

September 2023



## HEDforALL – Holistic Approach to Higher Education for All

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<https://hedforall.eu/>



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### Newsletter No. 1

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the **HEDforALL project**. In this newsletter, we would like to inform you about the project “**Holistic Approach to Higher Education for All**” (**HEDforALL**), the reasons why we initiated the project, who is involved, and what the project’s activities are.

The **HEDforALL** project is supported by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action “Partnerships for cooperation and exchanges of practices”, Action Type “Cooperation partnerships in higher education”. Its duration is 36 months, from 01-02-2022 to 31-01-2025.

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### Project Framework

The strength of our society lies in education and research in Higher Education Institutes. However, too many Students with Disabilities (SwD) (i.e., visual, hearing, physical/mobility/ impairments and learning difficulties) are denied this right due to numerous barriers and obstacles to accessible digital education (i.e., accessible digital material and Distance Education/e-learning). Teaching SwD in Higher Education presents unique challenges for SwD and their educators, caused by the lack of accessible digital resources based on the type of disability (visual, hearing, mobility/physical impairments and learning difficulties) and the lack of digital competence of academic personnel in order to cope with the SwD’s needs. Teaching staff and accessibility advisors often don’t know how to support SwD. Indisputably there is a gap of transnational research on the specific needs of SwD on accessible educational material and on the needs revealed by Distance Education (DE) for them, as well as on the knowledge and experience that teaching staff and accessibility advisors in HEIs have, in relation to various forms of accessible materials and provision of accessible DE courses for their SwD.

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### Project Objectives

The HEDforALL project aims at improving the inclusion of SwD (i.e., visual, hearing, physical/mobility/ impairments and learning difficulties) in Higher Education Institutes (HEI) and support academic personnel to

develop digital competences in order to cope with the SwD's needs on accessible resources and the shift to digital education and e-Learning. The ultimate aim of HEDforALL is the development of a set of educational material, development practices and DE/e-Learning methodologies for the implementation of digital education in higher education.

- Read more about the [project objectives](#).

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## Project Activities

To achieve the aims of the project 8 project results and 4 multiplier events will be delivered. The first part of HEDforALL involves research conducted on end users, namely SwD, teaching staff and accessibility advisors. The second part of the project involves the design and development of adapted educational material and its assessment by SwD regarding accessibility, usability and educational efficacy. Lastly the third part of the project involves the implementation of multiplier events and activities for sharing and promoting the project results.

- Read more about the project [activities](#) and their [impact](#).

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## Project Results

RES1. Study: Needs and requirements of SwD.

RES2. Study: Knowledge and experience and skills of Teaching staff and Accessibility Advisors.

RES3. Development of accessible educational material AND development of Accessible Material Guide.

RES4. Study: Evaluation of educational material by SwD.

RES5. Pilot implementation of accessible distance education courses – Assessment of the quality of the pilot courses and the results of the educational process.

RES6. Implementation of an online repository of accessible educational material.

RES7. Index of Accessibility Units.

RES8. Educational YouTube videos.

- Read more about the [project's results](#).

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## Highlights of the first year of the project

- D.1.3.1: Kick-off meeting (online). 26-27 June 2022
- D.1.3.2: [1<sup>st</sup> Progress Meeting](#) (Spain, Alicante). 8-9 March 2023
- DIS3.1: [Project Website](#)
- DIS3.3.1.1: [Project Logo](#)
- DIS3.3.1.3: [Project Poster](#)
- DIS3.3.1.4: [Social Media accounts](#)
- RES1 - [Needs and requirements of Students with Disabilities](#)
- RES2 - [Study: Knowledge and experience and skills of Teaching staff and Accessibility Advisors](#)
- RES7 - [Index of Accessibility Units](#)

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## Project Partners

There are four partner organizations from four EU countries working together inside the HEDforALL project. All of them bring a different perspective to the project according to their profile.



**University of Macedonia (Greece)**  
**COORDINATOR**



Universitat d'Alacant  
Universidad de Alicante

**University of Alicante (Spain)**



**University of Cologne (Germany)**



**National Research Council of Italy**  
**Institute for Educational Technology (CNR-ITD) (Italy)**

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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

This project (2021-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000032260) has been co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.