

ICT Accessibility in Malta

Elizabeth Olivieri

Chairperson

Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility
Malta

e: info@fitamalta.eu

www: www.fitamalta.eu

Coordinated by



Hosted by



The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



About FITA

The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility was set up in 2001 to drive policy and initiatives promoting ICT accessibility for persons with disability.

- To promote equal opportunities for all through ICT
- To provide training services in ICT for disabled people
- To gather and disseminate information and to increase awareness on ICT matters;
- To liaise with and facilitate public and private endeavours in respect of the creation of equal opportunities in respect of ICT
- To offer advice and consultancy services to private and public organisations in information technology

Coordinated by



Hosted by



The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessibility Services

- support for strategic planning for product accessibility
- design and development support
- expert accessibility testing
- conformance with Accessibility Standards
- creation and verification of VPAT documents
- accessibility monitoring service



Coordinated by



Hosted by

The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessibility Certification

Standards applied by FITA

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- EN301549

Certified ICT resources

- FITA approved logo
- Website included in the register of vetted websites for a year



Most common accessibility issues

Image descriptions

- Frequently lacking post launch

Audio alternatives

- No captions or script

Data Tables

- Occasional issue

Forms

- Unlabeled fields or use of icons instead of text labels

Colour contrast

- Common design issue

Headings and navigation

- Occasional CMS theme based issue

Text resizing

- Uncommon

Menus

- Occasional CMD theme based issue

Video

- Frequently lacking captions

Documents/PDF

- Occasional encapsulated images

Graphs & charts

- Rarely encountered but poorly described

Flash

- Rarely encountered

Plugins

- Dependence on service provider

Compatibility with Assistive ICT

- Screen readers
- Voice Recognition
- Eye tracking
- Magnification software
- Mainstream smartphones and tablets
- Use of dedicated devices



Accessibility Toolkits

Accessible ICT Procurement Toolkit

Home ▶ Standard - EN 301 549

Standard - EN 301 549

"Accessibility requirements suitable for public procurement of ICT products and services"

1. Scope
2. References
3. Definitions and Abbreviations
4. Functional Performance
5. Generic requirements

Functional Performance Statements

Functional Accessibility Requirements

Accessibility Color Wheel

Info on the purpose of this tool is available in my [home page](#) and [blog](#)

Use: Choose a foreground color by pointing the mouse at the color wheel. If you have a touch screen, just touch them. Then click the checkmark. A checkmark becomes visible if the color pair is good foreground or background with the buttons.

Foreground: #6200c1

Background: #6200c1

Algorithm (here's an explanation of the implemented algorithms)

- Contrast ratio (WCAG_2 recommended)
 - normal accessibility level (AA) | normal text
- Contrast / brightness difference (WCAG_1)

accesso.umic.pt ▶ AccessMonitor

AccessMonitor Report WCAG 1.0

[technical note]

automatic validator for the WCAG developed by the ACCESS Unit of FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology, IP.

Sample taken:

Page: <https://fitamalta.eu/>
 Title: FITA Malta – Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility
 Size: 65.6 KB (67145 bytes)
 Number of Elements: 508
 Date / Time: 27/09/2018 - 12:32 GMT

Compiled results

I. Summary

The index found in AccessMonitor is a valuation unit used in all validator tests and the final result summarizes and **quantifies the level of accessibility achieved**. The index is represented on a scale of 1 to 10, with value 10 being a full adoption of the good practice

The Web Accessibility Directive

1. In Malta ICT accessibility is covered under the Equal Opportunities Act of 2000 which prohibits discrimination against persons with disability under Article 4 – Goods and Services.
2. With the transposition of the Web Accessibility Directive the legal framework is strengthened through provisions made specifically for the websites and mobile APPs owned by public entities.

Coordinated by



Hosted by

The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



The Web Accessibility Directive

1. Work on transposition is being concluded.
2. FITA recommended CIOs to implement self assessment and publish accessibility statements.
3. The Malta Communications Authority was entrusted with the implementation, enforcement and reporting
4. FITA was entrusted with assessments and providing assistance to public entities with addressing accessibility issues
 1. Assessment includes use of automated tools and human testers using assistive technology products.
 2. FITA reporting mechanism and standard report template were revised to include format suggested by the Accessible ICT Procurement Toolkit based on standard EU301549.
 3. FITA's previous roles in supporting private sector, education and public health services in the effective implementation of accessible ICT remain unchanged.

Coordinated by



Hosted by

The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessibility Initiatives

1. Malta Communications Authority and Parliamentary Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities and Active Ageing

Short courses for elderly and disabled persons on cost-effective communication tools such as Skype and email communication, Facebook, YouTube, online shopping and government e-Services.

