

WAB cluster and Unified Web Evaluation Methodology

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Three projects

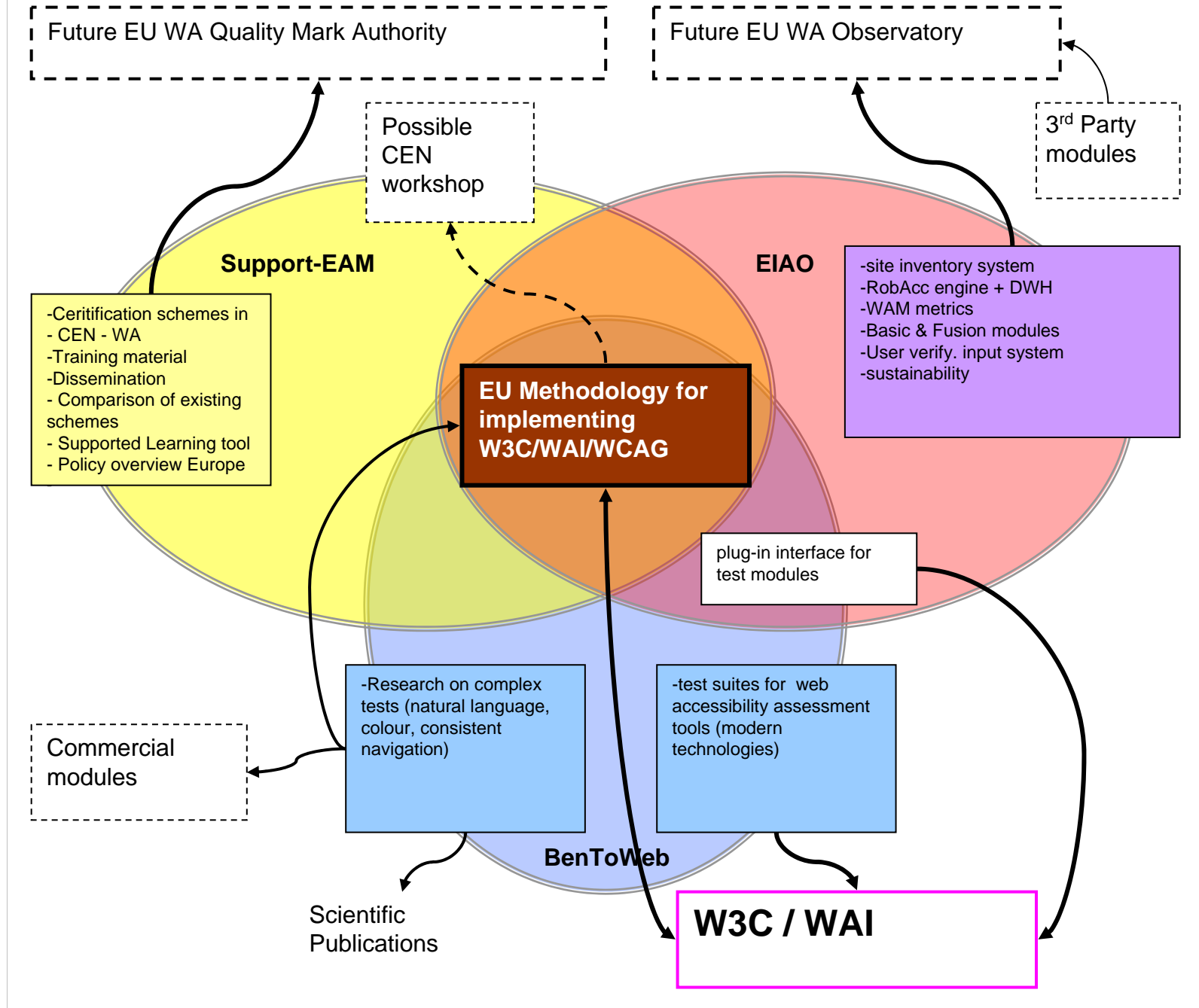
- EIAO
- Support EAM
- BenToWeb

Common topic

- Development of a EU-harmonised assessment methodology for Web accessibility, based on W3C/WAI and to be synchronised with the foreseen migration from WCAG1.0 to WCAG2.0.

Clustering

- To ensure:
 - that evaluation tools and methods developed both for global monitoring and for local evaluation, are compatible and coherent among themselves (and with WAI);
 - that a strong European feedback and contribution is provided to WAI for future guidelines or versions of guidelines;
 - That information is public and that Modules developed will be usable for local assessment tools and also for the monitoring observatory platform.



The EU harmonised Methodology will include:

1. Evaluation guidelines (Work on EOWG suite in WAI);
2. Evaluation checklists, intended to address what the evaluation-end-user needs to do when performing an evaluation, and what the evaluation tool developer need to be aware of;
3. User testing protocols (evt. Double layer behind WCAG);
4. Automated testing (tool independent), using prototypes of cluster projects.
5. Necessary information for policy makers to ensure conformance of public sites (e.g. for public procurement and for certification)
6. Provision of a demonstrator

Methodology

- The common Methodology is to evaluate one Web page, an entire Web site (irrespective of size), or multiple Web sites;

Checklist

The Evaluation Checklist will take into account:

- **Specific** to WAI Documentation - All questions are drawn from current and future WAI Documentation;
- **Tool and Browser Independent** - Questions are published in a 'pure' form, not directly associated with a current tool or browser. However annotation with examples could be useful;
- **Uniquely Interpretable** - Questions have only one way of being interpreted;
- **Repeatable** - 2 different web accessibility evaluators can perform the relevant tests on the same site and get the same results;
- **Translatable** - The context of each question can be translated into all official European languages;

Large scale monitoring

Key requirement from the Council Resolution to obtain comparable data. Amongst those issues to be analysed, the following can already be mentioned:

- possibilities of statistical sampling of sites,
- complementing automatic results with manual results (still based on objective criteria), and with marking results,
- aggregation of data,
- provision of feedback in an “understandable” manner,
- follow up of progress over time (for example every year).

Provision of a demonstrator

- Demonstrator for policy makers or web developers:
 - with necessary tools/modules, to run local assessment of sites/pages for all the tests that can be automated;
 - the observatory prototype will be fully populated, for all the significant tests that can be automated, with necessary modules or links to external tools.

Next steps

Your input

- Your input of wishes and requirements into WAB Cluster developments (methodology evaluation, checklist, tool, framework, observatory)
- Setting up a website for support, discussion and participation
- Promoting active participation on a national level
- Discussion...