WFDB-Omnitor Digital Accessibility Consultancy
Terms of Reference

Summary

The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB), supported by the International Disability Alliance (IDA), is hiring a digital accessibility consultant to assist in a pilot being conducted in Spain, as part of the project "EC Touch International", in partnership with Omnitor AB.

About WFDB and IDA

The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB), established in 2001, is a global non-governmental advocacy organization by and for persons with deafblindness. Consisting of 75 national and associated deafblind organizations from 62 different countries in all parts of the world, WFDB is recognized as the official and legitimate global voice of persons with deafblindness.

WFDB aims to improve the quality of life of persons with deafblindness worldwide; focusing on achieving equal rights and equal possibilities in all areas of society; to be a forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences regarding deafblindness; to promote international solidarity among organizations by and for people with deafblindness through cooperation, organizational development, capacity building and advocacy.

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) was established in 1999 as a network of global and, since 2007, a regional disabled people's organizations (DPOs). The aim of IDA is to promote the effective and full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) worldwide, as well as ensuring compliance with the CRPD within the UN system, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and international levels. WFDB is a member of IDA, and as such, IDA acts as WFDB's fiscal sponsor.

Background

Omnitor AB is a Swedish private company that has developed an app named "eCtouch" which supports remote real-time communication with audio, video, and text. eCtouch is mainly used by deaf and hard of hearing citizens in Sweden. However, eCtouch also support screen readers and screen magnifiers making it usable for vision impaired, blind, and deaf and blind citizens.
The 18-month project proposal entails to further improve eCtouch's user friendliness for vision impaired, blind, and deaf and blind citizens, and more specifically the support for Braille displays which is currently a challenge. Therefore, eCtouch Braille is a further development of the eCtouch app with improvements for the visually impaired and deafblind, especially for those who are braille users and utilise braille displays. New text windows for real-time text during calls will be developed for braille displays with different settings so that the app can be

customized. Getting text to work and conveying the right information during conversations with the entire ecosystem of real-time text, screen readers and braille displays is a challenge. The app will also be improved in terms of magnification, keyboard shortcuts, and navigation. UI/UX should be logical, simple, clear, and adaptable, e.g., choice of colour preference. Furthermore, there is intention to simplify the migration from text phone to eCtouch Braille by copying some functions. A big advantage of the app is that it uses real-time text, which is similar to text phones. It is also important to note that the app can be adapted to changing needs, such as impaired vision. The app also supports custom perception of incoming calls.

Moreover, WFDB (in support of IDA) is a key partner in the project since they will ensure the inclusion and involvement of persons with deafblindness and ensure the widespread dissemination of the activities and results.

WFDB's role in project

WFDB will recruit a diversity of users with deafblindness and run a small pilot in Spain, in collaboration with other organizations of persons with deafblindness and partners. The purpose is for persons with deafblindness, especially braille users, to test the app eCtouch Braille and provide their feedback, to improve the accessibility of the product.

To summarize, WFDB will:

- Recruit end users with deafblindness
- Recruit a digital accessibility expert
- Organise a 1-day workshop in Madrid
- Hold follow-up webinars
- Produce evidence-based reports
- Disseminate the results among WFDB network

Job description

In collaboration with WFDB's Program Advisor, the consultant is expected to:

- Maintain frequent communications with end-users recruited for the pilot
- Draft accessible training materials for the end-users, in multiple accessible formats
- Assist in the planning, organisation and running of a 1-day workshop in Madrid, including installing/configuring eCtouch Braille on users' devices, collecting feedback, training the end-users, etc.
- Assist in the planning, organisation and running of 2 webinars
- Produce written materials on the pilot which will disseminated to WFDB network
- Conduct research and produce a report that includes information on which countries there is a need for eCtouch Braille, where there is appropriate funding and identify possible local partners.

Qualifications

- Fluent both in English and Spanish

- Minimum of 2 years of experience in digital accessibility (including web pages, mobile apps, etc.)
- Familiar with the use of assistive devices and technology (screen reader software, braille displays, etc.)
- Previous experience working with persons with disabilities
- Previous experience in assistive devices and accessible technologies, specific for persons with deafblindness would be considered a strong asset, as well as previous experience working with persons with deafblindness, and their representative organisations
- Excellent oral, written, and interpersonal skills.
- Teamwork and good coordination skills

Process for applying

Please send a letter of interest, CV, writing sample and financial offer for the required deliverables to: consultancy@ida-secretariat.org latest by **11 December 2023.**

Note: The subject line of the e-mail should be «*Application for WFDB-Omnitor Consultancy*»

Contracting and Remuneration

- The job might require travelling
- Remote working is possible
- Start date is as soon as possible ending on 31st of March 2025
- Consultancy contract has a maximum duration of 150 working days spread throughout the project's lifetime
- A consultancy contract (as per Swiss law) will be signed between the consultant and IDA.
- Applicants are invited to submit a copy of their passport