



D14.3 – Project initiatives, partnerships, and liaising with other projects I



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Executive Summary

The present deliverable, D14.3 “Project initiatives, partnerships, and liaising with other projects I”, provides a comprehensive overview of AccesS’s activities and achievements in fostering collaboration, building partnerships, and liaising with relevant European and international initiatives.

The purpose of this deliverable is to document and analyse the actions undertaken by AccesS to organise initiatives and strengthen synergies with external projects and stakeholders. These efforts aim to enhance the visibility of AccesS and reinforce connections between Horizon Europe-supported actions.

This task also links the project to other European partnerships and developments to support the exploitation and uptake of results, including the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, the SET Plan objective of 100 European Positive Energy Districts, Energy Communities, the New European Bauhaus initiative, and relevant national networks.

In conclusion, this deliverable reflects the collaborative approach adopted by AccesS. It demonstrates the project’s commitment to contributing to the wider European accessibility ecosystem by creating synergies, leveraging shared knowledge, and reinforcing cooperation with other initiatives pursuing complementary goals.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Description
B4P	Built4People
B4PIC	Built4People Innovation Cluster
DEC	Dissemination, Exploitation, Communication
WP	Work Packages
UCD	User-Centered Design

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope and objectives of the deliverable

The present deliverable, D14.3 “Project initiatives, partnerships, and liaising with other projects I”, aims to provide a comprehensive overview of AccesS’s activities in fostering collaboration, building partnerships, and engaging with related European and international initiatives. It captures both the ongoing efforts and achievements of the project in connecting with external stakeholders and projects in the domains of accessibility, secure access, interoperability, and user-centric public services.

The scope of this deliverable includes:

- documenting the design, organization, and execution of project initiatives and events aimed at promoting AccesS’s objectives.
- mapping and analysing partnerships with other projects, research organizations, industry partners, and relevant networks to identify opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- reporting on liaison activities with European and international initiatives, highlighting synergies, coordinating dissemination actions, and strategic alignment with broader European objectives.

The main objectives of D14.3 are to:

- provide structured insights into the collaborative actions undertaken by AccesS to maximize visibility, impact, and uptake of project results.
- facilitate knowledge exchange and strategic alignment with complementary projects and initiatives at European and national levels.
- support the planning and implementation of further WP14 activities, including dissemination, stakeholder engagement, and exploitation strategies.
- ensure coherence and continuity in the flow of information between project initiatives, partnerships, and liaison activities, reinforcing the project’s contribution to the wider European digital ecosystem.

By achieving these objectives, D14.3 serves both as a reporting tool and as a practical guide for future actions, ensuring that AccesS remains connected, visible, and aligned with the broader Horizon Europe landscape.

1.2 Structure of the deliverable

The deliverable D14.3 “Project initiatives, partnerships, and liaising with other projects I” is structured to provide a comprehensive overview of AccesS’s collaborative and networking activities, with each section highlighting different but interconnected aspects of the project’s external engagement.

Section 2 – Project initiatives presents the internal and externally facing activities launched by AccesS to promote its objectives, including workshops, thematic events, and collaborative actions. This section demonstrates how initiatives are designed to align with the broader goals of the project, fostering visibility, uptake, and impact.

Section 3 – Partnerships details the strategic collaborations established with other projects, research organizations, industry partners, and relevant stakeholders. It focuses on building lasting relationships that enable knowledge exchange, co-development of solutions, and alignment of objectives across complementary initiatives.

Section 4 – Liaising with other projects provides an account of liaising activities with other EU-funded projects and initiatives, mapping the relevant collaborations established during the first project period (M1–M18). It details joint events, meetings, and exchanges of information that have contributed to mutual reinforcement and alignment with broader European objectives.

1.3 Relation to other tasks and deliverables

Deliverable D14.3 is closely linked to the activities carried out on WP14 Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation I and stakeholder engagement. Its preparation draws on a continuous flow of information from all project activities to identify outputs, results and insights to be shared and connected, including internal initiatives, organized events, and interactions with external partners and related projects.

At the same time, D14.3 serves as a key supporting element for other deliverables and tasks within WP14, providing data, updates, and analyses that inform the planning of further communication actions, the development of stakeholder engagement strategies, and the promotion of synergies with European and national initiatives. In this sense, the deliverable is not merely a report on completed activities, but also a dynamic tool that feeds subsequent dissemination, networking, and collaboration efforts.