1. Cavetta Digitali
2. ENTER

2. Malta Communications Authority and other project partners

ICT Accessibility Hubs – An extension of the ICT Pool service presently provided by FITA, where anyone including education and health professionals can try out and confirm the validity of assistive technology products based on user needs.

1. Four centres (MCAST, SAPPOR, Ghajnsielem Centre, Public Library)
2. ICT training in collaboration with EnableIreland

Coordinated by



Hosted by



The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessibility Initiatives

1. There are ongoing discussions to release the Maltese Speech Engine that FITA launched in 2012 as open source. This is being done in collaboration with KPMG Crimsonwing Plc and the University of Malta.
2. Persons with disability can apply to fund their purchase of ICT products that help them address the limitations caused by impairment, through two grant schemes:
 - a) The Malta Community Chest Fund
 - b) The Empowerment Scheme managed by SAPPORIT

Coordinated by



Hosted by

The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessibility Initiatives

1. FITA, the Education Directorate and the Presidents Trust are collaborating on the testing, selection and funding of assistive ICT for school children with a vision impairment so as to help ensure their access to education.
2. The Access to Communication and Technology Unit (ACTU) provides an assessment service to children and young adults with a disability, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in the area of Assistive Technology (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).
ACTU is currently the sole trans-disciplinary team of assistive technology consultants which brings experience from a variety of backgrounds including occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and education. The team operates both a unit based and home/school based service.

Coordinated by



Hosted by

The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessibility Initiatives

Think differently, and make it a

YES

for everybody.

Awarding businesses,
overcoming barriers.

An initiative by the
CRPD

Coordinated by



Hosted by



Contributing to

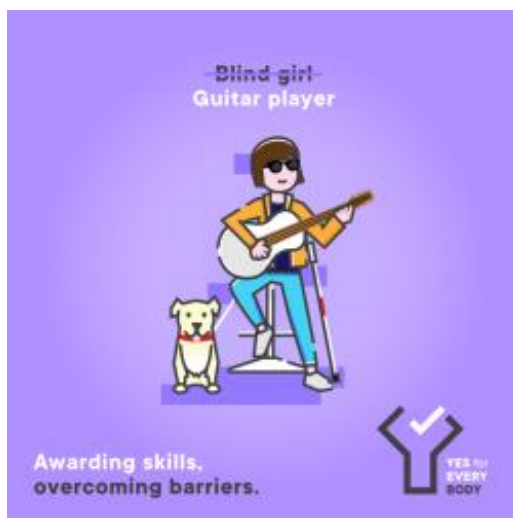


Co-organised by



Accessibility Initiatives

1. Targeting business accessibility as a whole
2. Certification awarded according to the business size
3. Re-Certification
4. Mystery Shoppers
5. Inclusion of award within SPOT platform



The SPOT project



Placing quality and accessibility on the map



**Vodafone
Malta
Foundation**

Mobilising the community, mobilising social change

Coordinated by



Hosted by



Contributing to



Co-organised by



Project Partners



Project Funding

- The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility
- The Vodafone Malta Foundation
- Office of the Prime Minister

Data providers

- The Malta Tourism Authority
- Heritage Malta
- The Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability
- Local Councils
- Business owners
- The Maltese public in general and tourists



