

Executive fact sheet

# Finland's Digital Accessibility Laws



# Introduction

Finland has enacted robust laws governing digital accessibility for public organizations as well as private businesses. Like other European Union (EU) Member States, Finland has transposed the EU Web Accessibility Directive (WAD). (In the EU, a transposition integrates an EU directive into a Member State's national laws.) The country's transposition of the WAD is unique in that its accessibility requirements do not apply exclusively to the public sector, extending to certain private businesses that serve the public, such as financial services providers.

Meanwhile, Finland's transposition of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) mandates the accessibility of a broader range of privately run digital services, including online publishing and e-commerce. This transposition expands the general scope of the EAA to include specific requirements for providers of electronic communications services and audiovisual media. It applies to most businesses that serve consumers in Finland, regardless of where they're based.

Navigating the intricacies of Finland's digital accessibility regulations can be complex. This resource is designed to help senior executives understand the essence of these laws and what is required for compliance.



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# Overview of Finland’s digital accessibility laws

Law	Description	Sectors impacted	Compliance standard
<b>Lag (“Law”) (306/2019)</b>	Part of Finland’s transposition of the EU WAD, which was amended as part of the country’s EAA transposition	Public organizations (directly impacted), private businesses that sell to the public sector (indirectly impacted)	EN 301 549
<b>Landskapslag (“Landscape Act”) (2019:7)</b>	Part of Finland’s transposition of the EU WAD, specifically for the Åland Islands	Public organizations (directly impacted), private businesses that sell to the public sector (indirectly impacted)	EN 301 549
<b>Valtioneuvoston (“Government Decree”) (179/2023)</b>	Part of Finland’s transposition of the EAA, a decree establishing functional accessibility requirements for certain digital services	Private businesses	EN 301 549
<b>Valtioneuvoston (“Government Decree”) (180/2023)</b>	Part of Finland’s transposition of the EAA, a decree setting additional accessibility requirements for electronic communications and audiovisual media	Private businesses	EN 301 549

## Unpacking digital accessibility laws in Finland

The following sections of this resource provide more information about the specific digital accessibility laws impacting organizations operating in Finland and those who serve customers in Finland, including the entities they apply to, the requirements for compliance, and how they're enforced.



## Laws impacting both public- and private-sector organizations

### Lag (“Law”) (306/2019)

#### Summary:

Lag (306/2019) is part of Finland’s transposition of the EU WAD. It mandates that public-sector organizations, and certain private organizations that operate within the public realm—including utilities companies and providers of financial services such as banking and insurance—ensure their digital services are accessible to users with disabilities. The standard for compliance is EN 301 549, the harmonized European digital accessibility standard, which incorporates the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1.

This law was amended in 2023 to incorporate provisions of the EAA.

#### Requirements:

To comply with this law, covered organizations must meet the accessibility requirements outlined in the EU WAD, including:

- Conformance with EN 301 549.
- Providing accessibility statements detailing their services' compliance status.

- Establishing mechanisms for user feedback.
- Making a continuous effort to improve the accessibility of their services.

The law mandates regular monitoring of services and allows for external oversight to ensure compliance, with exceptions only permitted in cases of justified and documented disproportionate burden.

#### Enforcement:

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) is responsible for monitoring compliance with Lag (306/2019). Organizations found to be non-compliant with the law may face fines and / or be required to take corrective actions to resolve accessibility issues. The specific amount of a fine may vary based on factors including the type and severity of the violation and the non-compliant entity’s ability to pay. Fines may be reduced in certain cases, such as if an organization has corrected its violation, or its financial capability has substantially diminished.

## Laws impacting public-sector and business-to-government (B2G) organizations

### Landskapslag (“Landscape Act”) (2019:7)

#### Summary:

Landskapslag 2019:7 is part of Finland’s transposition of the EU WAD, and was enacted specifically for the Åland Islands region. The law aims to ensure that digital services provided by public authorities in the region are accessible to all users, particularly individuals with disabilities, in accordance with the WAD. The standard for compliance is EN 301 549.

Private companies that sell digital products to public authorities in Åland must also meet the law’s requirements to continue doing business with these entities.

#### Requirements:

The requirements for compliance with Landskapslag 2019:7 align with the requirements for compliance with [Lag 306/2019](#) and the EU WAD. These include conformance with EN 301 549, publishing accessibility statements, providing mechanisms for user feedback, and taking corrective actions as needed.

#### Enforcement:

Åland's regional government acts as the supervisory authority for this Act. Organizations that are found to be non-compliant may face fines.

## Laws impacting private businesses

### Valtioneuvoston (“Government Decree”) (179/2023)

#### Summary:

This decree is part of Finland’s transposition of the EAA. It outlines functional accessibility requirements for certain digital services, including banking, e-books, and online stores. It also outlines mechanisms for monitoring compliance and allows for exceptions in cases of disproportionate burden, provided those are justified and documented. While not explicitly stated, the presumptive standard for compliance is EN 301 549.