The link between inputs and outputs is therefore continuous: information collected across different work streams feeds into the deliverable, which in turn generates content and guidance to support other tasks and deliverables, ensuring coherence, effectiveness, and maximum visibility of the project's results.

2 Project initiatives

AccesS places a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and visibility within the European research and innovation ecosystem. As part of its dissemination and liaison strategy, the project organises dedicated events and actively participates in high-level international conferences, workshops, and networking forums. These activities serve to:

- demonstrate the Universal Accessibility Suite's innovations, technical maturity, and relevance.
- engage with a broad set of actors, including public authorities, industry, academia, and civil society.
- strengthen synergies with parallel initiatives.
- support the uptake and exploitation of project results.

The following sections describe key events organised by AccesS as well as the project's participation as a guest in external initiatives to maximise its impact.

2.1 AccesS-organised events

2.1.1 Workshop on Stakeholders' Engagement

Stakeholders' Engagement events were successfully held across Cyprus, Greece, Romania, The Netherlands, Spain, and Italy, under WP3 activities. Specifically, Stakeholders' Workshops brought together policymakers, architects, disability advocacy groups, and technology providers to shape the Accessibility Assessment Scheme. Key discussions focused on redefining accessibility, emphasizing not only physical access but also sensory and cognitive inclusion. Stakeholders highlighted major barriers, such as high retrofitting costs, lack of regulatory clarity, and limited awareness among building owners. Innovative smart solutions were proposed, including digital navigation tools, virtual building tours, and automated doors.

Additionally, micromobility challenges like inaccessible bicycle lanes and poor curb management were addressed. The workshops also stressed the importance of inclusive workplaces and emergency evacuation plans for people with disabilities. A key outcome was the need for an integrated accessibility evaluation framework, like energy performance certification, incorporating both digital and thermal comfort aspects.

With valuable input from diverse stakeholders, the AccesS Project is leading the way for a more inclusive and accessible built environment.



Figure 1 Stakeholders' Engagement Workshops

Key Outcomes from the Stakeholders' Engagement Workshops

The Stakeholders' Engagement Workshops were held, allowing us to gather valuable insights and feedback for developing an effective Accessibility Certification Framework. Here are the key outcomes from each country, while more details can be available within D3.1:

Cyprus - 19 December 2024

- Agreement on the need for a structured accessibility assessment methodology.
- Recognition that accessibility should encompass physical, digital, and sensory aspects.
- Identification of key barriers in urban infrastructure that hinder accessibility for disabled individuals.
- Consensus on the importance of integrating accessibility into policy frameworks.

Spain - 11 February 2025

- Accessibility should be self-sufficient and inclusive of all disabilities (physical, sensory, cognitive).
- New regulations should treat accessibility as a fundamental requirement, similar to fire safety.
- Emergency procedures must include accessibility measures, ensuring safe evacuation routes for people with disabilities.
- Improved acoustics in public spaces is essential, especially for people with hearing impairments and cognitive disabilities.
- Smart building solutions such as real-time navigation apps, tactile maps, and induction loops should be prioritized.

Netherlands - 17 February 2025

- Common challenges include difficult-to-open doors, unclear entrances, poorly placed buttons, narrow elevators, exclusionary digital tools, lack of coordination among development parties, and insufficient signage and parking information.
- Technology improves accessibility through automatic doors and navigation apps, but it must be reliable, simple, and complement human assistance.
- Virtual User Models (VUMs) allow designers to assess accessibility early in the design process and simulate user navigation.
- Ensuring equal accessibility with technology involves providing multiple options (digital, physical, or human) and ensuring apps are not the only means of accessing information.
- Barriers faced by people with disabilities or elder adults include unclear accessibility information, poor placement of facilities, and fragmented public transport information with inconsistent station designs.
- Enhancing user experience requires easy-to-use, reliable apps, and accessible signage in both visual and auditory formats.
- Helpful solutions for comfort, safety, and navigation include simple building access, consistent public transport layouts, human support, and alternatives to digital tools to avoid dependence on technology.
- Social and cultural accessibility can be achieved through education and training, interaction between groups, and an inclusive design approach that considers language, culture, and digital literacy.

