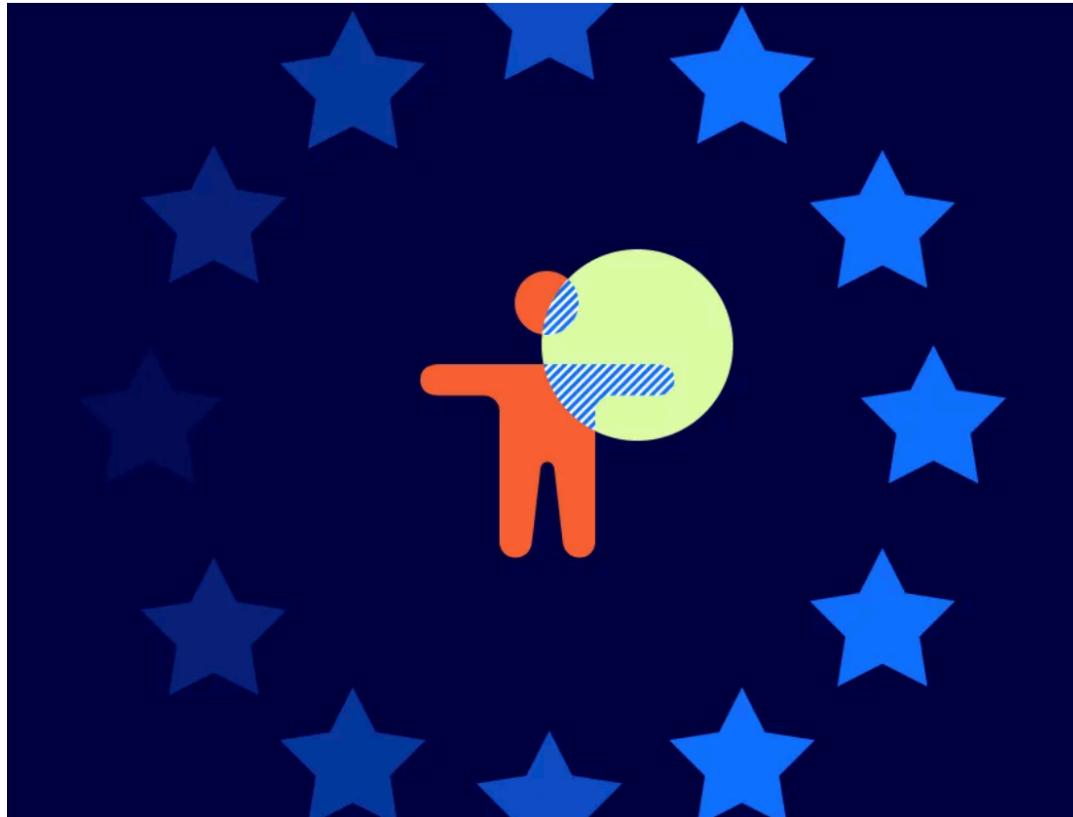


Everything we need to know about the European Accessibility Act



**YOU KEEP USING
THAT WORD ACCESSIBILITY**

**I DO NOT THINK IT
MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS**

European Accessibility Act

The European Accessibility Act is a directive aimed at ensuring products and services across the European Union are accessible to all, including people with disabilities.

[https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?
catId=1202&intPageId=5581&langId=en](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1202&intPageId=5581&langId=en)

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?
uri=CELEX%3A32019L0882](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019L0882)

Who must comply with the standard?

