



The Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI) – towards fulfilling obligations under Article 9 of the UNCRPD

GARI was created in 2008 by the Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF, former MMF) to provide information on accessibility features in mobile phones and to help consumers identify devices that support these features.

The GARI site (www.gari.info) features an evolving searchable database that currently has information on more than 110 accessible features in over 1,100 mobile phone models from around the world. The database also includes information on tablets, accessibility related mobile applications, and as of late 2016, Smart TVs and Wearables.

The use of GARI is free of charge and offers advantages for:

- Consumers: A comprehensive searchable database of phones and features in multiple languages.
- Governments: A feature set that is far more extensive than any country's existing requirements.
- Manufacturers: Report it once – have it accepted everywhere.

AUTHORITIES USING GARI

Several governments around the world are already using GARI in order to:

- Demonstrate product compliance with national regulations.
- Providing consumers with information regarding the accessibility features of devices available in-country.
- Fulfil obligations under the UNCRPD.
- Encourage greater awareness of accessibility within industry as well as amongst the public.

UNCRPD

Countries who have signed the UN Convention on Rights for Persons with Disabilities have committed to “enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life. [...] States Parties shall also take appropriate measures: [...] to promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet.”

(UNCRPD, Article 9 – Accessibility¹)

Over the recent years, mobile telecommunication devices have become a popular means of accessing ICT services and the trend goes clearly towards a majority of Internet traffic being generated from mobile devices.² The proliferation of mobile phone use and the panoply of features that modern devices can offer, make it possible for mobile telecommunications devices to become the gateway to a more accessible society for everyone.

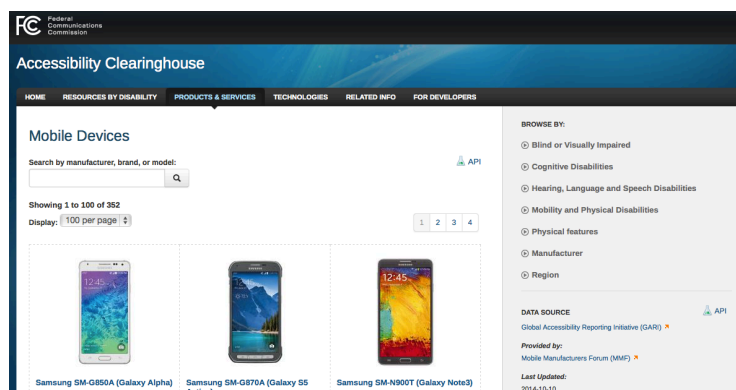
REGULAR FEATURE REVIEWS

As part of the GARI project, the MWF has committed to regular reviews of the features that GARI reports on in light of changes in the technology and customer needs. Around every 18 months, all stakeholders with an interest in mobile accessibility are invited to provide any comments or suggestions on the features that they would like to see reported on by manufacturers.

EXAMPLES OF GARI IN USE

Several regulators around the world are currently using GARI and have the database integrated into their websites:

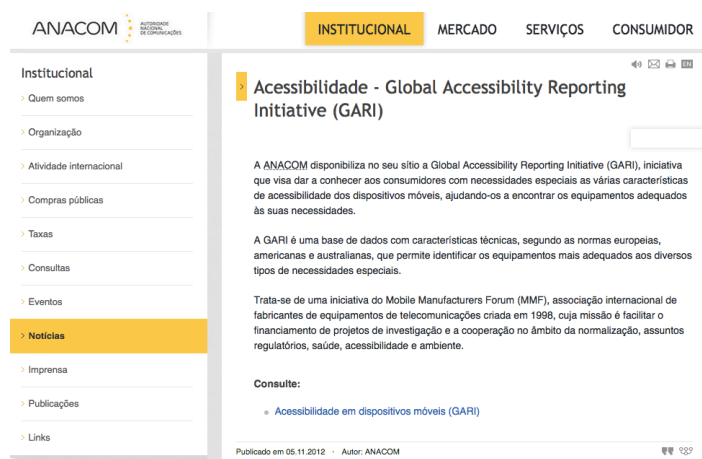
- United States: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
Clearinghouse <http://ach.fcc.gov/products-and-services>



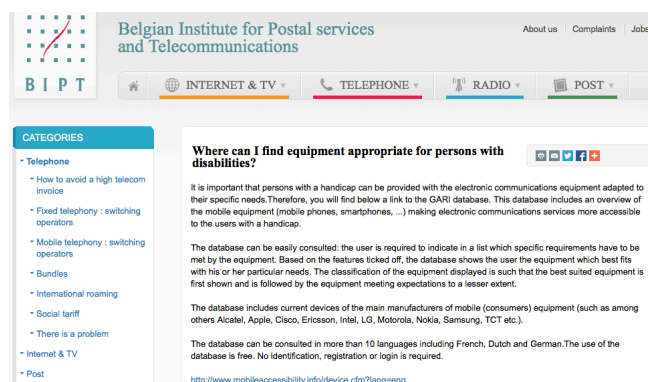
¹ <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

² In the US, it was reported in July 2014 that 60% of internet traffic was generated from mobile devices : https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/capitalbusiness/apps-now-drive-half-of-all-time-spent-on-digital/2014/07/03/2e060086-006e-11e4-8fd0-3a663dfa68ac_story.html

- Portugal: Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM)
<http://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1142009#.Vh6gWaJhrwQ>



- Belgium: Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT) <http://www.bipt.be/en/consumers/fag/157-where-can-i-find-equipment-appropriate-for-persons-with-disabilities>



- France: Autorité de Régulation des Communications Électroniques et des Postes (ARCEP) <http://www.arcep.fr/?id=9607>



- Romania: National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) <http://www.ancom.org.ro/en/baza-de-date-telefoane-persoane-dizabilitati> 5252

The screenshot shows the ANCOM website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: ANCOM, Legislation, Consultations, Providers, Contact, and a search bar. A red 'USERS' button is on the right. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links: Info centre, Ask ANCOM, Address ANCOM, Audiences, and Questionnaires. The main content area is titled 'GARI Database' and features a section for 'Telefoane și tablete' (Telephones and tablets) with a sub-link 'Comparați caracteristici de la diferiți producători' (Compare characteristics from different manufacturers). Below this is a 'Căutare avansată' (Advanced search) section with the text 'Personalizați-vă căutarea pentru a găsi dispozitivul perfect.' (Customize your search to find the perfect device). The search filter is set to 'Ce fel de dispozitiv căutați?' (What kind of device are you looking for?) with options for 'Telefoane' (Telephones) and 'Tablete' (Tablets). The 'Forme și tipuri de telefoane' (Shapes and types of telephones) section includes checkboxes for: Telefon cu clapetă / Telefon flip, Baton de ciocolată / Monobloc / Stick, Telefon cu pină, Telefon cu ecran rotativ, Ecran tactil, Telefon inteligent, and Altele.