Romania - 19 February 2025

- Main challenges: High costs, lack of awareness, outdated infrastructure, and inadequate guidance systems hinder accessibility.
- Technology's role: Smart tech-like voice-controlled features and sensors can enhance accessibility but should complement physical solutions without creating new barriers.
- Virtual User Models: BIM tools help identify accessibility issues early, ensuring inclusive designs when properly integrated.
- Physical barriers: Poorly designed ramps, narrow doors, and inaccessible bathrooms remain significant challenges.
- Improvement suggestions: Standardize signage, implement accessibility grants, and create legal frameworks with penalties for non-compliance.

These workshops provided essential stakeholder-driven input to refine the project's Accessibility Certification Framework. They ensured that the methodology under development integrates social inclusivity, accessible environments for people with disabilities, smart technologies, energy-efficient solutions and the unique needs of different demonstrator sites.

2.1.2 Workshop on User-Centered Design and Inclusive Mobility (May 2025)

On 22 May 2025, AccesS organised the workshop "User-Centered Design Approach and Inclusive Active Mobility Solutions", aimed at informing and guiding the design priorities and development of the project's solutions through a structured analysis of user needs and experiences. The workshop focused on identifying the expectations, challenges, and barriers encountered by diverse user groups, with particular attention to persons with disabilities, individuals with reduced mobility, and other vulnerable populations across the six AccesS demo sites.

The session addressed two key dimensions central to the project's implementation: the accessibility and usability of the built environment within the demo sites, and the inclusiveness of active mobility

solutions in the surrounding urban areas. The programme included an overview of the User-Centered Design (UCD) methodology adopted by AccesS, followed by a detailed presentation of user needs, priorities, and constraints across three typologies of demo sites, providing a comparative and evidence-based perspective.

The workshop served as a strategic moment of consultation and alignment among project partners and stakeholders, fostering collective reflection on the findings and supporting the translation of user insights into design and implementation strategies. The outcomes contributed to refining the project's approach to ensure that AccesS solutions are coherent with real user needs and effectively promote accessibility, inclusiveness, and usability in both the built environment and mobility systems.



Workshop on User-Centered Design Approach and Inclusive Active Mobility Solutions

Time and date: 22nd May 2025 at 10.00 AM

Duration: 2 hours

Location: online (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82710696567>)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation under grant agreement no 101147722.



Figure 2- Workshop on User-Centered Design and Inclusive Mobility (May 2025)

2.1.3 Joint initiatives with partner projects

This section provides an introductory overview of the liaison activities undertaken during the reporting period, aimed at offering a comprehensive view of all actions implemented. The specific activities related to cooperation and joint initiatives with partner projects will be addressed in detail in Section 4.3.

Workshop with InclusiveSpaces (June 2025)

AccesS co-organised a joint workshop with the InclusiveSpaces initiative on 24 June 2025 under the framework of Sustainable Energy Days.

Smart City Expo World Congress Side Event (November 2025)

During the Smart City Expo World Congress 2025 in Barcelona (4–6 November), AccesS, in collaboration with REN+HOMES, organised a side event with the theme “Enabling Technologies for Sustainable and Inclusive Smart Cities and Buildings.”

2.2 Participation in external events

In addition to events organised by AccesS, we have also participated in a series of structured workshops and major conferences, including in a series of **sectoral networking and outreach activities** aimed at strengthening its presence within professional communities relevant to accessibility, digital innovation, and inclusive built-environment transitions. These initiatives contribute to broadening the project’s stakeholder base and enhancing visibility among practitioners, policy actors, and peer research initiatives.

In this reporting period, the AccesS partners have attended the following indicative conferences, where AccesS project was presented, while more information on dissemination and communication events can be found in D14.2.:

2.2.1 CASE Conference (September 2025)

On 11 and 12 September 2025, AccesS participated in the Conference on Advancements in Sustainable Engineering (CASE25), held in Cyprus, through the contribution of project representative Eleni Apostolidou. During the conference, she presented the paper entitled “Enhancing Accessibility in the Built Environment Using IoT-Enabled Smart Sensors”, which illustrated the project’s approach to leveraging Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to improve accessibility, monitoring, and inclusiveness within the built environment.

The presentation highlighted how smart sensor systems can support the identification and mitigation of physical and environmental barriers, enable real-time data collection, and inform adaptive design solutions that respond to the needs of diverse user groups, including persons with disabilities. The intervention positioned AccesS as a relevant contributor to ongoing discussions on the integration of digital innovation and sustainability in building design and urban planning, while also strengthening the project’s visibility within the international research and professional community. Participation in CASE25 further reinforced AccesS’ role in promoting user-centred, technology-driven solutions for more inclusive and resilient built environments.



