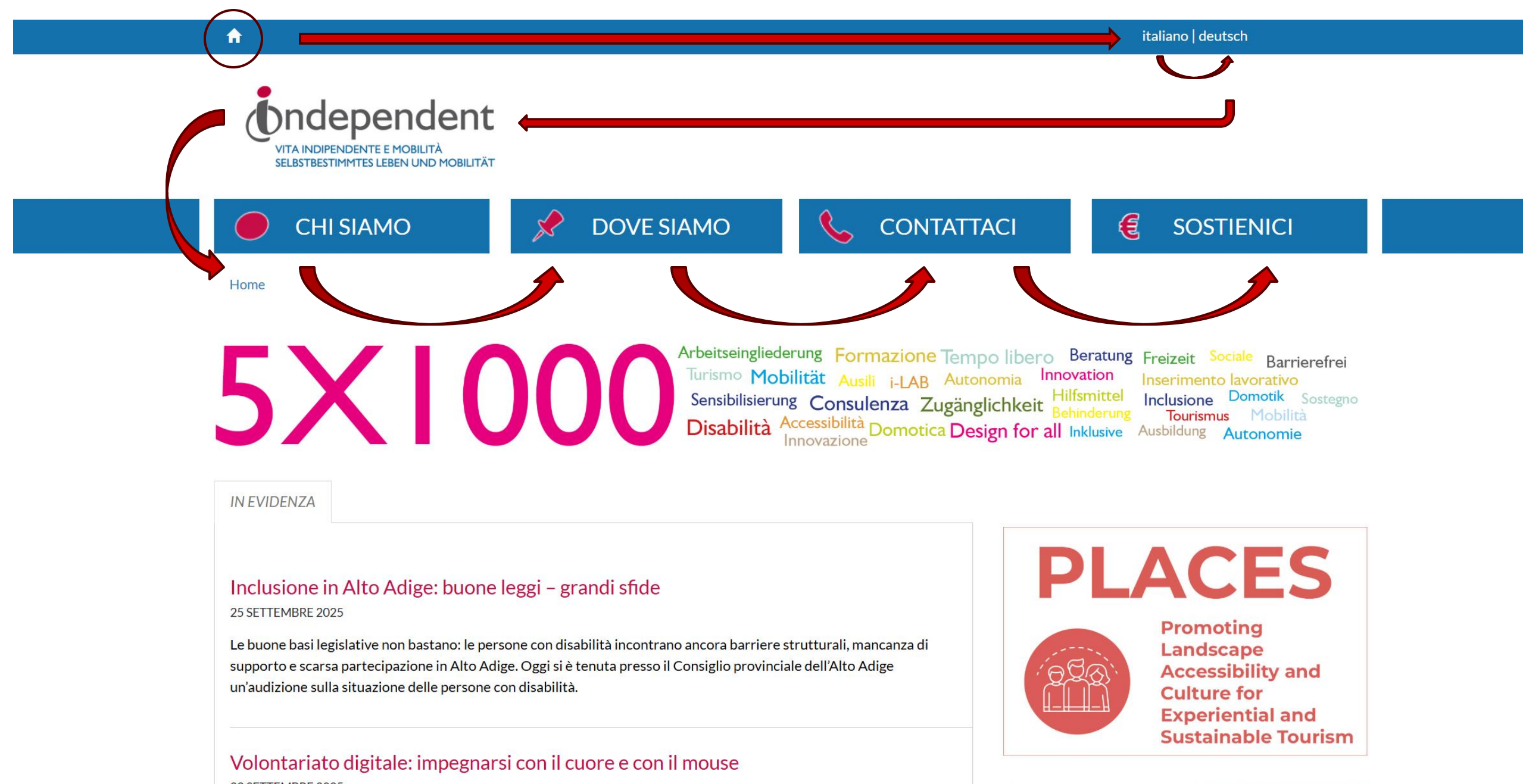
robust

Old school



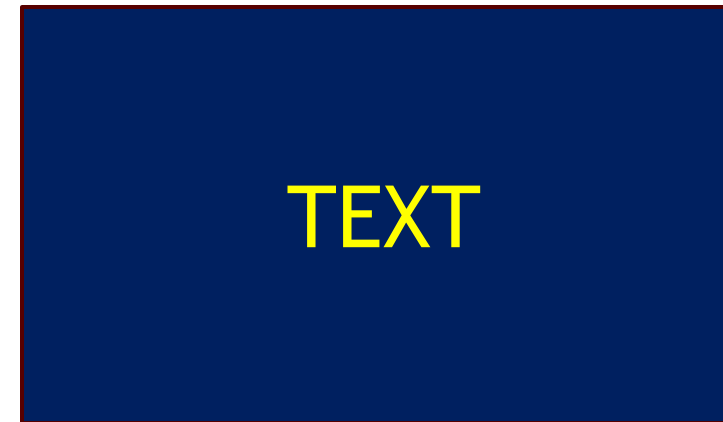
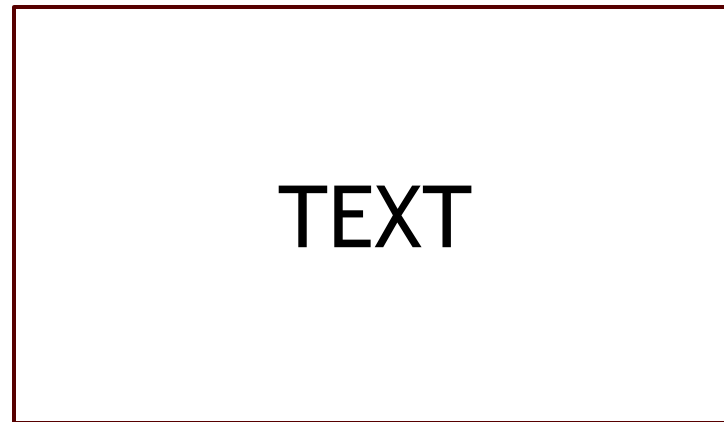
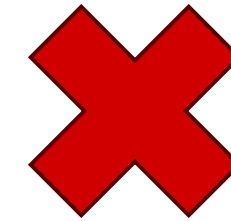
