



ACCESSIBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Tarja Ladonlahti

PhD. (ed)

Pedagogical Head of the Open University

University of Jyväskylä

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Accessibility

...people with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems (ICT) and other facilities and services.

(European Commission 2010)



Universal Design/Design for all/Inclusive design

While designing a product or system from the very beginning with disability in mind it will serve better the needs of all users, including those who are not disabled.



Usability

Is about making products easy to use and seeing things from the user's perspective. Usability is not focused on disability or impairment, but rather on good design that can be utilized by all.



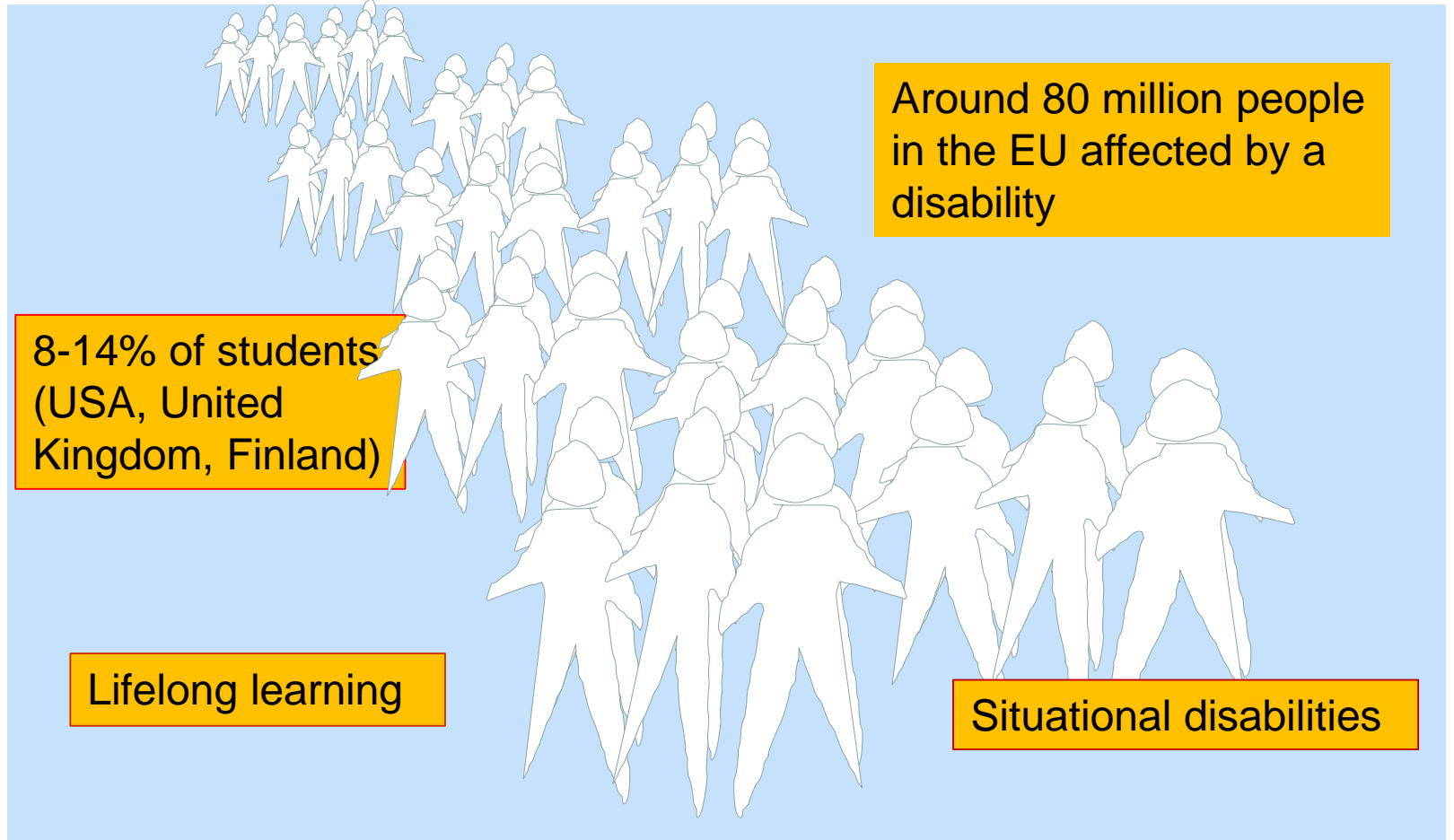


WHY?





Significant group of students



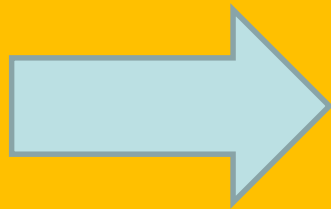
Becoming a legal requirement

EU and most of the Member States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

On 26 October 2016 the European Parliament approved the directive on making the websites and mobile apps of public sector bodies more accessible.

Directive will soon enter into force, and Member States will have 21 months to transpose the Directive into national legislation.