Figure 3 Eleni Apostolidou at the Conference Advancements in Sustainable Engineering (CASE25), 11-12 September 2025.

2.2.2 Sustainable Places Conference (October 2025)

AccessS participated in the Sustainable Places Conference, held in Milan, Italy, contributing to the online paper session titled “Inclusive, Low-Carbon & Digital Built Environment.” The session provided an opportunity to present the project’s methodological and technological approach to accessibility and inclusion within the built environment.

AccessS’s contribution addressed the overarching question: “How can we build an accessible and inclusive built environment?” and was delivered through two complementary presentations:

- **Part 1:** “Introduction to the Universal Accessibility Suite Initiative – the AccessS Suite”, by Panagiota Chatzipanagiotidou, Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH). This presentation introduced the project’s vision, objectives, and the role of the Universal Accessibility Suite in supporting inclusive, interoperable, and user-centric digital solutions.
- **Part 2:** “The AccessS User-Centered Design Approach”, by Mattia Forni, LAMA Impresa Sociale. This segment detailed the project’s User-Centered Design (UCD) methodology, highlighting how stakeholder engagement and real user needs inform the development of tools and services across the AccessS demonstrators.

The session strengthened the project’s visibility within the sustainable built-environment community and contributed to ongoing exchanges on accessibility, digitalisation, and inclusive design. A recording of the event is available through the conference’s dissemination channels at this [link](#).



Figure 4 Sustainable Places 2025

2.3 Events within the Built4People partnership

Within the framework of its participation in the Built4People Partnership, AccessS took part in a number of Built4People events, fostering cooperation, visibility and exchange of best practices with other initiatives and stakeholders active in the field of inclusive and sustainable built environment innovation.

- *2nd Clustering Event (November 2024)*
- *4th Built4People Stakeholders Forum (October 2025)*

These occasions contributed to reinforcing the project's positioning within the European ecosystem supported by the Partnership. A detailed description of the specific events attended and the related activities undertaken will be provided in the relevant section 3.

3 Partnerships

Within this context, AccesS currently engages with the Built4People (B4P) Partnership, a European-wide initiative aimed at accelerating the transformation of the built environment towards greater sustainability, resilience, accessibility and user-centred design. This paragraph therefore focuses solely on this strategic collaboration, outlining the role of AccesS within the B4P ecosystem and summarising its participation in networking activities, stakeholder engagement initiatives, and joint events developed under the partnership framework. The overview presented here highlights how AccesS contributes to and benefits from this structured cooperation, fostering knowledge exchange, alignment with European policy priorities, and the development of synergies with complementary initiatives throughout the reporting period.

3.1 Context and strategic alignment

Participation in European partnerships represents a strategic dimension for AccesS, enabling the project to strengthen its impact, foster synergies, and align its activities with broader European objectives in the fields of accessibility, secure access, and user-centric public services. Engaging with established partnerships allows AccesS to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and coordinate initiatives with other projects and stakeholders operating at the European level. This collaborative approach not only enhances the visibility of AccesS but also ensures that its outcomes contribute to the development of a coherent and sustainable European digital ecosystem, promoting innovation, inclusivity, and interoperability across the sector.

3.2 The partnership with Built4People

The Built4People (B4P) partnership is a co-programmed European Partnership under Horizon Europe's Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility), which aims to accelerate people-centric innovation for a sustainable, climate-neutral, smart and inclusive built environment. Its strategic objectives include:

- delivering holistic innovation across the full building lifecycle (from planning and construction to operation and reuse).
- promoting accessibility, inclusiveness and social sustainability in built spaces alongside energy and resource efficiency objectives.
- leveraging synergies with key European policies such as the Renovation Wave, the New European Bauhaus initiative, and the EU Green Deal.

For AccesS, which targets the intersection of **accessibility, secure access, interoperability and user-centric public services in buildings and urban contexts**, alignment with the Built4People partnership provides an important strategic framework. The joint focus on inclusive built environments, digital and energy-efficient solutions, and human-centred design means the AccesS initiatives and outputs can fit into and benefit from the broader Built4People ecosystem.