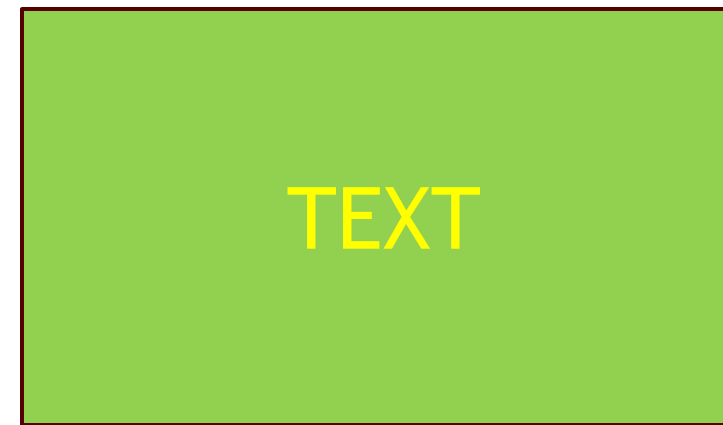
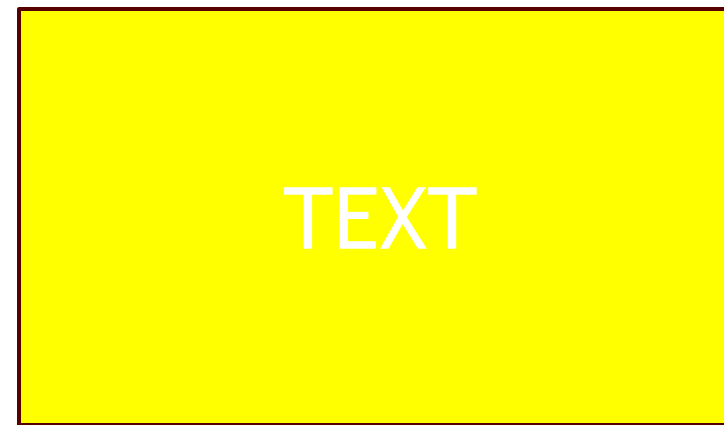
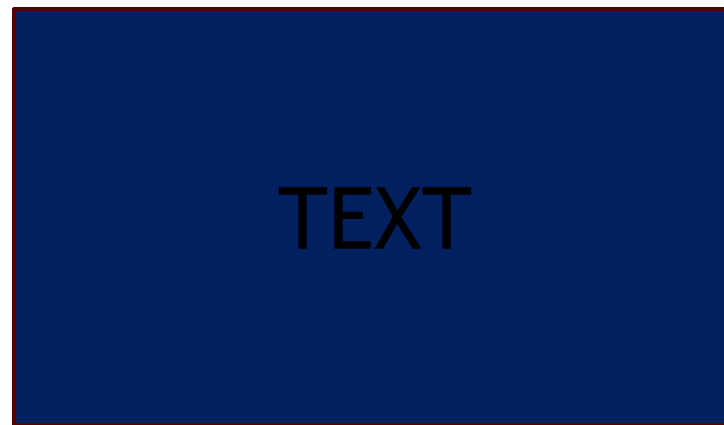
Website der unabhängigen Sozialgenossenschaft L. – Jahr 2005

