Digital competence for blind people as a basis for work and vocational education and training

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Blind and visually impaired people face huge barriers to learning, vocational training as well as lack of promotion opportunities. Amongst other reasons for this, most work tasks are based around the use of the computer and assistive disability software has remained high cost and unaffordable to unemployed citizens. The e-learning project DICOMP-S.NET empowers the visually impaired back into mainstream society and employment by making free screen reading software available.

Aims

- The DICOMP Transfer project will adapt the free tools package for picking up IT-based content that has been developed in the DICOMP-S.NET project and transfer it into the newly defined target countries Spain, Greece, Turkey, Poland and Bulgaria.
- The tools package consists of screen reader software, a speech synthesizer, a tutor-training programme, fully comprehensive user documentation as well as a web browser "Webbie" which resolves the many problems blind people experience when navigating web sites.
- Based on a detailed demand analysis in the new target countries, the existing software and documentation will be adapted to the needs of the new countries.
- Information campaigns aimed at enterprises and VET providers will be organized in order to disseminate the products of the project as well as to inform the visually impaired community in each target country of the free software available to them.
- The expectations with regard to the project impacts include achieving improved accessibility to vocational education, training and work opportunities for blind people in the respective partner countries.

Outcomes

- Freely available screen reader assistive software for blind people needing access to web applications, e-mail, Word processing, in Spanish, Greek, Turkish, Bulgarian and Polish
- A speech synthesizer for the voiced output of contents which reads out the presented information in the appropriate language.
- A tutor training programme for those who are to support the implementation and use of the products within the target group face-to-face or remotely.
- A user manual in electronic and audio format.
- All documentation will be available in English, Spanish, Greek, Turkish, Bulgarian and Polish.

Partners:

- Berufsförderungsinstitut Steiermark . Austria
- e-ISOTIS, Grecia
- Assist Net, Bulgaria
- Lawton School S.L., España
- Harpo, Polonia
- Six Point Association, Turquía
- Screenreader.net, Reino Unido

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Link : http://www.screenreader4free.eu/DicompTransfer/index.html