



GUIDE TO THE EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT (EAA): EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION



Tech
4access

inSuit
SUITABLE • INCLUSION

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT (EAA)?

The European Accessibility Act (EAA), also known as the European Accessibility Law, is the common name for European Union Directive 2019/882. This regulation is designed to ensure that both digital products and services are accessible to all individuals, including people with disabilities and older adults.



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EU DIRECTIVE 2016/2102 AND THE EAA

The Web Accessibility Directive (EU Directive 2016/2102) focuses specifically on the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies. On the other hand, the EAA has a broader scope, covering products and services available within the European Union, which significantly impacts a large part of the private sector.

IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE DEADLINES

The EAA will come into effect on 28 June 2025, by which date all European Union member states must comply with the requirements established in the regulation.

**2019** |

(07/06/2019) Publication of the EAA (EU Directive 2019/882) in the Official Journal of the European Union.

**2022** |

(28/06/2022) Deadline for European Union member states to transpose EU Directive 2019/882.

**2025** |

(28/06/2025) Entry into force of the EAA, leading to its application to new products and services launched after this date.

**2027** |

(28/06/2027) Emergency communications: Member States may optionally extend the Directive's enforcement for emergency calls to 112 until this date.

**2030** |

(28/06/2030) Application of the EAA to products and services launched before 28/06/2025.

**2045** |

(27/06/2045) All self-service terminals must be accessible. Non-accessible terminals that existed before 28/06/2025 may not be used for more than 20 years (except in Spain, where the limit is 10 years).

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE REGULATION

The EAA aims to ensure that all individuals, including those with disabilities, have equal access to information and communications, thereby promoting a more inclusive society.



EAA: SCOPE OF APPLICATION

WHO IS AFFECTED?

The following are the main sectors that must comply with the regulation:



Technology and software development.



E-commerce.



Financial services.



Transport and travel.



Government agencies.



Emergency communications response.



Social media.

EXCEPTIONS

- The EAA excludes microenterprises, defined as businesses with fewer than 10 employees and an annual turnover not exceeding 2 million euros.

Additionally, certain types of materials are exempt from the regulation. The most notable exemptions include:



OFFICE FILES

Office file formats published before 28 June 2025.



ONLINE MAPS

Online maps, provided that essential information is made available in an accessible format.



THIRD-PARTY CONTENT

Content from third parties not funded or controlled by regulated organisations.



ARCHIVED CONTENT

Archived content that will not be updated after June 2025.

DIGITAL ASSETS COVERED BY THE REGULATION



The EAA mandates that all digital assets must be accessible to users, including those with disabilities. A digital asset is defined as any technological resource used to interact with users.

Types of digital assets:

The EAA defines what constitutes a digital asset and requires organisations to conduct an assessment to ensure that the design, development, and maintenance of these assets comply with accessibility regulations.



Websites, online platforms, and e-commerce platforms.



Mobile applications.



Electronic communication platforms.



Hardware with a digital interface, such as self-service terminals.



Multimedia content.



Software and operating systems.



Electronically distributed documents.

SPECIFIC ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES

The EN 301 549 technical standard establishes the technical criteria digital assets must comply with in order to ensure the accessibility of digital products and services for all users, including those with visual, auditory, motor, or cognitive disabilities. This standard also integrates the principles of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

Key requirements:

PENALTIES:

Each EU member state defines its own penalties when transposing the regulation, leading to variations in fines for non-compliance across different countries within the European Union.



Provide clear and accessible information about the service.



Offer multiple sensorial channels to ensure understanding.



Present information in a simple and perceivable manner.



Adapt content into alternative text formats.



Use appropriate fonts and sufficient contrast to enhance readability.



Provide alternative display of content when necessary.



Ensure that electronic information is perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.



Guarantee the accessibility of websites and mobile applications.



Provide information on accessibility and compatibility with assistive technologies.

ROADMAP FOR EAA COMPLIANCE

At Tech4access, experts in digital accessibility and usability consulting, we have developed the System for Integrated digital Accessibility (SIA®), which ensures EAA compliance through the implementation of four distinct phases.



ROADMAP FOR EAA COMPLIANCE



PHASE 0: ACCESSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

We provide comprehensive accessible development services, including audits, consulting, technical training, front-end development, and real-time verification tools, to ensure full accessibility for websites and applications from the start of development.



PHASE 1: INITIAL ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTING AND LEGAL ALIGNMENT

We offer consulting and auditing services to evaluate digital accessibility, identify the company's digital assets, generate detailed reports, and provide support in resolving accessibility issues.



PHASE 2: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

We develop a customized plan for continuous accessibility improvement, implementing a monitoring system and error resolution process, along with advanced technical training.



PHASE 3: CERTIFICATION OF DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY – LEVEL AA

We certify under the WCAG 2.2 Level AA and EN 301 549 standards, with certified inspections conducted by Everycode's independent inspection unit, accredited by ENAC, ensuring the accessibility of digital products and services.

BENEFITS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATION

FOR BUSINESSES:

- » Market expansion.
- » Innovation and product improvement.
- » Legal compliance and risk reduction.
- » Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

FOR CONSUMERS:

- » Greater accessibility.
- » Standardisation across the EU.

TRANSPPOSITION OF THE REGULATION IN EU MEMBER STATES

- The EAA requires that all European Union member states transpose its provisions into national law by June 2022.

EUROPEAN UNION

For example, in Spain, transposition was carried out through Law 11/2023 of 8 May, in Italy through Legislative Decree No. 82 of 27 May 2022, and in France through Law No. 2023-171 of 9 March 2023. These regulations aim to ensure accessibility and inclusion in products and services across the EU.





ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide has been developed by Tech4access in collaboration with inSuit, combining the expertise and technical knowledge of their team, a leader in digital accessibility solutions and web usability.

At Tech4access, we have created the System for Integrated digital Accessibility (SIA®), which ensures compliance with the EAA.

We focus on adapting and updating your organisation's digital assets, implementing an operational plan that integrates an accessibility-first culture into all operations.

This approach, supported by our digital accessibility specialists, guarantees an effective implementation and structured compliance with regulatory requirements, while ensuring adherence to established deadlines.

REFERENCES



Do you want to ensure that your organisation complies with the requirements set by the EAA? Contact us, and one of our digital accessibility consultants will provide you with the necessary information.



inSuit

SUITABLE -INCLUSION

CONTACT US



tech4access.com/en/



(+34) 96 001 0158



info@tech4access.com