Deadline: 28 June 2025

Private and public
sectors

Any business with at
least 10 staff and a
turnover above
€2 million

Any business
that trades in the EU

Companies
headquartered
based outside the EU

*If they sell relevant
goods or services within
the EU



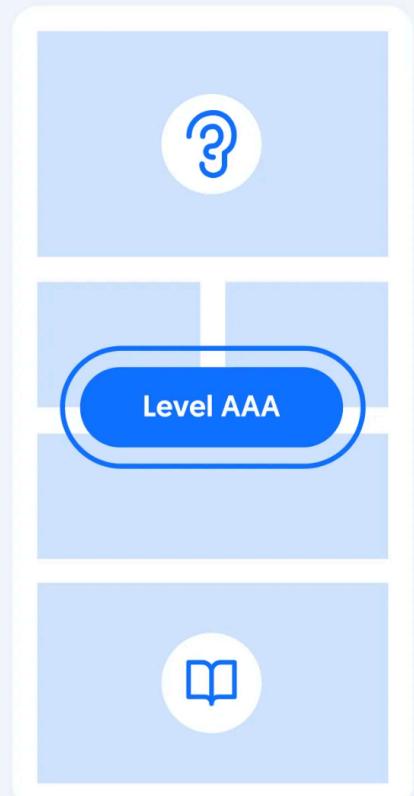
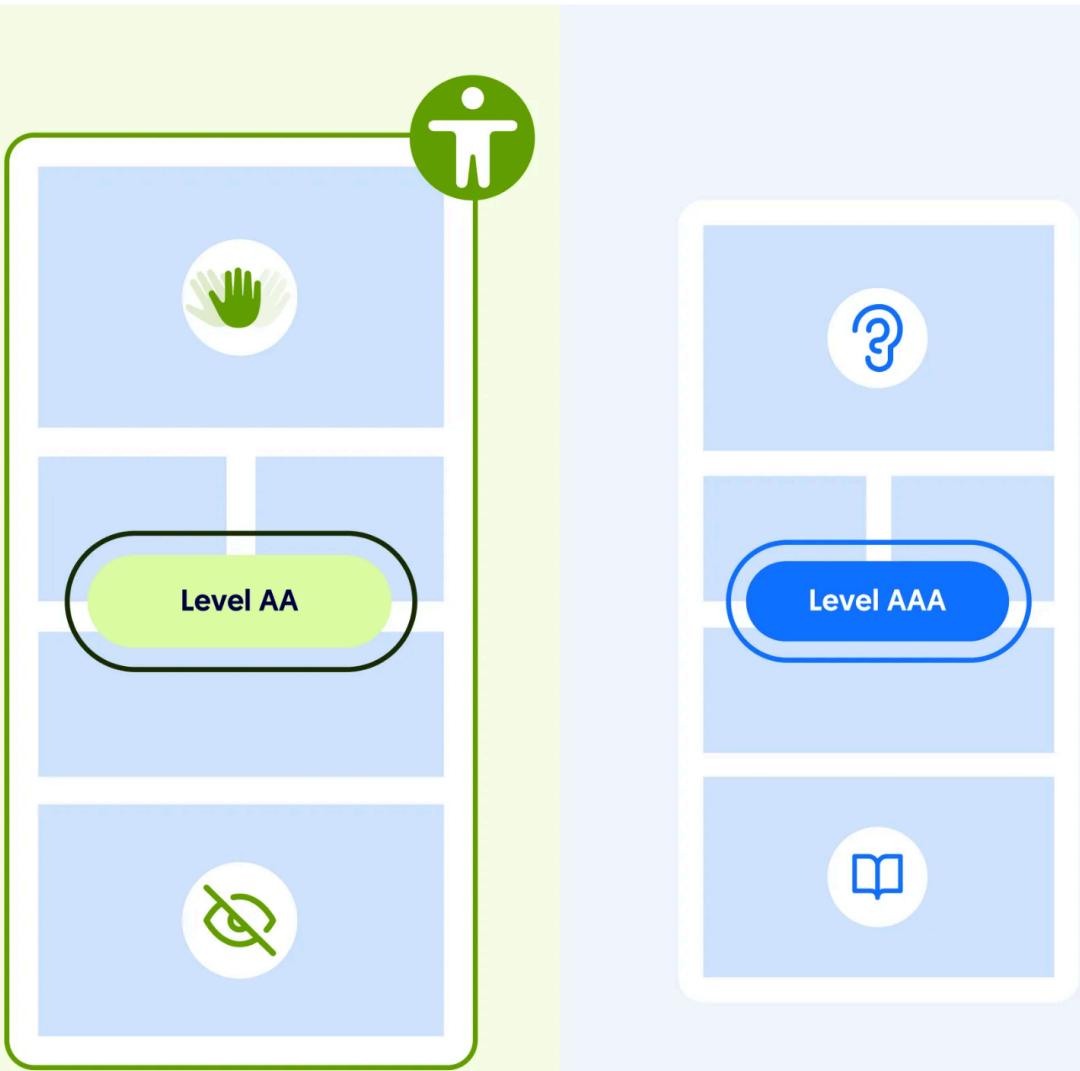
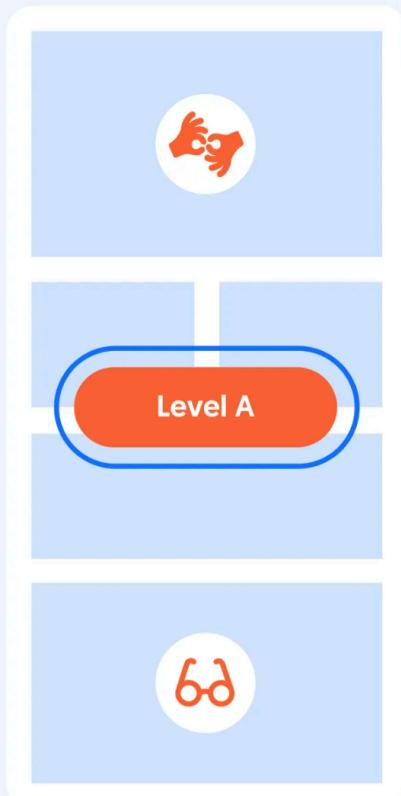
Which products and services must comply with the standard?