Main features



Search mechanisms

- Quick search
- Advanced search
- MAP search

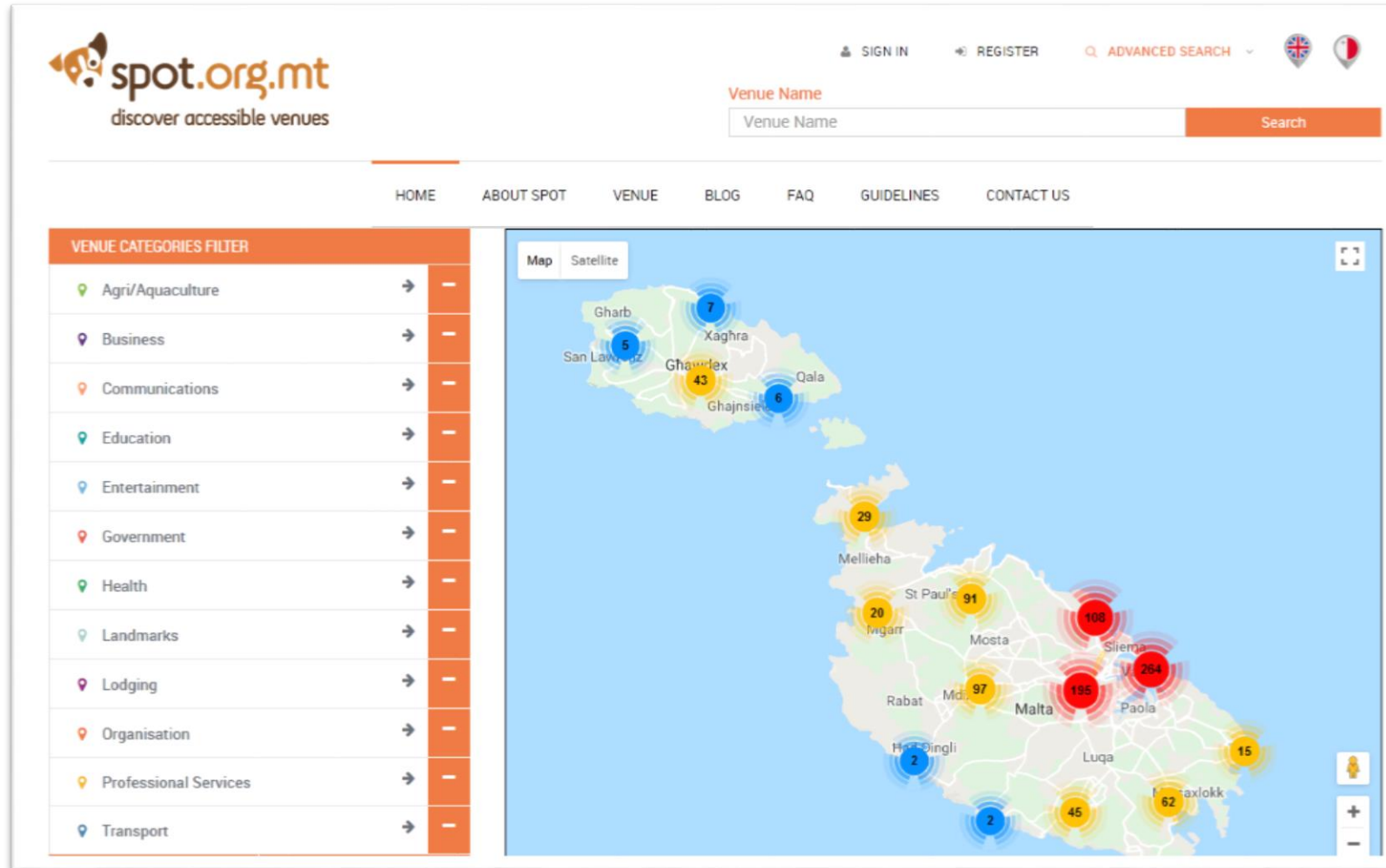
Additional features/functionality

- Compliance with WCAG standard
- User can add reviews of existing venues and can also add their own venue
- Moderated content
- Blog posts / articles
- Links to complimentary services
- Intelligent quality and accessibility rating systems
- Businesses may claim and maintain their own venue listing



SPOT home screen with interactive map and quick search fields.

