

Introduction

The Information Society is bringing about radical changes in the way people work and interact with each other and with information, and offers new opportunities to improve the quality of human life. The target user population addressed is broadening, while the availability, type, functionality and content of new products and services is expanding, and access technologies are being diversified. At the same time, however, each new generation of technology has the potential of introducing new difficulties and barriers in the use of products and services - and eventually in everyday life, and new forms of social exclusion and discrimination.



The *European Design for All e-Accessibility Network* (EDeAN), which was established by the European Commission in 2002, contributes addressing this potential danger by to promoting awareness and application of Design for All and Universal Access principles among the European Union member-states.

GR-DeAN

The Greek node of the EDeAN Network is *GR-DeAN*, coordinated by the Centre for Universal Access and Assistive Technologies of ICS-FORTH, which is the National Contact Centre of EDeAN in Greece, acting in cooperation with the Greek National Confederation of Disabled People (ESAEA).



GR-DeAN Virtual Networking

The networking activities of GR-DeAN are supported by the accessible web portal www.e-accessibility.gr.

A number of services and tools are available to registered users of the portal, including: a Message board, chat facility, a documents area for uploading and downloading material, an additional useful links area, etc.

GR-DeAN Special Interest Groups and Technology Showcase

In the context of GR-DeAN activities, five Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have been created to support and encourage discussion, and provide a virtual meeting space for people sharing common interests in issues related to Universal Access and Design for All. The SIGs operate through the accessible web portal www.e-accessibility.gr



Discussion Forum in the GR-DeAN portal

The GR-DeAN SIGs are:

- Research, New Technologies and Accessibility (SIG1)
- Curricula for Design for All (SIG2)
- Policy, Regulation and Legislation (SIG3)
- Technology Applications Examples of Use (SIG4)
- e-Accessibility Forum (SIG5)



In addition, registered users of the e-accessibility web portal have access to the GR-DeAN Technology Showcase. The Technology Showcase presents state of the art technologies as examples of good practice related to the application of the principles of "Universal Access" and "Design for All". All the products and examples included in the showcase have been designed and developed in Greece.

Contact Information:

GR-DeAN is open to all interested parties, such as end user communities, academic institutions and other centres of education, research & development organizations specialising in the fields of "Design for All" and "Universal Access", ministries, as well as companies, designers, developers, and individual researchers and professionals with relevant expertise.

For additional information please contact:

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GR-DeAN: <http://www.e-accessibility.gr>

EDeAN: <http://www.e-accessibility.org>

eEurope: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/eeurope



National Network GR-DeAN

Universal Access in the Information Society

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the homepage of e-Accessibility.gr. The browser window title is "eAccessibility - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "http://www.e-accessibility.gr/index.asp?auto-redirect=true&accept-initial-profile=standard&chby=999&interface=en". The page features a navigation menu with "Home", "About", "What's new", and "Links". A "User sign in" section includes fields for "User name:" and "Password:" with a "Sign in" button and a link for "Forgot your password?". A "Join us" section lists "Benefits of joining", "How to Register", and "Register". The main content area includes a banner with the Greek and European Union flags and the text "Welcome to the web portal of the national Network GR-DeAN". Below this, there is a section for "EDeAN" (European Design for All e-Accessibility Network) and "eEurope". The text describes the network's participation in EDeAN and eEurope initiatives, its goals, and its open nature to interested parties. It also mentions the creation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and the National Coordination Centre. A "What's new" section lists recent updates in Greek. At the bottom, there is a logo for the Operational Program "Information Society" (OPIS) and a small text block in English stating: "The GR-DeAN web portal is developed in the context of the Operational Program 'Information Society' (OPIS) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Final Beneficiary is the Managing Authority of the OPIS. The project is co-funded by the EC and national resources: European Regional Development Fund (75%) and the Technical Assistance of the OPIS (25%)."

www.e-accessibility.gr