

# Digital Accessibility Regulations

## Country Overview: Germany

A fact sheet on the key legal landscape for digital accessibility regulations in Germany





# Making Accessibility a Priority: Understanding German Digital Accessibility Laws

On the eve of the enforcement of the European Accessibility Act in 2025, companies must be aware of their evolving legal obligations.

Navigating the technicalities of Germany's Digital Accessibility Laws can be intricate. Below is a concise explanation designed to help senior executives understand the essence and the obligations of these laws. Germany has made a strong commitment to accessibility, ensuring that all residents have unhindered access to products and services, including web services, regardless of physical or other disabilities.

## Overview:

The German Disability Equality Act (BGG), in effect since 2002, ensures comprehensive accessibility in Germany. It was amended to include the provisions of the web accessibility directive aimed at the public sector, most recently in 2018.

**The Barrierefreiheitsstärkungsgesetz (BFSG)**, enacted in 2021, is a further commitment to this goal, mandating accessibility for all products and services by June 28, 2025, with penalties for violations reaching up to EUR 100,000.

## Who Does It Apply To?

The BGG applies to public authorities, institutions under federal management or supervision, and associations involving at least one public body. The BFSG is for goods and services in both spheres. Notably, the BFSG expands to companies operating computers, smartphones, TV equipment related to digital television services, ATMs, e-readers, ticketing machines, phone services, banking services, e-commerce platforms, and websites.





# What Companies Need to Know

## Requirements:

Companies must ensure that websites and mobile applications, including intranet offers, adhere to the standards of web accessibility. A comprehensive accessibility statement must be periodically updated, indicating the areas not accessible and providing possible alternative solutions. Consumers can request action against non-compliant economic operators, and an arbitration service is in place for dispute resolution.

## The Importance:

Ensuring digital accessibility is not just a legal obligation but a moral and economic imperative. It ensures that your products and services are available to all individuals, enhancing the customer base and improving the company's public image.

## Actions:

- Review your products and services for compliance with the BGG and BFGS.
- Establish a detailed and regularly updated accessibility statement.
- Take immediate steps for non-compliance issues to avoid heavy penalties.

## In Summary:

To comply with the latest German laws and stay compliant as the EAA is enforced by 2025, we recommend that your company make accessibility a priority today. Ensure your company is inclusive, compliant, and ready to serve all individuals, embodying the principles of equality and non-discrimination. The investment in accessibility today is an investment in the sustainability and success of your company tomorrow.





## Timeline of EU Digital Accessibility Legislation