3.2.1 Scope of collaboration

The collaboration between AccesS and the Built4People partnership is structured around several dimensions:

- **Representation and knowledge exchange:** AccesS project partner(s) have engaged in B4P clustering events (for instance, AccesS took part in the second B4P clustering event on 19 November 2024 and in the 4th Built4People Stakeholders Forum on 15 October 2025) where

project objectives, innovations and pilot activities were presented to the wider B4P community.

- **Alignment of demonstration and pilot activities:** AccesS demonstrations and pilot sites deliver real-life testbeds for accessibility, inclusiveness, smart and sustainable built-environment solutions. These align well with B4P's expectation for demonstrators of new approaches in the built environment.
- **Synergistic dissemination and exploitation:** By connecting with the B4P network of innovation clusters, AccesS can disseminate its findings to a broader audience, leverage peer projects, and engage in common dissemination tools and events supported by the partnership framework.
- **Policy and standardisation feed-in:** Through the partnership, AccesS is better positioned to contribute to and benefit from the evolving policy and standardisation agenda in the built environment domain (including accessibility and inclusive design).

3.2.2 Key activities & milestones to date

2nd Clustering Event (November 2024)

Panagiota Chatzipanagiotidou from CERTH presented the AccesS project at the Built4People 2nd Clustering Event held in Brussels on 19 November 2024. The presentation focused on AccesS's objectives, key innovations, and contributions to the built-environment partnership, such as ongoing identification of synergies between AccesS pilot sites, digital tools (e.g., user-centred design modules, accessibility evaluation frameworks).

The event brought together representatives of the 30 projects funded to date as part of the Built4People Co-programmed Public Private Partnership under the "Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use" part of the Horizon Europe Work Programme for Climate, energy and Mobility. In her presentation she talked about the project's objectives, key results and innovations and more importantly, about the project's contribution to the B4P partnership.

The event was a great opportunity to see the progress of other projects working on people-centric, climate-neutral, sustainable and smart solutions for the built environment.



Figure 5 Built4People 2nd Clustering Event, 19 November 2024

4th Built4People Stakeholders Forum (October 2025)

AccesS attended the 4th Built4People (B4P) Stakeholders Forum, held on 15 October 2025 in Brussels, Belgium, represented by project representative from IsZEB. The event focused on innovation-driven affordable housing and the transformation of the built environment, bringing together over 80 policymakers, industry representatives and researchers to discuss the green and digital transition of Europe's construction sector. The Forum also included the B4P Innovation Cluster (B4PIC) Charter Signature Ceremony, during which new prospective clusters formally joined the Built4People network, enhancing collaboration and the exchange of knowledge within the European ecosystem. Notably, IsZEB, a partner of AccesS, was selected as a new Prospective B4PIC and officially signed their Charter during the ceremony at the 4th Built4People Stakeholders Forum on 15 October 2025 in Brussels.

3.4 Added value & benefits

The partnership with Built4People brings several added-value benefits to AccesS:

- **Broader visibility and reach:** Inclusion in the B4P network opens access to a wide ecosystem of built environment innovation projects, stakeholders and cluster networks, amplifying AccesS visibility beyond its core consortium.
- **Accelerated learning and cross-project synergies:** Through B4P events and clustering platforms, AccesS gains access to best practices, lessons learned and peer exchange from similar initiatives in the built-environment and digital access domain.
- **Enhanced relevance and alignment:** The link to B4P ensures that AccesS remains aligned with top-level European priorities (e.g., renovation wave, New European Bauhaus) and therefore increases the potential for exploitation, uptake and impact of its results.
- **Facilitation of exploitation pathways:** Being part of the B4P ecosystem supports the definition of exploitation strategies, market pathways and stakeholder engagement channels (including public authorities, SMEs, standardisation bodies) which are crucial for scaling inclusive and accessible technology solutions.
- **Policy and standardisation leverage:** The partnership makes it easier for AccesS to feed findings into standardisation and policy fora in the built environment, especially regarding accessibility, inclusive design and smart building systems.

3.5 Summary

In sum, the partnership between AccesS and Built4People demonstrates a clear and structured approach to embedding the project within a wider European innovation ecosystem for built environments. By leveraging B4P's network, strategic priorities, and dissemination platforms, AccesS enhances its potential for impact, cross-project collaboration, and long-term sustainability.

