



## Looking Back on the First Run of the Introductory MOOC

Our MOOC **Digital Accessibility: Enabling Participation in the Information Society** ran on FutureLearn from 17 October till 20 November. At the start of the second week, we had around 2,500 registered participants. Course participants were invited to enter their location on a digital map; the resulting map showed that they came from over 120 countries. See the [map on Zeemaps](#).

Course participants were very diverse with regard to professional background and previous knowledge. Among our participants, we find students, people working in academia (both lecturers and support staff), people working for both small and larger enterprises (including start-ups), people working for public authorities, library staff, etc. Many participants are new to digital accessibility, while others already have experience with captioning videos, user experience research or product design. Some participants have first-hand experience of disability. This great diversity of participants led to very interesting comments and discussions in the forums, where people shared many tips and links to resources related to digital accessibility.

At the official end of the course (20 November), the MOOC had 2,912 sign-ups, 1,633 of which were active learners (these are participants who have actually done something in the course, such as watching the video in the first step of the course). With 56.1% active learners, we were above the average for FutureLearn courses. 490 (or 30%) of all learners were “social learners”, i.e. participants who had written at least one comment. (In FutureLearn courses, each “step” in the course has a discussion area.) Social learners wrote 6 to 7 posts each week, which is also above average. All of these numbers are higher than what the project had hoped for.

The course eventually had **2,971 sign-ups**, 1,670 of which were active “course participants” (these are participants who have actually done something in the course, such as watching the video in the first step of the course). 30% of the course participants were also “social learners”; by early December, they had posted 8,199 comments. Several participants also tweeted about the course; you can find the tweets using the [hashtag #Flaccessibility](#).

### *ICT Accessibility Glossary*

One of our OERs, the accessibility glossary, was very popular among the course participants, who also asked for a few additions and a PDF version of it. We added terms such as WAI-ARIA, application programming interface (API) and dyslexia. The updated [Microsoft Word version of the glossary](#) and the [PDF version](#) are available on our Google Drive.



### *Link Collection*

In addition to an updated glossary, we also created a document with the links from the course. This link collection contains both links provided in the learning materials and links posted in the comments. The document is available in [Microsoft Word format](#) and in [PDF format](#). Like the Open Education Resources we have created, it is made available under Creative Commons by Attribution ([CC-BY 4.0](#)) licence.

### **Second Run of the Introductory Course**

Those who missed the opportunity to sign up for the MOOC will get a new opportunity in 2017: the second run of the course is scheduled to start on **6 February 2017**. Registration is already open at [www.futurelearn.com/courses/digital-accessibility](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/digital-accessibility).



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