

VISIONARY ANALYTICS

Targeted consultation supporting the evaluation of the Marrakesh Directive and Regulation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Background

Thank you for taking your time to participate in this survey.

The **Marrakesh Treaty** gives blind and otherwise visually impaired or print-disabled people access to more books and print material in formats accessible to them. The EU fulfills its Treaty obligations through the Marrakesh Directive (EU) 2017/1564 and Marrakesh Regulation (EU) 2017/1563.

The Marrakesh Directive introduces an exception to copyright for two reasons:

1. To increase the availability of printed works in accessible formats (such as Braille, large print, adapted e-books, audio books and radio broadcasts) for persons with print disabilities.
2. To improve the circulation of these 'accessible format copies' within the internal market. The Marrakesh Regulation facilitates the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies between EU Member States and any third-country parties to the Marrakesh Treaty.

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The Commission is conducting an **evaluation of the Marrakesh Directive and the Regulation** (in this survey, jointly referred to as the **Marrakesh Framework**). The aim of this evaluation is to assess the extent to which the Marrakesh Directive and Regulation have been effective in meeting their objectives and are efficient, cost-effective, relevant to current and emerging needs, consistent with EU policy and international commitments and demonstrate EU added value. In particular, this evaluation will assess how these two legal instruments have impacted the availability of accessible formats and have helped to facilitate the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies. It will specifically include an assessment of the impact of the compensation schemes that exist in certain Member States on such availability and exchanges. The

evaluation will also consider the possible impact on the commercial availability of certain works or other subject matter in accessible formats for beneficiary persons.

The evaluation is supported by a study conducted by the [Visionary Analytics](#) consortium. As part of the study, **this survey aims to collect necessary data to support the evaluation of the impacts of the Marrakesh Directive and Regulation** on reaching their objectives.

Relevant concepts used in the survey include the following:

- An **'accessible format'** means a specially adapted book (or other material, including journal, newspaper, magazine, sheet music, etc.) in any media, including in audio form and in digital format, for people with blindness or visual impairments. We distinguish between: (1) A **'born accessible'** work, produced and made available commercially by the publisher; and (2) An **'accessible format copy'** – a copy of the original work (in non-accessible format), provided by an organisation catering to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- An **Authorised Entity** is, in line with Article 2 of the Marrakesh Directive, an entity that is authorised or recognised by a Member State to provide education, instructional training, adaptive reading or information access to beneficiary persons on a non-profit basis. It also includes a public institution or non-profit organisation that provides the same services to beneficiary persons as one of its primary activities, institutional obligations or as part of its public interest missions.
- A **compensation scheme** is, in line with Recital 14 of the Marrakesh Directive, a scheme set up by a Member State to compensate rightsholders for the use of works permitted by the Marrakesh Directive by Authorised Entities.

How to fill in this survey?

Before starting the survey, please select your preferred language (English, German or French) on the pane on the right. Although the survey questions are available in these three languages, **you are welcome to provide answers to the survey questions in any of the official EU languages.**

The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Mandatory questions and fields are marked with *. For the remaining questions, we would much appreciate if you provided as complete answers as possible.

You can switch between the 'standard mode' and the 'accessibility mode' on the pane on the right. If you are using a screen reader, please note that you may need to use the 'enter' key to check the boxes (rather than a space bar), depending on the software you are using.

If you want to save your answers and continue later, please click "Save as a Draft", which will generate a link to your draft contribution - remember to keep this link to be able to come back to your draft. After answering all questions, please remember to click "Submit". Please note that after clicking "Submit", you will not be able to change your responses anymore (although you can always contact us if needed).

The survey will remain open until July 21st - please make sure to submit your contribution in time.

Data privacy and informed consent

I acknowledge the [Privacy Statement](#) (available under the link below).

* Please indicate your preference for the publication of your response:

- Under the organisation name given:** Your contribution will be published under the organisation name given together with all information contained in your contribution. You declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- Anonymously:** Your contribution will be published anonymously (the organisation name will not be published, only the respondent type and country you select) and all information contained in your contribution will be published. You declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that prevent publication.
- Confidentially:** Your contribution will not be published, but will be used by the Commission and the contractor in its analysis of the collected information and data for the evaluation of the Marrakesh Directive and Regulation, and in the drafting of the evaluation report.

* Please indicate your preference for potential follow-up contact by the research team:

- I agree to be contacted for a follow-up interview if needed.
- I do not wish to be contacted for further follow-ups.

Please indicate your email address:

daniel.casas@edf-feph.org

Introductory questions

Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Irish
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian

- Spanish
- Swedish

I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

First name

Daniel

Surname

Casas Ballester

* Are you responding as a representative of an Authorised Entity within the meaning of Article 2 of the Marrakesh Directive?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

* Who are you responding as?

- A representative of an organisation acting on behalf of / representing the interests of persons with disabilities
- A representative of an organisation acting on behalf of copyright and related rights holders (e.g., authors, publishers)
- A representative of a cultural heritage institution (e.g., library)
- A representative of an educational institution (e.g., school)
- Other

What is your organisation's name?

255 character(s) maximum

European Disability Forum (EDF)

* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)

- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

* In which country is your organisation based?

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- We are an EU-level organisation.
- We are an international organisation.

* Is your organisation registered in the Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please indicate your organisation's registration number in the Transparency Register.

