

ation at international level, important for design and testing. The recent initiative from ANEC with ISO and CEN "Guideline for a more accessible world" is a good starting point for future actions. The example of the standardisation in the USA, being impact of legislation (ADA), shows what standardisation can achieve.

User involvement

User involvement is increasing but not at all common use in all processes. Users create awareness of their specific, but also their general problems, enable proper steering and selection of processes and measures. Users have to be educated more and given assistance in participation.

Service Delivery

Persons with disabilities but also professionals need support and guidance in solving problems, identify possible solutions and enable solving. A coherent framework for service delivery is necessary.

Awareness creation

National plans for increasing awareness on the impact of new technologies in the quality of life for persons with disabilities should be exchanged between the member states. Attention must be given to how ICT accessibility can be an appropriate goal of public procurement. Better awareness of the implications of the design-for-all approach, could create market competitiveness and stimulate research and development.

And the winner is.....

National Reports were viewed of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Best Practice was reported from Germany and Norway.

Reference

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In Memoriam Sir John Harington of Kelston (1561-1612)

At the end of the 16th Century Sir John Harington of Kelston (Somerset, England) re-invented a 'washout' closet. It had already been installed in the Minoan Palace of Knossos in 1700 BC but the technology was lost for thousands of years. Harington constructed this piece of technology to serve an old lady, Queen Elizabeth I of England (1533-1603), then aged 61 years, making this toilet a genuine piece of gerontechnology. It was a portable toilet shaped like a box covered with red velvet and trimmed in lace with a lid and carrying handles. The technology itself was fairly cheap. It cost only 6 shillings and 8 pence but the idea did not catch on until two centuries later when drainage systems were installed in major cities. In 1778 Joseph Bramah, a British cabinetmaker, patented the flush toilet. Sir John never received any benefit from his invention.



Harington had been educated at Eton, Cambridge, and Lincoln's Inn, London and became a poet, translator, writer, and courtier, who won a knighthood in 1599 on a military expedition to Ireland. His father had first married an illegitimate daughter of the English king Henry VIII. His father's second wife, and mother of John Harington, was an attendant to the Princess Elizabeth, who stood as godmother for the young John.

The high-spirited Harington had easy natural wit. He was a fine poet. In his mid-twenties

he translated the story of Gioconda -- the raciest part of Ariosto's epic poem, *Orlando Furioso*. He was probably trying to impress the ladies of Elizabeth's court. Trouble was, the Gioconda story sounded a little like Elizabeth's marital negotiations with European monarchs. She angrily ordered a very odd punishment. She suspended Harington -- sent him home. He was not to return until he'd finished translating the entire work of almost 40,000 lines.

So he went home and worked. In 1591 he produced a loose English adaptation of *Orlando Furioso*. It's still the best known translation today. That time in the penalty box had not cured him. Five years later he was in hot water again. This time he had written another book, titled *A New Discourse of a Stale Subject, Called the Metamorphosis of Ajax*. It turns out that the word jakes was Elizabethan slang for a privy. Ajax was code for "a jakes." Harington had done a discourse on the design of toilets -- and on obscenity.

The book is loaded with double meaning and literary allusion. On one level, it asks us to recognize true obscenity. Harington's biographer, D.H. Craig, sums up Harington's moral:



... the truly dangerous sinners are those who deny the animal side of humanity and disguise it with finery.

On another level, Harington transcended his own literary gaming to describe the mechanical design of the first flush toilets -- devices he had actually installed in fancy country houses. Indeed, he had even equipped the Queen herself with one.

Our modern flush toilets have three elements. A valve in the bottom of the water closet, a wash-down system, and a feedback

controller to meter the next supply of wash-down water. Harington had invented the first two -- the valve and wash-down system.

The Ajax book is an unrelenting assault on hypocrisy. The invention of the flush toilet changed life as we know it, but for its inventor it was only a metaphor. When you stop and think about it, all our inventions are metaphors. Automobiles are metaphors for motion. Clocks are metaphors for planetary rotation. Harington's flush toilet was a metaphor for a clean spirit. In the end he wishes readers would, and I quote, *find [an equally sure] way to cleanse, and keep sweete, the noblest part of themselves, ...*

His language did not please the queen and he was banished again by Elizabeth. Later he published 'The Englishman's Doctor; or, the School of Salerne' (1609). 'The Most Elegant and Witty Epigrams of Sir J. H.' came out posthumously in 1615.

Misfortune came upon Harington after the death in 1603 of Queen Elizabeth, his patroness. He even had to spend some time in prison due to financial irregularities. He came home in a dark mood and died in 1612 at the age of 51 years.

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