The Future of Web Accessibility at CERN

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Current state of affairs

…. is less than ideal!

Should encourage us to change!

What *do* we want to achieve?

Motivation: As a large intergovernmental organisation, CERN should strive to improve digital accessibility to be more inclusive, reach a wider audience, and, ideally, **serve as a model for progressive web design**.

Concretely, this means

- **Conforming to WCAG's level AA***

- **Incorporating web accessibility** in (early) design phases

*Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 expected Q3 2023, see more at: https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/.

What is WCAG's level `AA`?

- **Concrete guidelines** about

  - design (e.g. respecting usage of colours, etc…)

  - styling (e.g. contrasts, shading, etc…)

  - structure (e.g. correct usage of HTML tags, etc…)

- Applies to both websites, digital content, and web applications

- Goes beyond satisfying basic accessibility guidelines and techniques

Examples of websites that confirm include https://www.gov.uk/ and https://www.cdc.gov/.

Two lines of work

1. **Future projects** at CERN

> all about **actively thinking about accessibility**

> *Pablo's exercises will give a sneak peak of this!*

2. **Existing projects** at CERN (that are not yet accessible)

> overhauling *everything* is a significant undertaking; but **we have to start somewhere**

> **web accessibility will be a key pillar in CERN's long-term web strategy**

> we want to **automate as much as possible**

How are we going to get there? (1/2)

- Understanding that there is a problem **is the first step**

- **Raising awareness of the problem is the second step!**

- **Web Team will release centralised resources** for web accessibility at CERN, including

  - concrete steps and explanations of guidelines; and

  - references to, and explanations of, specific resources and tools.

- We will be working on an official **accessibility statement**

How are we going to get there? (2/2)

- We have to make a distinction between *websites* and *web applications*

  - Websites are typically publicly accessible and centrally managed

  - Web applications are typically internal and managed by individual teams

- Drupal 10's arrival is the **perfect opportunity to incorporate accessibility for websites**

  - We want all public-facing websites to be `AA`-level accessible

- **Regular community meetings and streamlined communication**

Thank you!

Questions?

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