

Improving Accessibility in Higher Education: Lessons Learned from Finnish Networks

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Opetus- ja
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DigiCampus

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Access vs. accessibility?

- Directive (EU) 2016/2102 provides people with disabilities with better access to the **websites and mobile apps of public services.**



**Accessibility
benefits everyone**



New challenges for Finnish HEIs



- European and national legislation set much stricter accessibility standards
- Networks for sharing knowledge and co-operating
 - A national Higher Education development project *DigiCampus* (2018-2020)





What have we done?

- Testing, evaluating, gathering feedback
 - Developed technical and pedagogical solutions
 - Information for the pedagogical support service of the DigiCampus
 - Contributed to the learning environment quality indicator
 - Webinars; blog posts; hands-on training; a technically and pedagogically exemplary online training about accessibility
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Lessons learned



HEIs need a clear strategy and policies for accessibility

- It is crucial to enhance transparency and active participation of students in policy-making



Accessibility applies to all staff

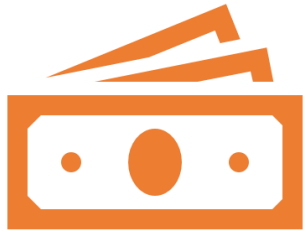
- Instructors, lecturers
- Accessibility specialists
- Library
- Educational development services
- Facility Services
- Communication and marketing
- IT
- HR
- Projects
- Purchasing
- Management



Do you know your students?



Case example: Accessibility of a digital learning environment



Purchases



Technology: platform and
user interface (ICT)



Content and pedagogical
methods (teachers)



DigiCampus

T₁ H₄ A₁ N₁ K₅
Y₄ O₁ U₁



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