

Website Accessibility Quick Check

A focused first-pass review to identify common accessibility barriers before deciding whether a deeper audit is needed.

20 practical checks · 4 key areas

Structure & headings

Keyboard & focus

Readability & contrast

Forms, media & mobile reflow

Many accessibility problems on EU-funded project and organisational websites are not obscure technical failures. They appear in everyday elements: heading structures that confuse screen readers, keyboard barriers in menus, insufficient colour contrast that makes content harder to read, and forms without proper labels.

This quick check covers the four areas where barriers appear most often. It does not produce a compliance claim or substitute for a full WCAG audit. It tells you whether the site has obvious problems that need attention before anything else.

Scope note. This checklist uses WCAG 2.2 Level AA as the practical target. EU legal alignment depends on the organisation type, Member State, grant agreement, and applicable directive. The full EU Web Accessibility Checkpoint covers regulatory context in detail.

How to use. Work through each section with the website open in a browser. Check the items that pass. Write the score at the end of each section. Any unchecked item is worth investigating before launch or redesign.

01 Structure and headings

- ☐ Page has a clear, descriptive title that identifies the content and the site.
- ☐ Heading hierarchy is logical: one H1, sections use H2, sub-sections use H3. No levels chosen for visual size alone.
- ☐ Semantic HTML is used: header, nav, main, footer, lists, buttons, and data tables are real elements, not styled divs.
- ☐ The page language is declared. In multilingual content, language switches are marked where technically relevant.
- ☐ A "Skip to main content" link exists and works, allowing users to bypass repeated navigation.

Structure & headings: ___ / 5 passed

02 Keyboard and focus

- ☐ All interactive elements (links, buttons, menus, forms) can be reached and operated without a mouse.
- ☐ Tab order follows the visual and logical reading sequence. No unexpected jumps.
- ☐ Keyboard focus is visibly indicated with a clear outline or highlight.
- ☐ Focused elements are not hidden behind sticky headers, cookie banners, or floating widgets.
- ☐ No keyboard trap: users can enter and leave menus, modals, and embedded components using the keyboard alone.

Keyboard & focus: ___ / 5 passed

03 Readability and contrast

- ☐ Normal body text meets at least 4.5 : 1 contrast ratio against its background.
- ☐ Information is not communicated by colour alone. Links are distinguishable from surrounding text without relying on colour difference only.
- ☐ Text remains usable when the browser zoom is set to 200%. No content is clipped or lost.
- ☐ At narrow widths, content reflows into a single column without requiring horizontal scrolling for ordinary text.
- ☐ Essential text is not placed inside images. Informative images have meaningful alternative text.

Readability & contrast: ___ / 5 passed

04 Forms, media and mobile reflow

- ☐ Every form field has a visible, programmatically associated label. Placeholder text is not the only label.
- ☐ Error messages identify the specific field and explain how to correct the problem.
- ☐ Video with speech has accurate captions. Auto-generated captions have been reviewed before publishing.
- ☐ Media controls are keyboard-accessible and labelled. No audio autoplays without an immediate pause control.
- ☐ Content works in both portrait and landscape. Mobile zoom is not disabled. Menus do not cover focused content on small screens.

Forms, media & mobile: ___ / 5 passed

Total: ___ / 20

Need a deeper review?

The QuickCheck helps identify obvious barriers. The full EU Web Accessibility Checkpoint is designed for a structured website review before launch, redesign or accessibility remediation.

- 15 audit categories covering structure, media, documents, third-party embeds
- WordPress + Elementor implementation checkpoint
- Accessibility Statement template with EU model compliance
- Launch gate: pass / block decision framework
- EU regulatory context: Web Accessibility Directive, EAA, grant obligations

Get the full EU Web Accessibility Checkpoint

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This checklist is a practical QA tool, not legal advice. Specific obligations depend on the organisation type, Member State, grant agreement, and applicable EU directive.

Based on WCAG 2.2 and EN 301 549 v3.2.1.

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