PROGRAMME

8.45 am to 9.30 am	**Registration & welcome coffee**
9:30 am to 9.45 am	**Welcome by the OPEN team**
9:45 am to 11:30 am	**Opening session**
	Prof. Dr. Walter Daelemans, University of Antwerp, CLiPS research group.
	Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion at Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission.
	Ms. Julie Lenoir, European Affairs Assistant at the European Broadcasting Union.
11.30 am to 13.30 pm	**Exhibition & lunch buffet**
13.30 pm to 14.45 pm	**Exhibitor presentations**
	Mereijn van der Heijden from SoundFocus about Earcatch
	Maarten Verwaest from Limecraft about Limecraft Flow
	Ricardo Garcia from AccessibilityOz about the OzPlayer
14.45 pm to 15.45 pm	**Coffee break & exhibition**
15.45 pm to 16.45 pm	**Exhibitor presentations**
	Thomas Dieste from AmberScript about AmberScript
	Gregg Young from VRT about Content4All
16.45 pm to 17 pm	**Closing remarks by the OPEN team**

MEET OUR SPONSOR

Our sponsor and exhibitor Earcatch specialises in audio description. Audio description is a technique that makes films and series accessible to visually impaired people. In between dialogues a voice describes what appears on screen. This extra explanation makes it a lot easier to follow the storyline.

The audio description app Earcatch is developed to give people with a visual impairment the opportunity to enjoy films, together with family and friends, in the cinema or at home and to take part in society as independently as possible. Earcatch is very easy to use, you only need a suitable smartphone or tablet and headphones.

To download a new audio description you need to connect to the Internet. After that, the audio description will be in the "my films and series" list and can be used offline wherever and whenever you want. Earcatch synchronizes the audio description and the movie using sound recognition. As soon as you hit "play", a unique digital fingerprint is made of the ambient sound. Within a few seconds Earcatch knows exactly which part of the film or series you are watching and it will start playing the corresponding audio description. Earcatch only plays the audio description, which you listen to through headphones. You will hear the original film sound in the cinema or via your television at home.

Mereijn van der Heijden, CEO of developer Soundfocus, will present the Earcatch app during *OPEN Forum Technology for* Access and tell more about the functionality, content and new projects.

MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Prof. Dr. Walter Daelemans is research director of the Computational Linguistics group of the CLiPS (Computational Linguistics & Psycholinguistics) research centre of the University of Antwerp. His team builds computer models that can learn and understand language. The long-term goal is to understand how people acquire and use language and to make computers and robots able to do the same. In his presentation, Walter Daelemans will discuss the current state of affairs in Artificial Intelligence, mores specifically in Natural Language Processing, a research domain at the crossroads of language and technology. Significant progress has been made in terms of automated image- and text processing thanks to Deep Learning methods, which has led to the development and improvement of a range of language technologies that also shape the field of Media Accessibility - think of automatic translation, speech recognition, text to speech systems, text processing, etc. However, looking further into the future, what are some of the obstacles remaining?

Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero is a Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion at Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission. Her unit is responsible for the coordination of European policies for persons with disabilities. She works on European disability policies including the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, and the EU implementation of the UNCRPD. Inmaculada holds a degree in Physics and Computer Science and worked in research and development before joining The European Commission in 1991. She has worked on research programmes addressing accessibility as well as assistive technologies and was Deputy Head of Unit for various disability-related units in the Commission. Her work in the "e-Inclusion" unit of the Directorate-General for Information Society and Media addressed accessibility policy. While at the Directorate-General for Justice she contributed to disability-related antidiscrimination legislation. She was responsible for the Task Force for the preparation of the European Accessibility Act and remains responsible since its adoption in 2015.

Ms. Julie Lenoir is European Affairs Assistant at the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the world's leading alliance of public service media providers. She will present the mission and activities of the EBU and discuss the organisation's work on EU accessibility regulations.

MEET OUR EXHIBITORS & PRESENTERS

Limecraft (www.limecraft.com) is a MediaTech company based in Ghent. Limecraft offers cloud-based workflow solutions used by independent producers, post-production facilities and distributors worldwide to cut the production cost and the turnaround cycle to a minimum. Its flagship product, Limecraft Flow, includes services for automated subtitling and localisation of audio-visual material. Using Automatic Speech Recognition, Natural Language Processing and Machine Translation, audio is thereby turned into timed text and closed captions. This enables the producer or the distributor to show the content in any language at marginal cost. During the presentation, CEO Maarten Verwaest, founder and CEO of Limecraft, will walk you through the process step-by-step, thereby zooming in on the strengths and the weaknesses of the different state-of-the-art technologies. Limecraft is a spin-off of IMEC and VRT. The development of the localisation services is partially funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission.

