



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

GARI was created in 2008 by the Mobile Manufacturers Forum (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 and over 1,100 mobile phone models around the world in many languages. The database now also includes information on accessible tablets and accessibility related mobile applications. The objective is to create one central source of information for global accessibility solutions in the mobile ecosystem.

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.

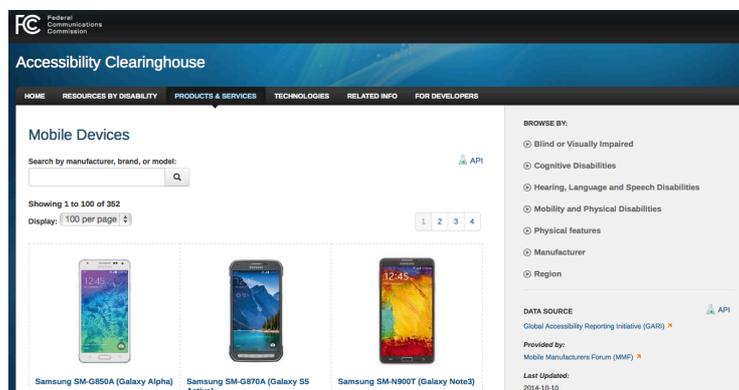
REGULAR FEATURE REVIEWS

As part of the GARI project, the MMF 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:

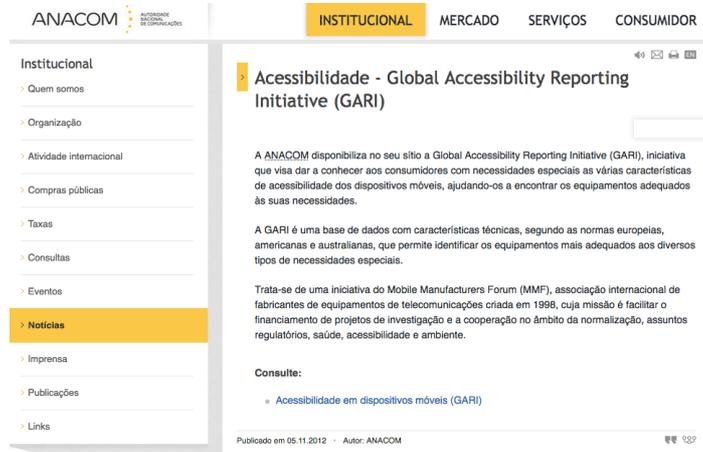
- United States: Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Clearinghouse <http://ach.fcc.gov/products-and-services>



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

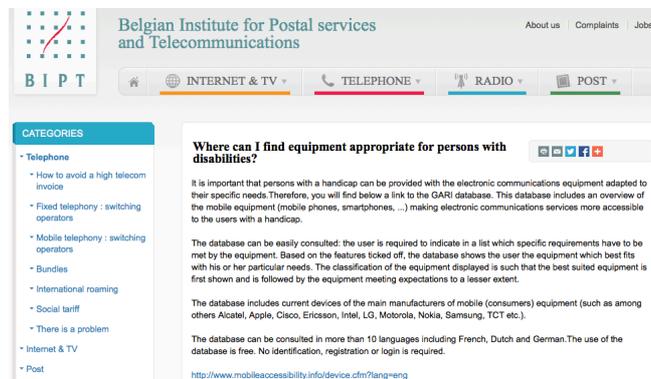
² In the US, it was reported in July 2014 that 60% of internet traffic was generated from mobile devices. (Please copy and paste the link to access the article: <http://www.comscore.com/Insights/Blog/Major-Mobile-Milestones-in-May-Apps-Now-Drive-Half-of-All-Time-Spent-on-Digital>)

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



The screenshot shows the ANACOM website with a navigation menu at the top including 'INSTITUCIONAL', 'MERCADO', 'SERVIÇOS', and 'CONSUMIDOR'. The main content area is titled 'Acessibilidade - Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI)'. It contains text explaining that ANACOM provides a GARI database to help consumers with special needs find suitable mobile equipment. It also mentions that GARI is a database of technical characteristics according to European, American, and Australian standards. A 'Consulte:' section lists 'Acessibilidade em dispositivos móveis (GARI)'. The page is dated 'Publicado em 05.11.2012' and attributed to 'Autor: ANACOM'.