It is a right thing to do

Inclusion Participation Equality Justice Education for all...

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How to recognize a student with special needs or disability?

Who is taking care of the adaptation of curricula?

How to design accessible course?

What devices are accepted?

.....

Special exam arrangements needed?

What should a teacher know and do?

Other individual arrangements or support needed?





HOW?



Institutional level

Inform and listen
to the students

Name contact
persons or teams
and their
responsibilities

Inform and
educate the staff

Provide processes
for flexible individual
arrangements

Favour and offer
the information
systems (e.g
VLE:s) and web
content with the
high level
accessibility
(WCAG level AA
or AAA)

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Some ideas about curricula

- Include all the information a student need to know in curricula
- Favour VLEs of high level of accesibility
- Favour and promote accessible e-materials and e-sources
- Offer choices and alternative modes of study and assessment as well
- Avoid unnecessary adjustments or unnecessary individual arrangements not to support segregation or exclusion



Some (technical) principles about the course design

- Provide text alternatives for any non-text content
- Provide alternatives for time-based media
- Create adaptable content
- Make all functionality available from a keyboard
- Provide students enough time to read and use content
- Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures
- Help users to navigate and find content
- Make text content readable and understandable (see details WCAG2.0)





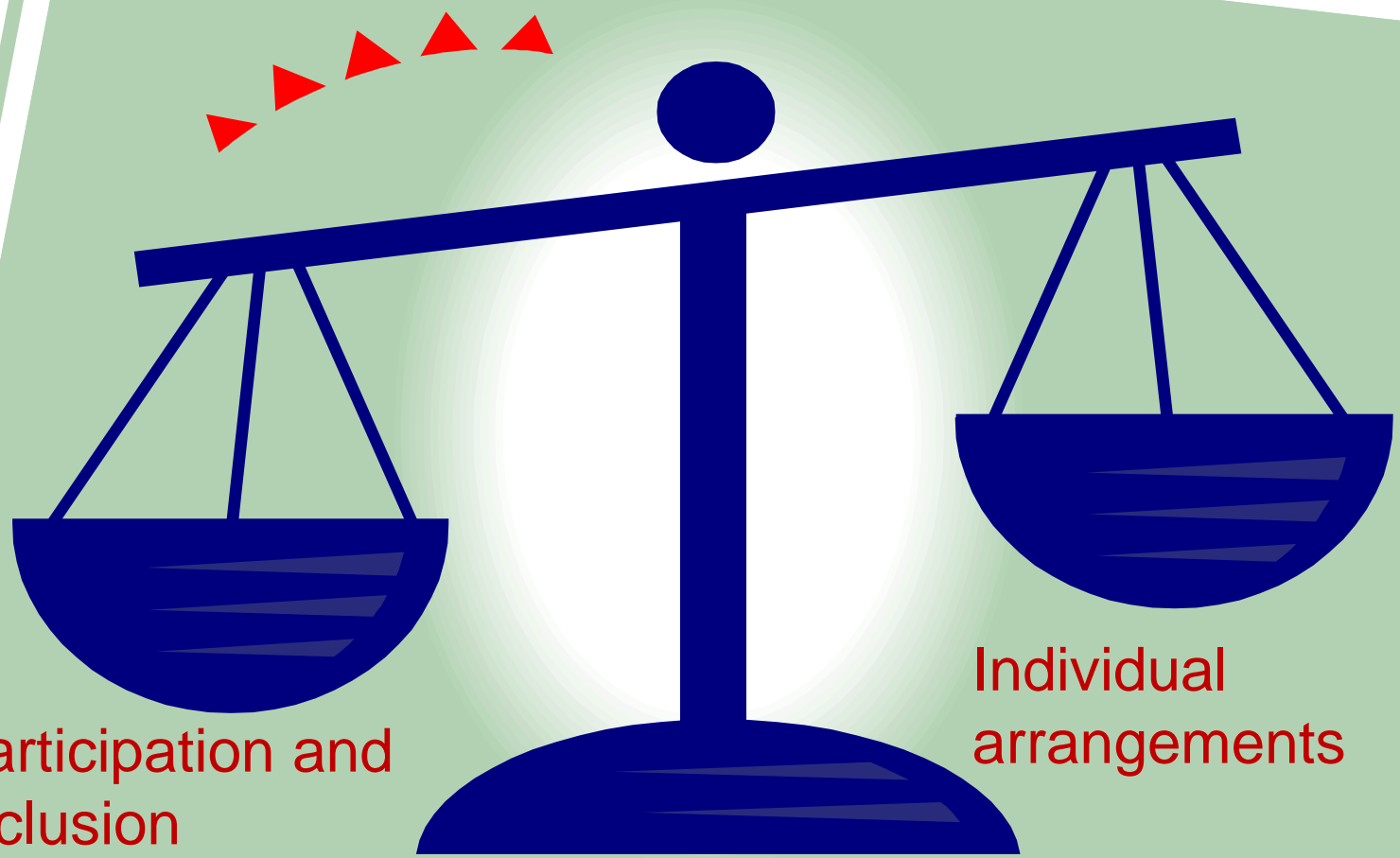
CRITICAL ISSUES



Disability is located in social practice
rather than in an individual body

Social construction/nature of learning
and knowledge





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How do we deal with the issue of accessibility
in e-education?