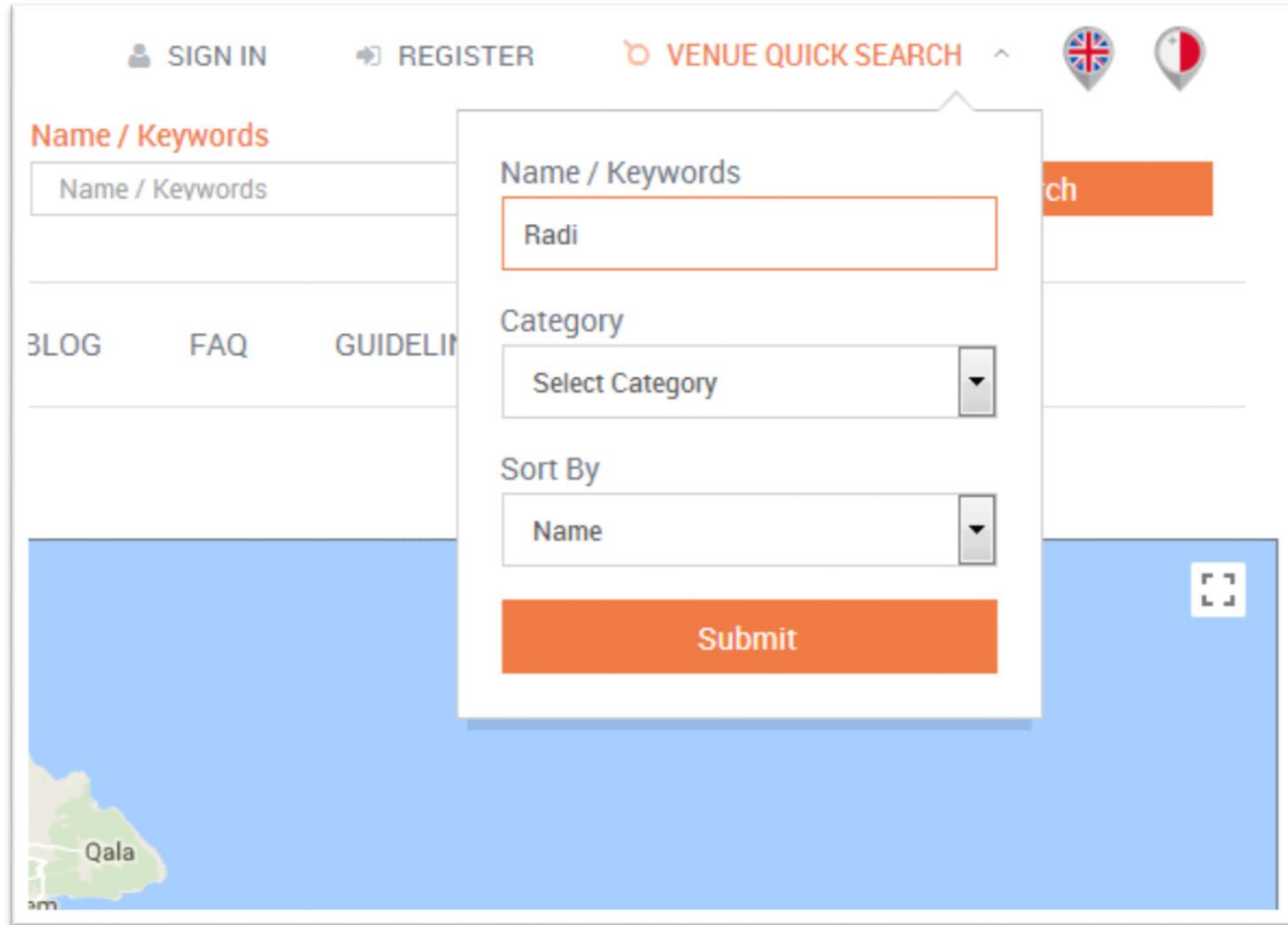
Zooming in and out groups and ungroups venue pins



The map search with categories filter. Users may select any combination of main or subcategories.

The screenshot shows the SPOT.COM.MT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT SPOT, LOCATION (with a dropdown arrow), BLOG, FAQ, GUIDELINES, and CONTACT US. Below the navigation is a category filter overlay on the left side of a map of Malta. The filter lists main categories with arrows pointing right, and subcategories with minus signs. The 'Entertainment' category is highlighted in dark grey. The subcategories under Entertainment include Club, Diving, Excursions, Filming Location, Football Ground, Horse Racing, Horse Riding, Motorsports, Park, Restaurant (highlighted in red), Theatre, Tours, and Travel. At the bottom of the filter are 'Select All' and 'Search' buttons. The map of Malta shows several locations with colored circular markers: blue markers with numbers 3, 5, 8, and 9, and a yellow marker with the number 33. The map is credited to Google and includes a copyright notice for 2017. Below the map, the text reads 'ABOUT SPOT.COM.MT' and 'The Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility (FITA) in collaboration with the Vodafone Malta Foundation and other stakeholders created SPOT as a free community based online platform.'

Text based quick search feature.
 Plus a more in-depth search is available under the Venues menu



The advanced (text) search results page displaying summaries of matching venues.

HOME ABOUT SPOT LOCATION ▾ BLOG FAQ GUIDELINES CONTACT US

Advanced Search

Venue Name

Main Category

Area

Locality

Sort By

Results(2):

Order By: **Ascending**

PARADISE BAY RESORT HOTEL Il-Mellieħa

Hotel

Service Rating: ★★★★★ This very popular spacious, comfortable and well run family hotel has a secluded location surrounded by the clear warm water of the Mediterranean making it ideal for a leisurely holiday in the sun.