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



The screenshot shows the BIPT website with a navigation menu including 'INTERNET & TV', 'TELEPHONE', 'RADIO', and 'POST'. The main content area is titled 'Where can I find equipment appropriate for persons with disabilities?'. It explains that it is important for persons with a handicap to be provided with electronic communications equipment adapted to their specific needs. The database includes an overview of mobile equipment (mobile phones, smartphones, ...) making electronic communications services more accessible to users with a handicap. It also states that the database can be easily consulted, the user is required to indicate in a list which specific requirements have to be met by the equipment, and that the database includes current devices of the main manufacturers of mobile (consumers) equipment (such as among others Alcatel, Apple, Cisco, Ericsson, Intel, LG, Motorola, Nokia, Samsung, TCT etc.). The database can be consulted in more than 10 languages including French, Dutch and German. The use of the database is free. No identification, registration or login is required. A link to the database is provided: <http://www.mobileaccessibility.info/device.cfm?lang=eng>.

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



The screenshot shows the ARCEP website with a navigation menu including 'Présentation', 'Textes de référence', 'Actualités', 'Publications', 'Observatoires', 'Grands dossiers', and 'Accès ciblés'. The main content area is titled 'Grands dossiers' and 'L'accessibilité des personnes handicapées à la téléphonie mobile'. It contains a 'Sommaire' section with the following items: 'L'accès des personnes handicapées à la téléphonie mobile et aux communications électroniques', 'Bilan de la charte d'accès des personnes handicapées à la téléphonie mobile et aux communications électroniques', 'Les obligations réglementaires des opérateurs', 'Les rapports annuels publiés par les opérateurs mobiles au titre du décret 2006-0268', and 'Les centres relais et l'accessibilité des personnes déficientes auditives aux services téléphoniques'. Below the summary is the title 'L'ACCÈS DES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES À LA TÉLÉPHONIE MOBILE ET AUX COMMUNICATIONS ÉLECTRONIQUES'. On the right side, there is a section 'Pour les PERSONNES DÉFICIENTES VISUELLES' with a link to 'L'ARCEP ouvre un accès dédié aux personnes déficientes visuelles sur son site internet.' and a link to 'L'ARCEP en audio'. At the bottom right, there is a link to 'La base de données GARI recense les téléphones mobiles les mieux adaptés aux personnes handicapées' with the URL <http://www.mobileaccessibility.info>.

- 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 displays the ANCOM website interface. At the top right, there are 'Login' and 'Register' buttons. A navigation menu includes 'ANCOM', 'Legislation', 'Consultations', 'Providers', and 'Contact'. Below this is a red bar with 'Info centre', 'Ask ANCOM', 'Address ANCOM', 'Audiences', and 'Questionnaires'. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Homepage >> Users >> Info centre >> Baza de date telefoane persoane dizabilitati'. The main content area is titled 'GARI Database' and features a section for 'Telefoane și tablete' with a sub-header 'Comparați caracteristicile de la diferiți producători'. Below this is an 'Avansată' (Advanced) search form with the text 'Personalizați-vă căutarea pentru a găsi dispozitivul perfect.' and a dropdown menu set to 'Telefoane'. The search criteria are listed as follows:

Forme și tipuri de telefoane		
<input type="checkbox"/> Telefon cu clapetă / Telefon flip	<input type="checkbox"/> Baton de ciocolată / Monobloc / Stick	<input type="checkbox"/> Telefon cu pină
<input type="checkbox"/> Telefon cu ecran rotativ	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecran tactil	<input type="checkbox"/> Telefon inteligent
<input type="checkbox"/> Altele		