

# Technical specification for the feature: Change language

This is the technical specification for the Change language feature. The feature was created as part of an EU-funded project called We4Authors Cluster. All features, their technical specification and their video documentation are published on [www.accessibilitycluster.com](http://www.accessibilitycluster.com).

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to [research@funka.com](mailto:research@funka.com).

The technical specification contains several perspectives:

- the web interface of the feature, based on the experience of the end user or, when it comes to the testing-features, the web author;
- the code of the feature ensuring accessibility by default;
- a description highlighting the key elements of the code;
- reference to a video documentation;
- recommendations for implementation.

## Specifications of the feature: Change language

Built-in support for accessible content creation.

The Change language feature provides a way to choose the language of the page or paragraph so that it can be read out aloud with correct pronunciation (i.e. using the correct speech engine).

The feature is important to users of assistive technology reading content out aloud, i.e. different kinds of screen readers, aimed for both visually impaired and reading and writing impairments.

### Web interface: the end user view

#### Inspirational Quotes in the French Language About Life

The French have a unique perspective on life, with an appreciation for the beauty that seems to run into every aspect of their culture.

"On n'est point toujours une bête pour l'avoir été quelquefois." - Denis Diderot

"Being a fool sometimes does not make one a fool all the time."

Figure 1: End user view of text with quotes in another language

## Code of the end user view

```
<h1>Inspirational Quotes in the French Language About Life</h1>
<p>
  The French have a unique perspective on life,
  with an appreciation for the beauty that seems
  to run into every aspect of their culture.
</p>
<blockquote lang="fr">"On n'est point toujours une bête pour l'avoir été quelquefois." - Denis
Diderot</blockquote>
<blockquote>"Being a fool sometimes does not make one a fool all the time."</blockquote>
```

Figure 2: Code example

## Explanation of the code example

```
11 <body>
12
13   <h1>Inspirational Quotes in the French Language About Life</h1>
14   <p>
15     The French have a unique perspective on life,
16     with an appreciation for the beauty that seems
17     to run into every aspect of their culture.
18   </p>
19   <blockquote lang="fr">"On n'est point toujours une bête pour l'avoir été quelquefois." - Denis Diderot</blockquote>
20   <blockquote>"Being a fool sometimes does not make one a fool all the time."</blockquote>
21
22
23
24 </body>
25 </html>
```

Figure 3: Code example with highlighted elements

When there is a language change to the main language of a web page, the lang attribute must be declared in the wrapping <element> tag, using the value of the lang attribute of the language used in the element.

## Video documentation

This technical specification has been developed in the We4Author Cluster project to reflect recommendations for accessibility features that can be implemented in any authoring tool. The specifications are complemented by a video documentation, covering a live description of:

- end user problems,
- web author challenges,
- feature solutions, and
- resulting accessibility for end users when the features are correctly used.

## Recommendations for implementation

To make sure the implementation of the features is not causing accessibility problems for web authors with disabilities:

- avoid drag-and-drop for choosing template, and/or always have a keyboard alternative;
- always provide one pointer alternative without specific gestures;
- always support keyboard navigation;
- consider keyboard shortcuts;
- do not rely on sensory characteristics as the sole indicator for understanding and operating content;
- do not indicate important information using colour alone;
- make sure there is enough contrast between text objects and its background colour.

