

Web and Mobile Accessibility for Visually Impaired People (WMA4VIP)

Initiation Grant

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Little history

Seven years of collaboration between Linnaeus University (LNU) and South East European University (SEEU) through “*Linnaeus Palme*” project

Exchange of 23 students and 5 faculties

There was a need to expand the collaboration into a joint research

Initiation Grant

STINT – The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research in Higher Education

Initiation grants are given for the implementation of short-term projects targeting the building of new and strategically interesting international relationships.

Value: 128.000 SEK (~14.500 Euro)

Start Date: October 30th, 2013

End Date: October 20th, 2014

Problem Space

Visually Impaired People are marginalized community in Macedonia lacking basic resources for education

Little has been done to provide equal education opportunity for them

Necessity to leverage the digital resources, which provide an opportunity through its adaptation to increase information accessibility

Project goals

Build effective relations with local NGOs and insitution assisting the visually impaired community in Macedonia and Sweden

In Macedonia: **Handimak** and **Open the Windows**

In Sweden: **eHealth Institute** and **Blekinge Institute of Technology**

Identify specific needs of the community of visually impaired people in western Macedonia

Identify how advances in Web and mobile technologies could be utilized to design and develop adaptive and assistive tools to provide equal education opportunity for the visually impaired in western Macedonia

Address those needs by bringing the Swedish experience

Activities

Workshop 1: Requirements elicitation with researchers and representatives of visually impaired people in western Macedonia

Workshop 2: Short study and research visits to two institutions in Sweden

Workshop 3: Meeting with researchers to identify current trends and potentials of Web and mobile technologies to develop assistive and adaptive tools

Symposium / Mini Conference: Dissemination of research results and attraction of international researchers

Collaboration strengths

SEEU staff background:

- requirements building

- designing and evaluating accessible content for blind users

- providing adaptable web content depending on user's disability and needs

LNU staff background:

- contextual computing

- web and mobile application engineering using open standard tools and architecture

Project Outcomes

Requirements synthesis for Web and mobile technologies to be utilized for designing and developing assistive tools for visually impaired people

Attract additional partners and broaden the consortium toward a project application to EU call within 2014

Create sustainable research groups that will work toward building applications to offer equal opportunity education and access to information to visually impaired people

Questions

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