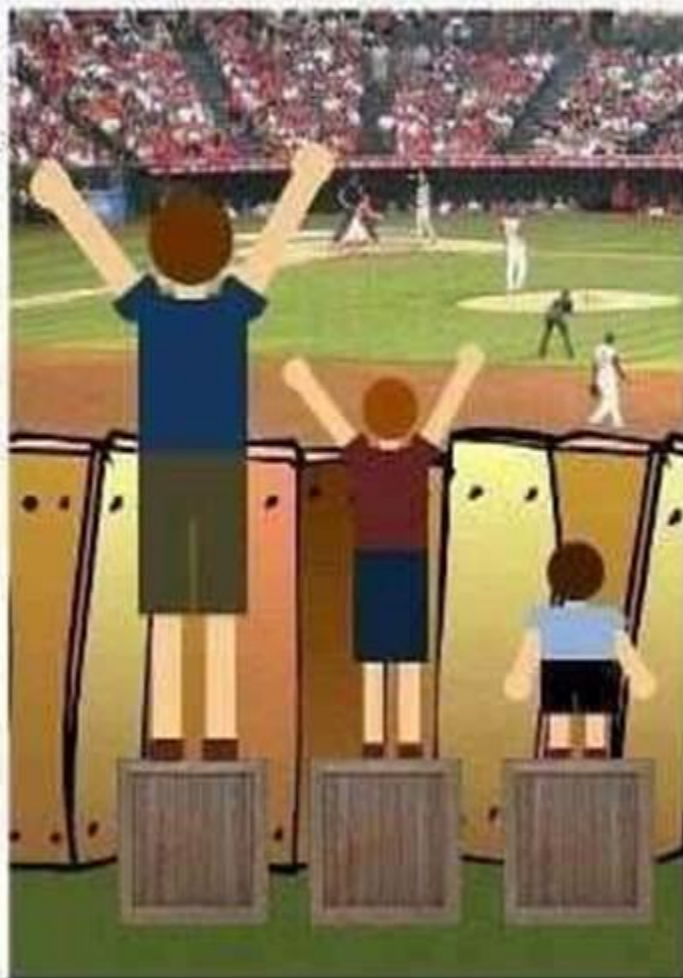
We can build new barriers and obstacles for
learning

OR

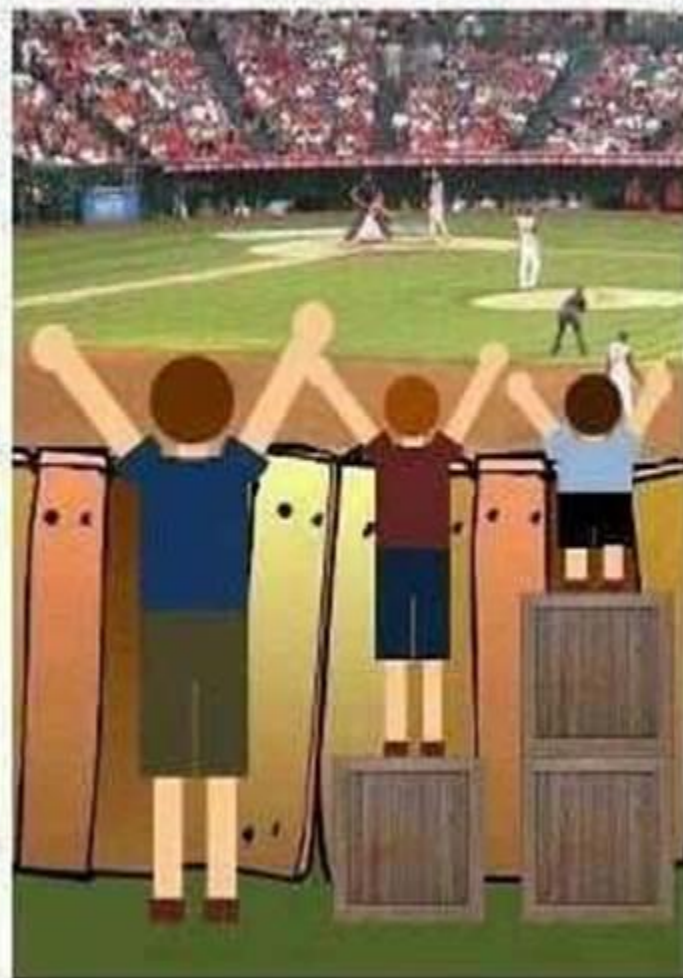
We can create great, new learning
experiences and Higher Education accessible
for all.



Equality is not always Justice



This is **EQUALITY**



This is **JUSTICE**



Thank you!

tarja.ladonlahti@jyu.fi