Maarten Verwaest is founder and CEO of Limecraft. Prior to incorporating Limecraft, in his capacity as a programme manager for the R&D department of VRT (VRT-medialab), he led the development of many innovative technologies in the areas of computer assisted manufacturing and automatic indexing of audiovisual media. Author of several distinguished publications, Maarten is an acknowledged subject matter expert on a range of topics including multimedia techniques, semantic technologies and media production infrastructure.

AccessibilityOz (www.accessibilityoz.com) is an accessibility consultancy based in Australia and the United States. AccessibilityOz offers a range of accessibility services and products to organisations and Government departments around the world. Ricardo Garcia is Account Manager and will be presenting the OzPlayer, a fully accessible webplayer.

Video is important because it is now ubiquitous: one third of all online activity is watching video, more than two-thirds of all internet traffic is video and more than half of all video content is accessed via a mobile device. More than 500 million people watch 100 million hours of video on Facebook every day, while more than 1 billion hours of video are watched every day on YouTube. Video accessibility features like transcripts, captions and audio descriptions are critical for people with disabilities but are also important to people without disability; more than 85% of all Facebook video is viewed without sound and, if a video has captions, a user is almost twice as likely to finish the video than if it did not. According to Google, videos with transcripts earn 16% more revenue than videos without transcripts, and the BBC found that 80% of people who use captions are not using it for accessibility purposes. To provide accessible video solutions, website owners must provide a variety of accessibility features, including that the video player itself must be accessible. Lack of accessibility in video players can be the consequence of a number of things, including inadequate keyboard access, inoperable captions and a lack of audio descriptions and transcripts. Once your organization decides to stream accessible video, you will find just a handful of solutions. OzPlayer is the only one that is fully accessible. Some video players have captions

but not transcripts, and others offer keyboard navigation but not audio tracks. OzPlayer features all of these and uses modern web standards like HTML5. OzPlayer is fully compliant with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, Version 2.0, Level AA.

AccessibilityOz tested 37 major video players available in the marketplace. Initially, we tested on a PC on Google Chrome and excluded video players that contained "show-stoppers" (serious accessibility failures). The remaining video players were then tested with people with vision impairments using various screen readers. Any video players that contained show-stoppers were excluded from additional testing. Thirdly, we tested on two different mobile devices, again excluding video players that contained show-stoppers. Finally, we tested with an iPad and a Bluetooth keyboard. At the end of the testing only two video players remained: AblePlayer and OzPlayer.

Inter (www.inter.vlaanderen) aims for an accessible and inclusive society in which everyone, with or without an impairment, can participate equally and independently. People feel limited if the environment is not adapted to their possibilities. That is why Inter offers support that makes the environment accessible, usable, understandable and comfortable for everyone.

Inter provides architectural accessibility advice, makes events accessible, offers audiovisual tools and solutions, is an expertise centre in accessibility and Universal Design, offers training, advises governments, conducts research, etc. Thomas Desmet and Bart Parmentier from Inter will present their services and products in a stand in the exhibition hall.

AmberScript (www.amberscript.com) is a start-up from Amsterdam that is specialized in developing top-notch speech-to-text models that transform audio automatically into text. We collaborate with public organizations in the Netherlands to automatically subtitle videos in order to make them digitally accessible for people with auditory impairments. Approximately 1/3 of Dutch municipalities use our software to create automatic subtitles for public debates. In addition, we cooperate with Dutch associations of deaf and hard of hearing students. The students use our software to automatically transcribe lectures so that they don't miss out on valuable content. We are looking for strong partners in Flanders that want to collaborate on developing a Flemish language model. Thomas Dieste, co-founder of AmberScript will be representing his company during the OPEN Forum.

The Flemish Public Broadcaster VRT (www.vrt.be) will present the Content4All project (www.content4all-project.eu) during a presentation. Content4All aims to make more content accessible to the deaf community. Therefore, the consortium will develop the necessary technologies and algorithms to capture a sign interpreter in a remote studio, process it and render it via broadcast, making use of a state-of-the-art photorealistic 3D human avatar. This will allow low-cost personalization of content for deaf viewers, without causing disruption for hearing viewers. Gregg Young, researcher and intrapreneur at VRT will present the project.

During the OPEN Forum, live subtitling with speech recognition will be provided from English into Dutch. To this end, the OPEN team will be using and demonstrating the wireless streaming subtitling solution Text on Top (www.text-on-top.com). Text on Top allows spoken text, converted into written text through a captioner, reporter or respeaker to be shown above or next to a presentation, or, additionally, on a tablet, in multiple languages.

THANKS TO…

for supporting the organization and communication of the OPEN Forum.

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for funding the provision of live captioning and Sign Language Interpreting (University & community Department) and for supporting our volunteer colleagues and students (Department of Translators & Interpreters).

For supporting the provision of live captioning.