

# EIAO

European Internet  
Accessibility Observatory

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## Newsletter 3 - September 2006

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### The EIAO-machinery speeds up

Our developers team has used the summer months and achieved a speed gain by a factor of 40 since the first working release was tested in May. This means that the current processing speed is more than 40% of the required capacity to process 10.000 sites monthly. The team has established a process where the bottlenecks of the software are identified, addressed and tested in small increments. The major gains were achieved by improvements in the web evaluation modules (WAMs) and through allowing parallel crawling and WAM processing.

### 123 European web sites evaluated

The first results are in! The 123 evaluated web sites originate from all member states in the EU and EFTA countries and include the prime minister office sites, national banks, national libraries, and selected sites among federal organisations such as president/monarchy, ministries, parliaments and national statistics agency.

### None of the evaluated web sites comply completely with the checkpoints

Although the first EIAO tests only cover a subset of the full WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) checkpoints, none of the web sites comply completely with them.

The most common barrier detected in the evaluated web sites is lack of style sheets used to control layout and presentation. Appropriate use of style sheets is essential to allow the users to adjust the appearance of a web page according to his or her needs, for example, to change the font size or background colour. The second most frequent barrier detected is missing equivalent alternatives to visual and/or auditory content. Problems may occur for users with e.g. screen readers when alternative text to non text elements are missing.

Among the most accessible web sites were [www.althingi.is](http://www.althingi.is) (Icelandic Parliament, Iceland) and [www.bne.es](http://www.bne.es) (Biblioteca Nacional de España, Spain). Among the sites with most detected barriers were in [www.msz.gov.pl](http://www.msz.gov.pl) (Ministerstwo Spraw Zagranicznych Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, Poland) and [www.llv.li](http://www.llv.li) (Landesverwaltung Liechtenstein, Liechtenstein).

For more details on these results please refer to the EIAO papers to appear at **Design for All** and **eChallenges** conferences (for details see the section on upcoming events below).

Selected and verified results can also be seen at <http://eiao.net/results>.

### First user tests of EIAO user interface

The first prototype release of the EIAO user interface was evaluated by a group of usability experts, web developers and decision makers in August. Overall the Observatory was very well received and we gathered valuable feedback regarding further development of the interface and content of the Observatory. A final round of evaluation with a large group of stakeholders is expected to take place with the second release of the user interface due in early 2007.

## Further developments

The development team is currently working on additional speed improvements, streamlining of the installation routines and fine tuning of the sampling of web pages from a website.

At the same time, drawing on the feedback from the August user testing, a new design of the EIAO interface is being developed. Next release (due December 2006) will improve the initial interface features and offer a range of new functionality, including data on change of accessibility status over time. We also hope to open the December release to a general public.

## The Web-mining and Data Analysis course started

The course at AUC (Agder University College, Grimstad, Norway) linking the EIAO research to the teaching has now started for the fourth year and has been the most attractive elective course this semester. You can download videos and slides from the lectures at: <http://eiao.net/webmining>.

## Upcoming presentations

**ACM Ninth International Workshop on Data Warehousing and OLAP - DOLAP 2006, 10 November 2006, Arlington, VA, USA**

<http://www.cs.uoi.gr/~dolap06/>

*Building a Web Warehouse for Accessibility Data*

Christian Thomsen and Torben Bach Pedersen, Aalborg University, Denmark

**8th International Conference on Data Warehousing and Knowledge Discovery (DaWaK 2006), Krakow, Poland, 4 - 8 September 2006**

<http://www.dexa.org/dawakprogram>

*ETLDiff: A Semi-Automatic Framework for Regression Test of ETL Software*

Christian Thomsen and Torben Bach Pedersen, Aalborg University, Denmark

**eChallenges 2006 – Barcelona 25 - 27 October 2006**

<http://www.echallenges.org/e2006>

*Automatic Benchmarking and Presentation of the First Results from the European Internet Accessibility Observatory*

Mikael Snaprud, Morten Goodwin Olsen, Agder University College and Finn Aslaksen, Vista Utredning AS

## Recent presentations

**United Nations Expert Group Meeting on E-Participation and E-Government, Budapest , Hungary, 27-28.July 2006**

[http://www.unpan.org/directory/conference/guest/browseoneconference.asp?conference\\_id=1960](http://www.unpan.org/directory/conference/guest/browseoneconference.asp?conference_id=1960)

*The European Internet Accessibility Project*

Mikael Snaprud and Agata Sawicka, Agder University College

**ICCHP , Linz, Austria, 12-14. July, 2006**

<http://www.icchp.org/content/view/34/67/>

*Interpreting Results from Large Scale Automatic Evaluation of Web Accessibility*

Christian Bühler, Helmut Heck, Olaf Perlick, Annika Nietzio, Forschungsinstitut Technologie-Behindertenhilfe (FTB) and Nils Ulltveit-Moe, Agder University College

*A proposed architecture for large scale web assessment*

Mikael Snaprud, Nils Ulltveit-Moe, and Morten Goodwin Olsen, Agder University College, Anand Pillai, Spikesource India Pvt Ltd

*The Role of Benchmarking in Concerted Actions to Increase Accessibility*

Finn Aslaksen, Vista Utredning AS, Frank Fardal, Norge.no and Mikael Snaprud, Agder University College

*Modelling Accessibility Constraints*

Terje Gjøsæter, Jan Pettersen Nytnun, Andreas Prinz, Mikael Snaprud and Merete Skjeltan Tveit, Agder University College

**FreePint online Journal, 24.August**

<http://www.freepint.com/issues/240806.htm#feature>

*Positive Steps To Assessing, Monitoring and Comparing the Accessibility of Public Websites: Introducing The European Internet Accessibility Observatory*

Jenny Craven, Manchester Metropolitan University and Mikael Snaprud, Agder University College

**International Design for All Conference on 13-15 September at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland**

<http://dfasuomi.stakes.fi/EN/index.htm>

*European Internet Accessibility Observatory: let's make accessibility measurements, accessible to everyone! Accessible Presentation of Measurements from a Web Accessibility Observatory*

Patrizia Bertini, FBL, Italy and Terje Gjøsæter, Agder University College, Faculty of Technology, Grimstad, Norway

*Early Results from Automatic Accessibility Benchmarking of Public European Web Sites from the European Internet Accessibility Observatory*

Nils Ulltveit-Moe, Mikael Snaprud, Morten Goodwin Olsen, Agder University College Annika Nietzio, Forschungsinstitut Technologie-Behindertenhilfe (FTB), and Christian Thomsen, Aalborg University,

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Further information on the EIAO project and contact details can be found at the EIAO website: <http://www.eiao.net> or from the Project Co-ordinator Mikael Snaprud, Agder University College, Norway, Tel +47 37 25 33 23, Email [mikael.snaprud@hia.no](mailto:mikael.snaprud@hia.no)

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