4 Liaising with other projects

The liaison activities of AccesS are a central component of the project's strategy to foster collaboration, create synergies, and maximize the impact of its results within the European digital and accessibility ecosystem. This section provides an overview of the partnerships established with complementary projects, the processes followed to engage with them, and the outcomes achieved.

4.1 Collaborative approach

AccesS has adopted a structured and proactive approach to liaising with other projects through:

- **Identification of relevant projects:** AccesS selected projects operating in related domains, such as digital accessibility, user-centric public services, secure access technologies, and inclusive smart environments.
- **Engagement and coordination:** Regular meetings and bilateral exchanges were organized to share knowledge, align activities, and explore potential collaboration.
- **Joint planning of activities:** Collaborative initiatives, such as co-hosted events and thematic workshops, were defined and scheduled in consultation with partner projects.

4.2 Collaboration with other projects

4.2.1 InclusiveSpaces

InclusiveSpaces is a Horizon Europe project that develops tools, frameworks, and co-design processes for accessible and inclusive built and digital environments. It engages people with disabilities and older adults in the design of urban space, promotes universal design, accessibility, social cohesion, and climate-friendly practices.

Because AccesS aims to deliver user-centric public services with strong accessibility and inclusion components, InclusiveSpaces offers valuable methodologies, co-design practices, and accessibility assessment tools that AccesS can draw on and align with. The project's emphasis on inclusive environments and stakeholder-involvement complements AccesS's objective of ensuring accessible, inclusive digital public services.

4.2.2 REN+HOMES

REN+HOMES is a European project developing 23 solutions (hardware, software, methodologies) for energy-positive, circular buildings, and inclusive sustainable housing. It addresses energy poverty, resource efficiency, and smart housing within the built environment.

Although primarily focused on the built environment and sustainable housing, REN+HOMES's aspect of inclusive, smart, and user-centric housing offers synergies for AccesS's goal of inclusive digital public services. When digital services are embedded in resilient smart communities and housing contexts, insights from REN+HOMES on inclusive design and stakeholder participation are relevant.

4.2.3 SHIFT

SHIFT is a Horizon Europe initiative that addresses secure digital access, interoperability in public services, and modernising how public administrations deliver digital services. It collaborates in policy briefs and cluster initiatives around accessibility, interoperability and digital government.

For AccesS's aim to deliver secure, seamless, interoperable user-centric public services across Europe, SHIFT is a highly relevant partner. It can contribute to ensuring the technical and governance frameworks for secure digital access, and interoperability across systems and domains align with AccesS's target domain.

4.2.4 ACCESSTECH

ACCESSTECH investigates the theories and practices of "access" as applied to interaction with technologies by persons with disabilities. It employs participatory research through design methods, focuses on which technologies are meaningful and wanted by disabled communities, and challenges conventional accessibility design paradigms.

For AccesS, which involves secure access, user-centric services and accessibility of public services, ACCESSTECH offers deep insight into how access is experienced by users with disabilities and how technologies must be designed accordingly. Incorporating their findings helps AccesS improve its services' usability, inclusivity, and adoption by diverse user groups.

4.3 Joint activities between AccesS and other projects

AccesS has actively engaged in joint initiatives with other projects to strengthen collaboration, knowledge exchange, and visibility across the European digital and accessibility ecosystem.

4.3.1 Joint workshop with InclusiveSpaces

One of the key collaborative moments took place on 24 June 2025, during the Sustainable Energy Days, when AccesS and InclusiveSpaces co-organised a workshop entitled **"How can inclusive, accessible design and energy efficiency go hand in hand to power a just, inclusive, and competitive green transition in Europe?"** The event is recorded and available on AccesS YouTube's channel [here](#).

This event provided a unique platform for sharing experiences, co-design approaches, and insights from both projects. AccesS presented findings from stakeholder engagement activities, highlighting accessibility barriers and energy inefficiencies in smart buildings and urban environments. InclusiveSpaces shared the results of their co-design workshops with vulnerable groups, showcasing early prototypes aimed at promoting universal design. The event was further enriched by **SHIFT**, who attended as a keynote speaker and contributed valuable insights on inclusive innovation and the critical role of accessibility in the energy transition. This collaboration allowed the projects to align their approaches around accessibility, inclusion, and sustainability, while fostering knowledge exchange across a diverse group of stakeholders. The workshop outputs, including presentations, recordings, and discussion outcomes, now feed directly into AccesS's ongoing dissemination and stakeholder engagement activities.



