

DATA SUMMARY APACE REPORT

Publishers' Awareness. APACE's report, which summarizes and communicates the results of the survey, reveals that **70.5%** of the European publishing houses surveyed believes that the European Accessibility Act will affect their operations, compared with **13.3%** who says they will not be affected.

Microenterprises. They employ fewer than 10 people and generate an annual turnover of no more than €2 million. **30%** affirms they currently produce accessible e-books, while **34.3%** is planning to do so by the end of 2024. Although excluded from the obligations of European accessibility Directive, microenterprises largely (**52%**) recognize the effects that the entry into force of the Accessibility Act may unfold on them. However, **74.4%** have not a specific budget for this.

E-books, accessible formats and standards. **80.3%** of European publishers currently publishes e-books, but only **37.4 %** declares they currently produce accessible ones, while a further **37.4%** is planning to start doing so by the end of 2024. EPUB 3 reflowable is considered the most accessible format overall, with **43.8%** of publishers choosing it to produce more than **75%** of their accessible e-books.

Human resources and skills. **32.9%** of European publishers surveyed have appointed an accessibility manager or designated a person for this function. **42.3%** has internal staff working with external providers to adapt workflows to accessibility, while **30.8%** has integrating accessibility into internal workflows. Both internal staff and external vendors of publishing houses possess accessibility-related skills, with different percentages. Production of Born Accessible publications (**internal staff 32.9% vs. external providers 42.2%**); checking accessibility level (**42.8% vs. 41.0%**), writing alternative descriptions (**54.9% vs. 32.9%**), creating accessibility metadata (**41.6% vs. 35.8%**), developing accessible websites (**29.5% vs. 40.5%**).

Dedicated measures and budgets. While **42%** of European publishers has already taken measures to comply with the new Accessibility Act regulations, **24.9%** is developing strategies

or evaluating the impact on their activities. However, **62.4%** has not allocated a specific budget to meet the requirements of the directive. This percentage is higher among microenterprises (**74.4%**) than among companies with a turnover of more than 10 million euros (**45.3%**). Although publishers show a strong interest with respect to the need for further training on accessibility, **93.1%** said they were not be able to access to public funding for accessibility training programs.

Metadata and DRM. European accessibility law requires that detailed information on the accessibility of products and services be provided to end users through distribution channels. According to the APACE survey, currently **59.6%** of publishers includes accessibility metadata in their e-books, with **67%** using EPUB Accessibility metadata and **41.9%** using ONIX. By contrast, the most widely used DRM software - which controls the use of digital content after sale - are solutions based on use of watermarks (**32%**) and Adobe DRM (**25%**), while Readium LCP, which is fully accessible, is used by only **5.8%** of publishers.

Libraries that serve people with visual impairments. The APACE survey involved 14 in Europe: these are organizations, publicly funded, offering a wide range of accessible formats for people with various disabilities, including blindness, low vision, dyslexia, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, motor disabilities, multiple disabilities, cognitive problems, aphasia, and ADHD. 13 out of 14 create and distribute Braille books; 7 large print and tactile books. Concerning regarding digital formats, 7 out of 14 distribute Word documents and 6 out of 14 PDFs, while a smaller number offers text-only EPUBs, synchronized audio and text EPUBs, XML files, and audio files. In addition, 11 out of 14 use the specialist DAISY format, including DAISY audio and DAISY synchronized text and audio that can only be read with dedicated DAISY readers.