Accessibility Rating: ★★★★★

[+ View Location](#)

RADISSON BLU RESORT & SPA - GOLDEN SANDS Il-Mellieħa

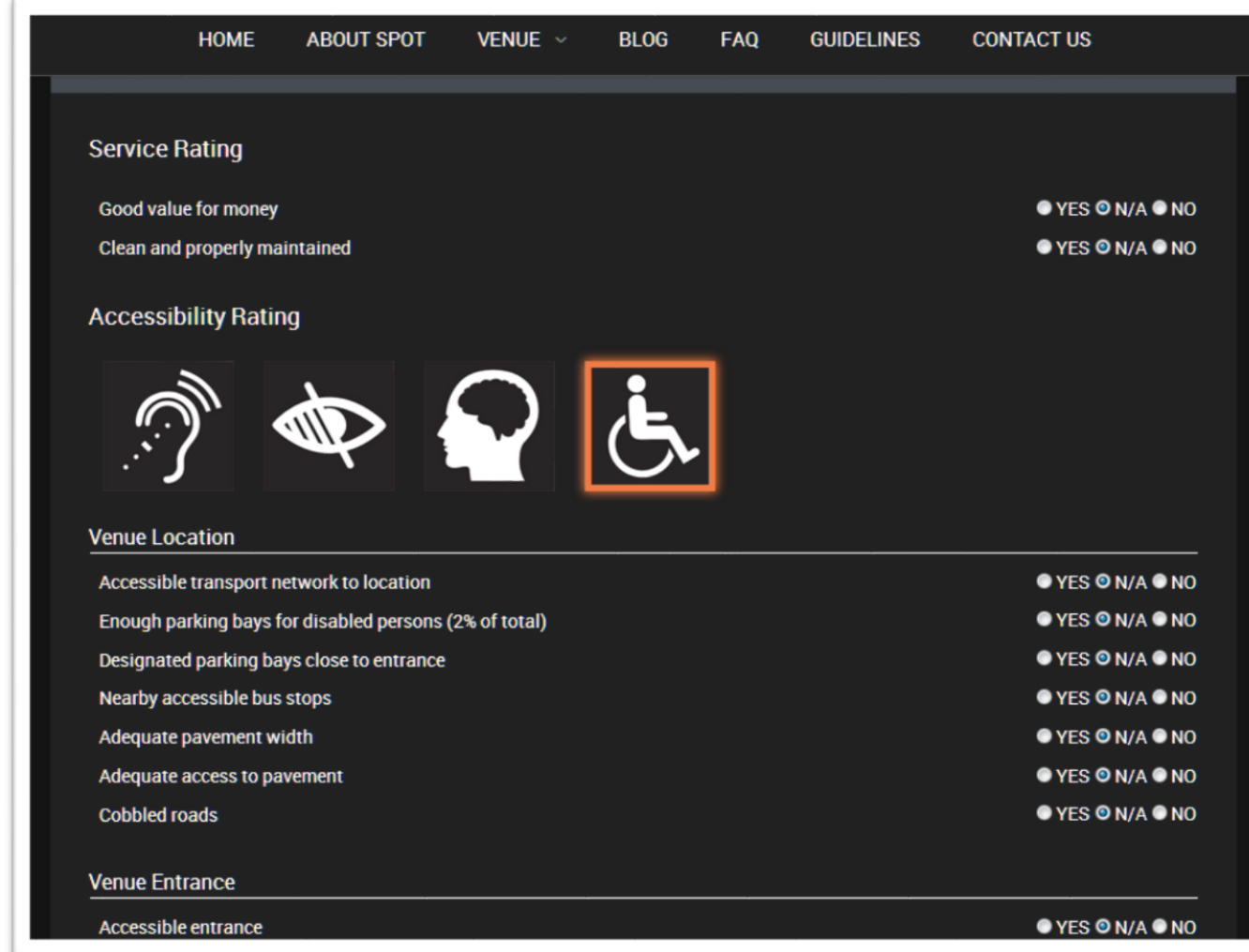
Hotel

Service Rating: ★★★★★ The Radisson Blu Resort & Spa Malta Golden Sands is the most exclusive Five Star Resort & Spa in Malta. Brilliantly located on the edge of a cliff overlooking Malta's unique Sandy beach, Golden Bay, the Resort offers an unforgettable experience with breathtaking sea and country views. The location c...

Accessibility Rating: ★★★★★

[+ View Location](#)

Venue review page with dynamic questionnaire based on user selected disability groups. Here, the website's dark theme is active.



Thank you

Elizabeth Olivieri

Chairperson

Foundation for Information Technology Accessibility
Malta

e: info@fitamalta.eu

www: www.fitamalta.eu

Coordinated by



Hosted by



The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by



Accessible Europe



Coordinated by



Hosted by



The United Nations
in Vienna

Contributing to



Co-organised by