Figure 6 AccesS and InclusiveSpaces Joint workshop, 24 June 2025

4.3.2 Joint participation with REN+HOMES at the Smart City Expo World Congress (Barcelona, 2025)

As part of its ongoing efforts to foster collaboration and exchange with other Horizon Europe initiatives, AccesS partnered with the REN+HOMES project to co-organise and participate in a joint session at the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC), held in Barcelona in November 2025.

This joint initiative exemplified the project's commitment to cross-project cooperation within the European research and innovation ecosystem, particularly in advancing the shared goals of climate neutrality, inclusivity, and digital transformation in the built environment and urban governance sectors.

The collaboration between AccesS and REN+HOMES aimed to showcase how digital innovation can accelerate the transition toward climate-neutral and inclusive cities, aligning with the objectives of the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and the Built4People Partnership.

Both projects share a common focus on developing and deploying human-centred, data-driven, and interoperable digital tools that enhance accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability in urban environments. The joint participation at SCEWC provided an opportunity to:

- exchange methodologies and approaches for the design and replication of digital solutions across sectors;
- present complementary outcomes from both projects to a broad international audience; and
- promote synergies among projects supported under Horizon Europe Cluster 5.

Session Overview and Key Discussion Points

The joint session, titled “Digital Innovation for Climate-Neutral and Inclusive Cities”, brought together representatives from AccesS, REN+HOMES, and external stakeholders from local authorities, research institutions, and the private sector.

The discussion explored how digital tools, business modelling, and value mapping can empower local actors to plan, implement, and monitor urban transitions that are both energy-efficient and socially inclusive. The session also underlined the importance of ensuring that accessibility and usability are embedded in the design of digital public services and smart solutions.

Key takeaways from the joint session included:

- the need to move from innovation to implementation, ensuring that research results translate into actionable solutions at the local level.
- the importance of engaging end users early in the design process and effectively communicating the benefits of energy efficiency and digitalisation.
- the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration, involving public authorities, private actors, the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) sector, and the social domain.
- the necessity of capacity-building and skills development to overcome technical, financial, and regulatory barriers that impede large-scale adoption of innovative solutions.

This joint participation created a tangible link between the two Horizon Europe projects, strengthening their collective visibility and impact within the broader smart city and digital innovation ecosystem. It demonstrated how cross-project collaboration can generate mutual benefits, including:

- the identification of complementary approaches to citizen engagement, accessibility, and urban digitalisation;
- enhanced dissemination of project results to a wider community of practitioners and policy-makers; and
- the creation of potential pathways for joint exploitation and replication of tools and methodologies developed under both projects.

The collaboration between AccesS and REN+HOMES at the Smart City Expo World Congress represents a model for effective liaison between Horizon Europe initiatives operating in related domains. By jointly promoting a vision of digital innovation that is inclusive, accessible, and climate-conscious, the two projects have reinforced the European commitment to a just and sustainable green transition — ensuring that technological advancement goes hand in hand with social inclusion and user empowerment.



Figure 7 AccesS and Ren+Homes at the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona, 6 November 2025

5 Conclusions

Throughout the reporting period, AccessS has actively pursued a comprehensive strategy to maximize its impact and visibility across the European digital and accessibility ecosystem. By organizing, co-organizing, and participating in a wide range of events, workshops, and forums, the project has fostered knowledge exchange, promoted best practices, and strengthened its presence among relevant stakeholders. These activities have ensured that accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability remain central to the development of digital public services, while also creating opportunities for mutual learning and collaboration with complementary projects.

AccessS's engagement in the Built4People Partnership and other joint initiatives exemplifies its integrative approach, aligning methodologies, sharing expertise, and reinforcing the project's positioning within the broader Horizon Europe landscape. The project's active role in events and partnerships has not only enhanced visibility but has also contributed to building a networked approach that amplifies both its effectiveness and its societal impact.

Looking forward, AccessS will continue to adopt a proactive and dynamic strategy, pursuing further opportunities for collaboration, co-creation, and dissemination. The project remains committed to organizing and engaging in strategic events, strengthening partnerships, and implementing actions that enhance the visibility, relevance, and impact of its results. This ongoing approach ensures that AccessS continues to contribute meaningfully to the European research and innovation ecosystem, promoting a more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable digital public sphere.

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