Navigation - Structure



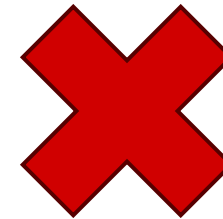
Website der Unabhängigen Sozialgenossenschaft L. – Jahr 2025 – www.independent.it

Examples of contrasts



Examples of contrasts

TEXT



TEXT



Text Alternatives - Images



Case in montagna a prezzi imbattibili

**Case in montagna
a prezzi imperdibili**

«Case in montagna a prezzi imbattibili»

#CORONAVIRUS

Dieci regole da seguire:

- 1 Lavati spesso le mani
- 2 Evita il contatto ravvicinato con persone che soffrono di infezioni respiratorie acute
- 3 Non toccarti occhi, naso e bocca con le mani
- 4 Copri bocca e naso se starnutisci o tossisci
- 5 Non prendere farmaci antivirali né antibiotici, a meno che siano prescritti dal medico
- 6 Pulisci le superfici con disinfettanti a base di cloro o alcol
- 7 Usa la mascherina solo se sospetti di essere malato o assisti persone malate
- 8 I prodotti made in China e i pacchi ricevuti dalla Cina non sono pericolosi
- 9 Gli animali da compagnia non diffondono il nuovo coronavirus
- 10 Contatta il numero 1500 se hai febbre o tosse e sei tornato dalla Cina da meno di 14 giorni

