



Rules for the Accessibility in Education Award

Symposium “Accessibility in educational environments” - 16 November 2023 - Lausanne

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1. The Award

The Accessibility in Education Award rewards and encourages innovative projects or applied research, from Switzerland or abroad, which aim to foster accessibility in educational environments.

The aim of the Award is therefore to contribute to relay inclusive values in the context of training. These projects can be based on:

- projects in the field of social action,
- the development of technical or electronic aids,
- applied research at all levels in the field of accessibility and training,
- commercial innovations.

Three Awards will be conferred as follows:

- 1st prize: 15,000
- 2nd prize: 8,000
- 3rd prize: 3,000

2. Objectives of the award

The Fondation Asile des aveugles, with the generous support of the Kamprad Fund, wishes to encourage the development of all measures that promote the accessibility of training facilities. The aim is to promote the involvement of organisations, training centres and individuals who are especially committed to inclusion. The financial support provided for the realisation of the project is intended to provide concrete solutions to the difficulties encountered by the visually impaired people in their daily lives. The results of the applied research, the commercial or social project should be disseminated by all means available in the research community, in particular in open databases or via scientific articles published in peer-reviewed publications.

Moreover, the knowledge produced shall be disseminated to stakeholders in the field (people with disabilities, their families, carers, and professionals, etc.). This dissemination to the non-scientific public is essential to ensure the actual implementation of the research's results to concretely improve the daily lives of the persons concerned. It shall be done in languages and with support material adapted to the target audiences.

3. Jury

The selection of projects submitted for the award is made by a jury of specialists. The jury is responsible for selecting the three most promising projects:

- Vincent Castagna, CEO, Fondation Asile des aveugles - *president of the jury*,
- Eric Mamin, Kamprad Fund,
- Kannarath Meystre, General Secretary, Fédération Suisse des Aveugles et malvoyants (FSA),
- Jean Roche, Head of Rehabilitation Service, Fondation Asile des aveugles,
- Clémence Bachmann, Student PORTAILS (professional integration service),
- Cédric Baudet, Prof. Dr, HEIG (Haute Ecole d'Ingénierie et de Gestion),
- Nathalie Jaunin, Deputy director, Etat de Vaud, Direction générale de l'enseignement obligatoire (DGEO).

4. Project selection

Only projects that meet the following 6 criteria will be considered by the jury.

The project must be presented in an accessible format and can be sent in English, French or German.

Criterion 1: General objective of the project

The general objective of the project should be to improve the accessibility of training facilities for people with visual impairment. It should provide people with visual impairment concrete help to enter, access and remain of in training. The project must clearly define its users, and present tangible improvements in terms of accessibility. The results must be measurable.

Criterion 2: The originality and innovative nature of the project

It will be necessary to provide an initial assessment of the field in which the project falls to highlight its originality. The consideration of new approaches to support, changes in the economic context and the evolution of ICT will be appreciated.

The project shall specify innovative applications to promote accessibility. Innovation will also be seen in the ways in which quality of life, quality of social participation (QSP), satisfaction and self-determination of people with visual impairment are measured.

Criterion 3: Presentation of the project leader, its partners, and their respective roles within the project

Projects shall propose an application that has already gained the support of those concerned and has been validated by those working in the field. This acceptance by the professionals and people concerned shall be demonstrated in the planning, the measurement of the objectives' achievement, the completion of the deliverables, the dissemination of the results and the communication around the project. All project stakeholders shall be presented (names, area of expertise and role in the project).

Criterion 4: Expected results

The expected results of the project's implementation or the applied research shall be clearly stated and explain how accessibility will be promoted.

Criterion 5: Dissemination and communication around the project

The project shall benefit as many people as possible and therefore be made available to the persons concerned and the professionals accompanying them in the training process.

Criterion 6: Adequacy of objectives, activities, and resources

A balance between these elements will be sought:

- The realism of the project in terms of resources (human, logistic, material). Is the project feasible?
- Overall budget of the project and any other financial contributions, i.e. the viability of the project if the prize is paid,
- The tangible contribution of the project to accessibility.

5. Project submission

Projects must be submitted by 15 June 2023 to accessibilite@fa2.ch and include the following information:

- project title,
- name and address of the project manager,
- description of the project (max. 5 A4 pages),
- summary of the project (max. 1/2 A4 page),
- address or contact person for any further enquiries.

6. Nomination and award ceremony

The jury will evaluate the projects and communicate the list of nominees on 15 September 2023. Project leaders will be notified of their nomination on the same day. The nominees will be invited to present a poster or to run a booth presenting their project at the symposium.

The awards for the three most deserving projects will be announced during the symposium on 16 November 2023, by the President of the Jury. Attendance at the symposium is mandatory to receive the award in person (if distance is important, availability by video conference on the day of the symposium is required).

Lausanne, 24.03.2023