



GDA

Green Digital Accessibility

Accessibility Meets Sustainability: Bridging the Gap

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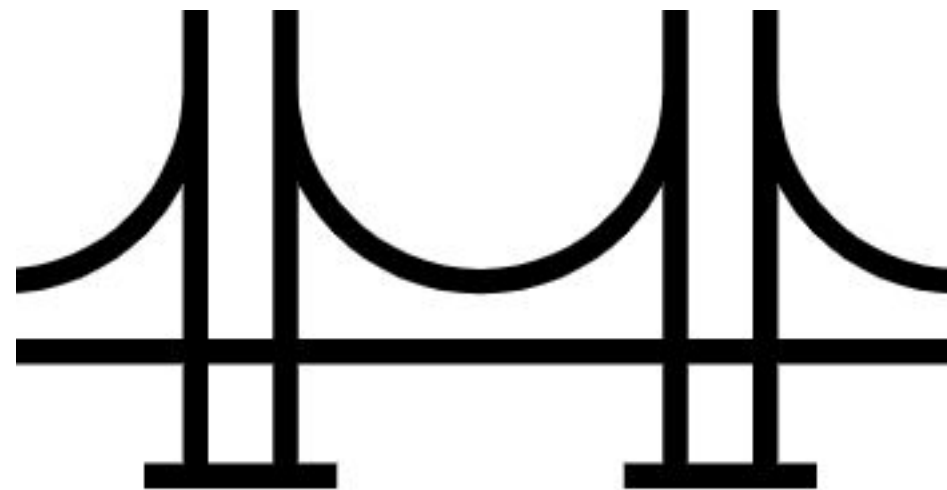
Xarxa
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**GREEN
SCENT**
SMART CITIZEN EDUCATION
FOR A GREEN FUTURE

TRANS
MEDIA
CATALONIA

Bridging the Gap between **Accessibility & Sustainability**: Overarching Legislative Framework

- United Nations Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007)
- Paris Agreement (2016)



Where does **Accessibility** fit within the wider **Sustainability** agenda?



United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the world's globally agreed plan for peace and prosperity for all on a healthy planet. But this vision of a better future can only be achieved with the full participation of everyone, **including persons with disabilities**. Upholding the rights and ensuring the full inclusion of the world's billion persons with disabilities **is not only a moral imperative, but also a practical necessity**.

António Guterres,
Secretary General of the United Nations, Foreword
to Disability and Development Report (2018)

What are some of the specific concerns of people with disabilities?

- Access to emergency evacuation and facilities
- **Access to environmental information in alternative formats**
- Participation in climate mitigation planning and emergency preparedness

Example: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (U.S. 2005)

- People with disabilities were:
 - Disproportionately affected by both hurricanes because their needs were overlooked.
 - Often unable to evacuate because transportation and evacuation shelters were inaccessible.
- **People with visual and hearing disabilities were unable to access important safety information because it was unavailable in alternative formats.**

Frieden. 2006. 'The Impact of Hurricane Katrina and Rita on People with Disabilities: A Look Back and Remaining Challenges'. National Council on Disability.

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Most references to disability and people with health conditions or chronic illness in States' climate adaptation policies are **cursory in nature**. In many policies, persons with disabilities are listed amongst other groups especially vulnerable to climate change impacts, but **without further detail as to the measures that should be taken to ensure the inclusivity of adaptation measures**.

Joint Status Report on Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies, McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism & International Disability Alliance (2022)

Where do we go from here?

- What **actionable steps** can we take to safeguard the rights of people with disabilities in our changing planet?
- How can we bring **sustainability** and **accessibility** together more holistically?
- How can we incorporate the valuable **insights of people with disabilities** into our efforts to create a better world for all?

GDA conference

- Explores the intersections between accessibility & sustainability
- Deadline for paper proposals and workshops: **1 June 2023**
- Call for papers is available at this link: <https://webs.uab.cat/gda/call-for-papers-2023/>



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
ACCESSIBILITY AND
SUSTAINABILITY?**

**SEND US YOUR PROPOSAL FOR
THE GREEN DIGITAL
ACCESSIBILITY CONFERENCE!**

30 NOVEMBER 2023

1 DECEMBER 2023

BARCELONA



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Thank you for your attention

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- Jodoin, Sébastien, Katherine Lofts, Amanda Bowie-Edwards, Laurence Leblanc, and Chloe Rourke. 2022. 'Disability Rights in National Climate Policies: Status Report'. Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism & International Disability Alliance.
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