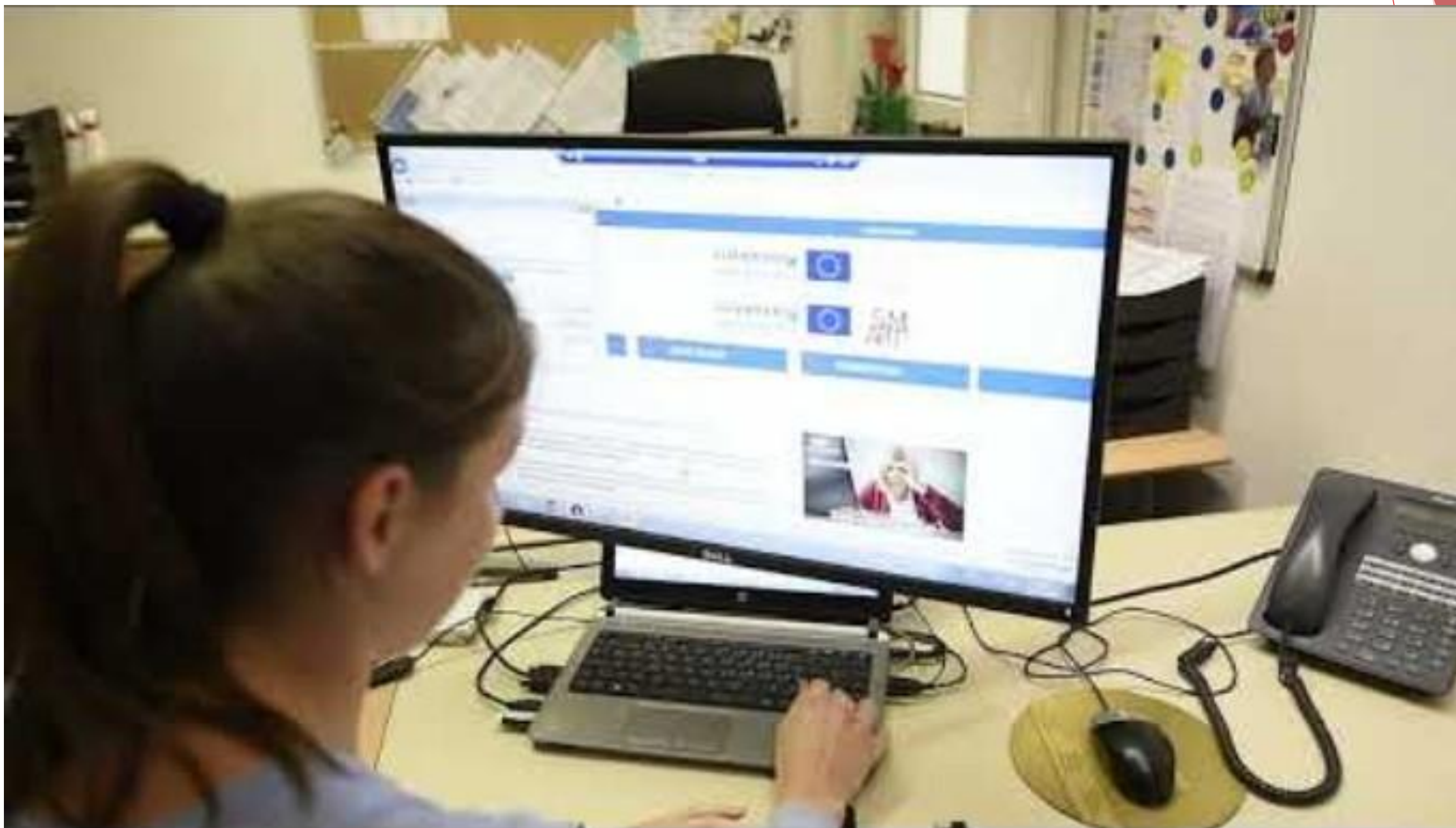


Ministero della Salute



www.salute.gov.it

Text Alternatives - Video



Text Alternatives - Audio



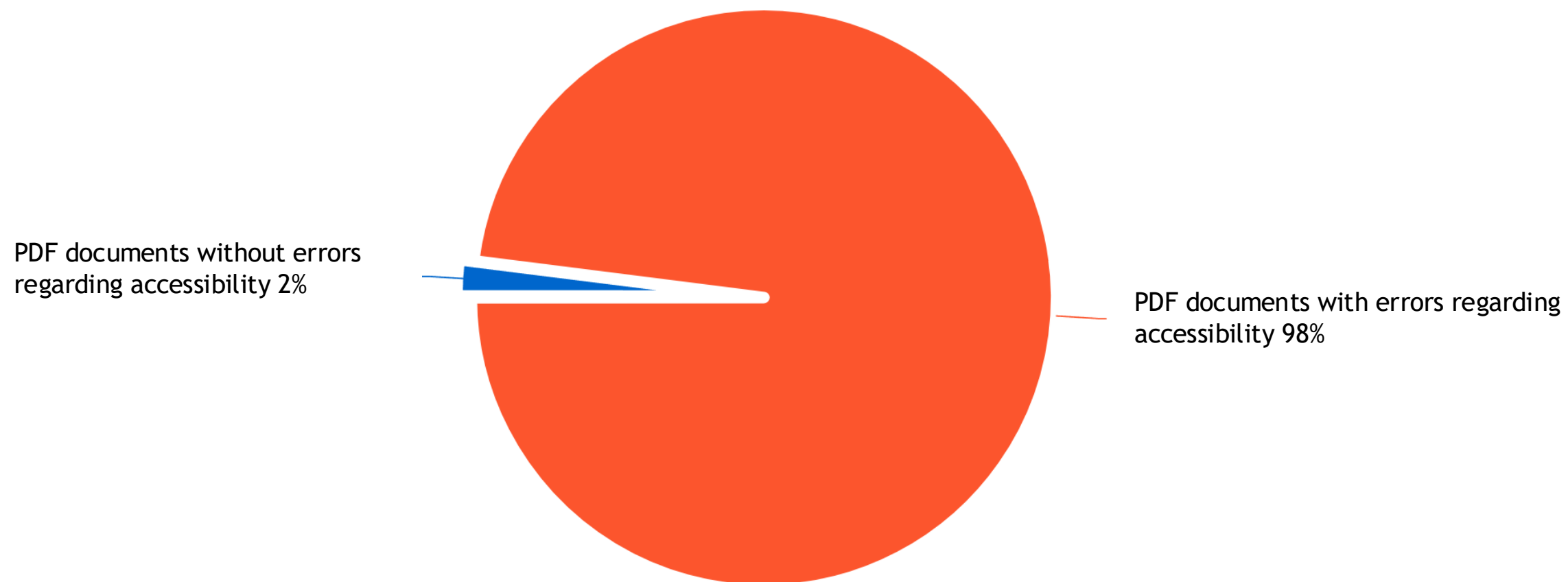
Image: "My Podcast Set IV" by Patrick Breitenbach is licensed under CC BY 2.0"

