

# A Comparative Assessment of Web Accessibility and Technical Standards Conformance in Four EU States

Dr. Barry McMullin

<http://www.eeng.dcu.ie/~mcmullin/>

RINCE, Dublin City University

<http://www.rince.ie/>

Politiques et Législations en faveur de l'accessibilité numérique en Europe

[http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/colloques/villette-2005/index\\_en.php](http://inova.snv.jussieu.fr/colloques/villette-2005/index_en.php)

Paris, Jan 31 2005

This presentation is also available in HTML Format at URL:

<http://eaccess.rince.ie/talks/2003/brailletnet-31-Jan-2005/brailletnet-31-Jan-2005.html>

**Support-EAM**

Supporting the creation of an eAccessibility Mark

# Overview

- Large Scale Accessibility Surveying: Why? How?
- Key Results
- Pervasive Defects
- Major Caveats
- Recommendations
- Thanks...

## Large Scale Surveying: Why?

- Publicity/Awareness
- Public Policy/Legislation
- Education and Training
- RTD (UAAG...)

## Large Scale Surveying: How?

- Automated (severe limitation!)
  - Country Sampling: Open Directory Project (ODP)<sup>1</sup>
  - Capture: pavuk<sup>2</sup> (Snapshot: May 2004)
  - Assessment: bobby<sup>3</sup>, W3C HTML Validator<sup>4</sup>
  - XML Reports
  - Database postgresql<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup><http://dmoz.org/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.idata.sk/~ondrej/pavuk/>

<sup>3</sup><http://bobby.watchfire.com/>

<sup>4</sup><http://validator.w3.org/>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.postgresql.org/>

## Large Scale Surveying: Where?

- Ireland: 123 sites
- UK: 5702 sites
- Germany: 4250 sites
- France: 1545 sites
- Total sites: 4877
- Total pages: 151,514

## Key Results: WCAG-A Failure

<b>Ireland</b>	94.0%
<b>UK</b>	94.5%
<b>Germany</b>	95.6%
<b>France</b>	98.6%

## Key Results: WCAG-AA Failure

<b>UK</b>	99%
<b>Ireland</b>	100%
<b>Germany</b>	100%
<b>France</b>	100%

## Key Results: HTML Validation Failure (Raw)

<b>Germany</b>	99.6%
<b>UK</b>	99.8%
<b>Ireland</b>	100%
<b>France</b>	100%

## Key Results: HTML Validation Failure (Bad DOCTYPE)

- 98% of all sites
- 82% of all pages

## Key Results: HTML Validation Failure (DOCTYPE Filter)

- Retain only pages with usable DOCTYPE
- Require minimum data per site
- 30% of sites qualified for further analysis

<b>UK</b>	96%
<b>France</b>	96%
<b>Ireland</b>	97%
<b>Germany</b>	98%

## Pervasive Defects

- P2: Bad HTML (99%+)
- P2: Rigid display coding (98%).
- P1: Missing ALT (93%).
- P2: Poor link text (70%).
- P2: Device restrictions (66%).
- P2: Inaccessible forms (62%).
- P1: HTML frames (37.0%).

## Major Caveats

- Sampling.
- False Negatives.
- False Positives.

## Recommendations

- Public Awareness.
- New Tools and Technologies.
- Leading by Example.
- Education and Training.
- Legislation.
- Independent Audit/Certification(?)<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup><http://www.support-eam.org/>

## Thanks...

- John Kelly, Head of Business Banking, AIB PLC.<sup>7</sup>
- Research students: Esmond Walshe and Carmen Marincu.
- RINCE<sup>8</sup>, HEA<sup>9</sup>.
- Support-EAM Project<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup><http://www.aib.ie/>

<sup>8</sup><http://www.rince.ie/>

<sup>9</sup><http://www.heai.ie/>

<sup>10</sup><http://www.support-eam.org/>

## Links

- eAccess Lab:  
<http://eaccess.rince.ie/>
- Full Paper:  
<http://eaccess.rince.ie/white-papers/2004/warp-2004-00/>
- Presentation authored with Foil $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ :  
<http://www.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/entries/foiltex.html>