

# Open Forum - EU Inclusive Publishing

July 4, 2023

Notes for the meetings can be found on the [DAISY project page](#).

## Welcome from Thomas Kahlisch

Thomas Kahlisch from dzb (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The one item of AOB was noted.

## Building bridges - offer from Federation of European Publishers

This item is tabled at the request of Maarten Verboom, Dedicon. In a recent discussion with Ann Bergman, Director at the Federation of European Publishers it was noted that whilst in many countries the relationship between publishers, specialist libraries and disabled persons organisations is a constructive and positive one, there are some countries where this is not yet the case. Ann and Maarten wondered if the FEP and DAISY help to facilitate those discussions. Any thoughts on how to take up this offer?

We heard that even in countries where there are constructive working relationships it is not always easy for companies in the publishing industry to figure out what they should be doing. Also, in other countries there is little activity until the legislation is in place.

If there are countries where the relationship is problematical then the offer of help if there. We agreed that it would be good to conduct a follow up survey of the state of preparation (the last was two years ago). This could ask about whether there are constructive relationships. This could help to identify gaps that could benefit from attention.

Richard will ask for volunteers to help with the survey on the email list.

## Feedback from recent events (conferences/seminars/etc)

The DAISY board meeting was in Washington DC May 8 and 9. This included a round table discussion on collaboration between DAISY members and publishers. There were many examples of such activities, including donating commercial audiobook titles into special collections, providing ebook files for collection development and conversion into special formats, and experimenting together on new opportunities, such as using TTS to produce commercial audiobooks.

Global Accessibility Awareness Day was on May 18th. DAISY published a brief overview <https://inclusivepublishing.org/blog/global-accessibility-awareness-day-2023-a-round-up/>.

Gregorio told us how LIA organised an accessibility camp (third edition!) after the annual [Readmagine](#) conference. There was lots of attendance from across Europe and new audiences were reached. Elisa wrote a nice article [10 Things You Missed at The Accessibility Camp in Madrid - Inclusive Publishing](#).

The [Digital Publishing Summit](#) devoted a significant part of its program to accessibility issues.

## Reports on upcoming activities

Nominations are open for the [International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing 2023](#). As in previous years, there are two categories for the awards, allowing both publishers and other initiatives to be celebrated for their work progressing accessibility in their respective fields. Nominations are open until August 4th, and the winners will be announced during a ceremony in October at the Publishers Conference in Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates. Perhaps there are many nominations that can come from Europe!

On November 10 there will be the UK's first [conference on accessible publishing](#), organised by RNIB and the DAISY Consortium. The event will be hosted by Google in Central London and streamed online. The informal and interactive event will feature speakers from across the publishing ecosystem including publishers, service providers, distributors, retailers, and technology companies. We will hear from people with print disabilities and discover how they are empowered by accessible publications, well designed reading systems and assistive technologies. The conference will be free to attend. There will be a limited number of places on site.

Thomas mentioned that on Wednesday 18 October at the Frankfurt Book Fair there will be an accessibility conference followed by a networking event.

Richard is meeting Google Play Books later this month on July 25. A good accessible reading app out of the box on Android would be very helpful.

## New and interesting resources, courses, website updates

Sarah mentioned the just published case study from France  
<https://inclusivepublishing.org/blog/eea-case-study-france/>

## Any other business

Richard asked about assistive technologies for people with physical disabilities and the compatibility with ebook services. No offers in the meeting, but interest in what we find out. He will ask on the email list, and report back at a future meeting.

## Date of next meeting

The date was set for September 12 at 4pm Central Europe.