PDF DOCUMENTS

CSV ↓ PDF ↓

Evaluating PDF documents

The graph shows the percentage of PDF documents tracked by MAUS ++ in the quarter that ha at least one accessibilityerror



Source: <https://monitoraggio.accessibilita.agid.gov.it>

STANDARD PDF/UA (Universal accessibility)

- Current version: PDF/UA-2 (ISO 14289-2)
- It is a "substandard" of the more general PDF 2.0 standard (ISO 32000-2)
- Specifically designed as a standard for creating accessible PDF documents
- Compared to PDF 2.0, it changes the information from "optional" to "mandatory".
- Adding accessibility-relevant points, such as semantics
- The basis for PDF/UA was WCAG 2.0, whose principles and part of the requirements it applies to the PDF format in the form of its own standard, taking into account the specifics of the PDF format. In some ways, PDF/UA goes beyond WCAG 2.0.

Practical tips

- Use the Verdana (or Arial) Normal Style font, recommended size 12pt;
- Line spacing between 1.2 and 1.5;
- "strict" orientation to the left;
- Create alignments with the tab and not with the tab key or the space bar.
- Use page breaks and don't repeat Enter to go to a new page.
- Avoid empty paragraphs, use paragraph spacing;
- Providing complex documents with a navigable table of contents;
- use the so-called "hidden characters" (tool "Show all" ¶) ;

Practical tips

- all "Hidden Characters" can be viewed in the "Character Map" on GNU/Linux and in the "Character Map" on Windows;
- write telephone and fax numbers in blocks (e.g. incorrectly: 01234567890; e.g. correctly: 012 34 567 890);
- Use bullet points or numbered lists that are already prepared, a bulleted or numbered list is easier to read and understand than a very complete paragraph;
- Write the file name without spaces, use only the following characters a-z, A-Z, 0-9, _ (underscore) and no special characters such as / \% | '

Don't do

- Never include more than one space between words;
- Do not insert the space AFTER the apostrophe;
- Do not insert the space BEFORE a punctuation mark.
- Never insert spaces between the word and the punctuation.
- Never separate the apostrophe with a space from the following word:
- Don't create alignments using the spacebar or tab key (instead, you need to set a tab or alignment point by clicking the horizontal ruler);
- Do not create empty paragraphs, i.e. press the "Enter" key repeatedly to create vertical spacing, in which case it is necessary to use the paragraph style and the spacing after the paragraph.
- Don't place images that are too heavy, and then only resize them visually.



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PLACES

PLACES - Promoting Landscape, Accessibility and Culture for Experiential and Sustainable Tourism
ITAT-46-019 | Interreg PC Italy-Austria2021-2027

Funded by the European Union

ITAT-46-019 | PLACES is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Interreg Italy-Austria VI-A 2021-2027 | Policy objective PO 4 - A more social and inclusive Europe through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights | Priority 3 - Sustainable and cultural tourism | Specific objective RSO4.6 - Strengthening the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation | Type of action 3. Development, uptake and transfer of technologies, know-how and best practices | Priority area 29 - Development of sustainable tourism products/services that are accessible across borders as far as possible.

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