



Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility

ICT Accessibility Fact Sheet

Assessing the provision of ICT for Inclusion: Sensory or physical disabilities

This guide suggests where ICT may help and points you to the main sources of advice and information available in this area. It is not meant to be exhaustive but a starting point on where to get help.

More Information

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Free access utilities

A range of utilities are available on the FITA AccessArchives CD-Roms, and the FITA web site at www.fitamalta.eu

Does the difficulty lie in access to the ICT product or service itself?

Although ICT can be an alternative tool for many persons with physical or sensory difficulties, adaptations to the equipment itself may be necessary before it can be used comfortably and efficiently.

As a first step, check that you have explored the Accessibility options and Control panel settings on your computer. This will help you configure the computer to meet your access needs. Consider using the following.

- Keyboard and mouse utilities, screen magnification and visual alerts are just a few of the utilities available.
- If you cannot use a mouse, the Mouse keys facility transfers the movements to the numeric keypad.
- If you cannot use a keyboard, the on-screen keyboard transfers key presses to mouse clicks. On-screen keyboards are also useful for people who have difficulty changing their gaze from the screen to the keyboard and back again.

Would providing peripheral equipment improve access?

Peripherals may be needed to improve access through the standard keyboard and mouse. Explore whether you would benefit from the use of the following.

- **Keyguard**
- **Wrist support**
- **Armrests**

Would an alternative input help?

Alternative inputs may be needed if the standard keyboard and mouse are not appropriate. You should explore whether the following will help you.

- **Tracker ball and joystick**
- **Alternative keyboard, including mini-keyboard**
- **Computer with Braille keyboard**
- **Overlay keyboard**
- **Switches and scanning system**
- **Speech-recognition systems**

Would a software utility improve access?

Software utilities can often help individuals with physical or sensory difficulties. You should consider the following utilities and explore whether you can benefit from their use.

- **Prediction software**
- **Non-predictive word bank software**
- **Braille translation software**

What other hardware might help?

Depending on your needs you could consider the benefits of using the following devices.

- **Portable tape recorder**
- **Calculator, thermometer and electronic dictionary**
- **Scanner with optical character reader (OCR) software**
- **Soundbeam or Midi music processor**