30 character(s) maximum

57868523887-16

Availability of printed works in accessible formats

*In case you chose to respond both as an Authorised Entity and an organisation acting on behalf of / representing the interests of persons with disabilities, **please respond to this part of the questionnaire from the perspective of persons with disabilities.***

According to your estimate, what was **the proportion between born accessible works and accessible format copies** that were available to persons with disabilities in your country or region **in 2018**?
Please note that on the below slider, 0 means all available works were born accessible, 10 means all were accessible format copies, 5 means the proportion was 50/50.

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Please explain further if you wish:

We do not have the data but we would say the proportion of born accessible works in 2018 was much lower than accessible format copies. That's the challenge the Marrakesh Treaty tries to address.

According to your estimate, what is **the proportion between born accessible works and accessible format copies** that are **currently** available to persons with disabilities in your country or region?

Please note that on the below slider, 0 means all available works were born accessible, 10 means all were accessible format copies, 5 means the proportion was 50/50.

Please explain further if you wish:

We do not have such data but the number of born-accessible e-books is expected to increase due to the entry into application of the European Accessibility Act in 2025 as this Directive covers all e-books in its scope. The amount of accessible format copies has also increased due to the Marrakech Treaty. It is also worth mentioning that not all published works are distributed digitally, or have an alternative born-accessible digital copy. This is one of the reasons why the Marrakech Treaty remains crucial to increase the number of accessible works different from e-books, which are the most common.

Availability of born accessible works

* According to your experience or to your knowledge, has **the availability of born accessible works** increased or decreased over the last 5 years (2018-2023) in your country or region?

- Increased a lot
- Increased somewhat
- Remained the same
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased a lot
- I don't know / no opinion

Please explain further if you wish:

Remained the same, however, Regarding e-books, the amount has increased due to the incorporation of accessibility requirements in the industry standard for e-book format EPUB. It is expected that all e-books will be born accessible after the entry into application of the European Accessibility Act in 2025.

According to your experience or to your knowledge, are born accessible works provided to end users at a different **price** than the non-accessible works?

- Born accessible works are provided at a **higher price** than non-accessible works.
- Born accessible works are provided at **the same price** as non-accessible works.
- Born accessible works are provided at a **lower price** than non-accessible works.
- I don't know / no opinion

Please explain further if you wish:

Availability of accessible format copies

* According to your experience or to your knowledge, has **the availability of accessible format copies provided by organisation catering to the needs of persons with disabilities** increased or decreased over the last 5 years (2018-2023) in your country or region?

- Increased a lot
- Increased somewhat
- Remained the same
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased a lot
- I don't know / no opinion

Please explain further if you wish:

We do not have the data but from our members assessment we can say it has increased as a result of the Marrakesh Framework. According to the call for feedback, Authorised Entities in different countries highlighted that they benefited from a greater availability of accessible format copies from other countries as a result, among others, of cross-exchange allowed by the Marrakesh Treaty. Of course, this possibility is has been more prominent in countries with wide-spread languages.

According to your experience or to your knowledge, to what extent could this increase in availability of accessible format copies be **directly attributed to the implementation of the Marrakesh Framework?**

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Please explain further if you wish:

The Marrakech Framework has definitely had a positive impact in the availability of accessible format copies around the world.

According to your experience or to your knowledge, what **other developments** (besides the implementation of the Marrakesh Framework) contributed to the increased availability of accessible format copies provided by organisation catering to the needs of persons with disabilities? Please rate the importance of the following developments:

	Not important at all / has not happened	Rather unimportant	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	I don't know / no opinion
The availability of new file formats and tools (software and hardware) to produce and use accessible formats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decreasing cost of producing works in accessible formats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More funding available for Authorised Entities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Policy developments, including the Web Accessibility Directive and the entry into force of the European Accessibility Act	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other, please specify:

Please explain further if you wish:

According to your experience or to your knowledge, which **obstacles** persist that make it difficult for persons with disabilities to have access to accessible formats? Please rate the importance of the following obstacles:

	Not important at all / has not happened	Rather unimportant	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	I don't know / no opinion
Insufficient commercial availability of born accessible works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient availability of accessible format copies provided by organisations acting on behalf of persons with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inaccessibility of gateways (e.g., websites where accessible format copies can be obtained)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited availability and/or prohibitive cost of hardware required to use some of the accessible formats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Limited awareness or access to information among the beneficiaries about where to obtain accessible format copies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If other, please specify:

Please explain further if you wish:

Compensation of rightsholders

* Is there a compensation scheme in your country that enables the distribution of remuneration to rightsholders for the use of accessible format copies?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know / I'm responding on behalf of an EU-level or international organisation

Please explain further if you wish:

Beneficiaries' needs

How have **the needs of beneficiaries** changed since the Framework was implemented in 2018? To what extent has the Marrakesh Framework remained relevant considering these evolving needs?

Even if the EAA will oblige all e-books to be accessible by default, the need to make printed works in specific accessible formats for persons with disabilities will continue (e.g. in Braille books, large print, audio formats, etc.) and so will the relevance of the Marrakesh Treaty.

Closure

If you wish, please provide any other information that you find useful regarding the availability of works in accessible formats for persons with disabilities or the implementation of the Marrakesh Framework.

If you wish, please upload a file.

Thank you for taking your time to fill in this survey!

Please don't forget to click "Submit" when you're ready.

Contact

[Contact Form](#)