- Ticket vending machines and ATMs.
- Self-service terminals
- Electronic products such as computers, mobile phones, and tablets.
- Telecommunications services, including messaging applications.
- E-commerce (all online sales websites must comply with WCAG standards).

https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/persons-disabilities/union-equality-strategy-rights-persons-disabilities-2021-2030/european-accessibility-act_en

Companies failing to meet these requirements will be subject to **fines** and other **penalties**.

When do we comply with the standard?



WCAG 2.1 AA

- WCAG 2.1 AA (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) is an international standard developed by the W3C to ensure that web content is accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities.
- Level AA represents a medium standard of accessibility recommended for most websites.

Principles of WCAG 2.1

- Perceivable: Information must be presented in a perceivable way.
- Operable: Navigation must be functional.
- Understandable: Information must be comprehensible.
- Robust: Compatible with current and future standards.



1. Perceivable

- Provide alternative text for non-text content.
- Content should be adaptable without losing meaning.
- Minimum contrast ratio of 4.5:1 for text and background.

<https://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist#perceivable>



2. Operable

- All functionality must be accessible via keyboard.
- Avoid content that may cause seizures (e.g., flashing).
- Provide clear and predictable navigation.

<https://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist#operable>



3. Understandable

- Provide support to prevent and correct errors.
- Use clear and consistent language.
- Simplify reading forms and data entries.

<https://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist#understandable>

4. Robust

- Content must be compatible with current standards.
- Reliably interpreted by assistive technologies (e.g., screen readers).

<https://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist#robust>

New Features in WCAG 2.1

- Mobile Accessibility: Ensure gestures like zoom and swipes are accessible.
- Low Vision Users: Improved contrast and scalable text.
- Cognitive Accessibility: Simple interfaces and predictable navigation.

Key Requirements of WCAG 2.1 Level AA

- Minimum color contrast of 4.5:1.
- Text scalable to 200% without loss of functionality.
- Keyboard navigation functionality.
- Mobile guidelines and accessible interactive elements.

Benefits of Implementing WCAG 2.1 AA

- Improved user experience for everyone.
- Legal compliance in many countries.
- Increased website reach and accessibility.
- Enhanced brand image and social responsibility.

Useful resources

- <https://inclusive-components.design/>
- <https://www.w3.org/WAI/ARIA/apg/patterns/>
- <https://www.w3.org/WAI/ARIA/apg/>
- <https://www.w3.org/WAI/ARIA/apg/patterns/switch/examples/switch/>
- <https://www.w3.org/WAI/ARIA/apg/practices/>
- [https://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Poder_Judicial \(a11y example\)](https://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Poder_Judicial)

How does all of this affect us?

