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/](https://www.gov.uk/) and [https://www.cdc.gov/](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?