#### Requirements:

Organizations must ensure their digital services are perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust (POUR) for all users, in alignment with the functional requirements set by the EAA. These requirements may be met through conformance with EN 301 549, which incorporates WCAG 2.1 with some additional criteria.

Conformance with EN 301 549 involves adhering to digital accessibility best practices including:

- Ensuring compatibility with assistive technologies like screen readers.
- Offering flexible input methods.
- Providing alternatives for visual and auditory content.

#### Enforcement:

The Traficom is responsible for enforcing this decree and may impose fines in cases of non-compliance. While the decree does not provide specific ranges, the amount of a fine will be determined by factors including the nature and severity of a violation and an organization’s ability to pay.



## Valtioneuvoston (“Government Decree”) (180/2023)

### Summary:

Part of Finland’s transposition of the EAA, this decree expands on the requirements outlined in [Valtioneuvoston 179/2023](#). It requires providers of electronic communications services and audiovisual media to share information about measures taken to ensure accessibility, including efforts to improve the perceivability of digital content and the availability of alternative content formats. It also reaffirms the functional accessibility requirements established by the EAA.

### Requirements:

To comply with this decree, covered organizations should meet the requirements set by Valtioneuvoston 179/2023, which align with the functional requirements for EAA compliance. Additionally, these organizations must provide information about certain accessibility measures, such as:

- Making information available through more than one sensory channel.

- Ensuring that information is presented in an understandable form and in a way that users can perceive.
- Making information available in text formats that are suitable for producing alternative formats that can be accessed through assistive technology, such as screen readers.
- Using a font size, type, and contrast that allow users to read content without barriers, and providing options to adjust font size and line and paragraph spacing.

### Enforcement:

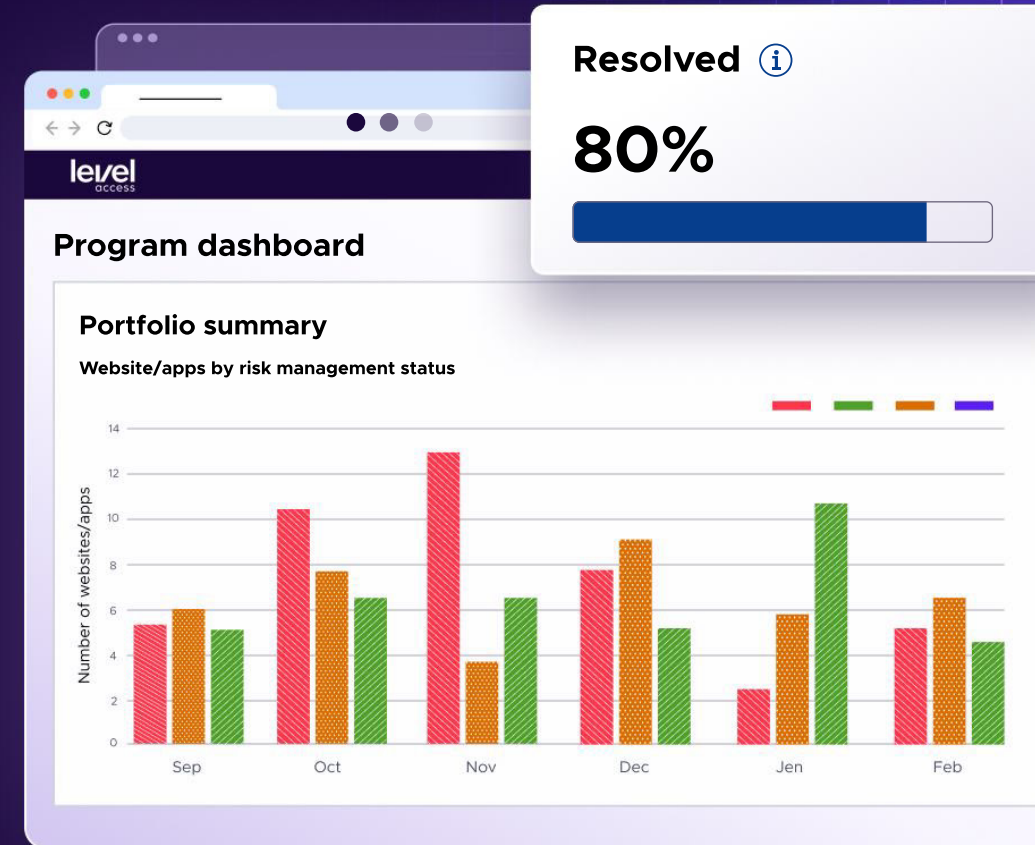
This decree will be enforced by the Traficom. Potential penalties align with the penalties for violating Valtioneuvoston 179/2023.

# Start your journey to compliance

To comply with current digital accessibility laws in Finland and stay ahead of the 2025 EAA enforcement deadline, we recommend that your organization start by taking the following actions:

- 🔍 Audit your digital assets for conformance with EN 301 549.
- ⚠️ Swiftly address existing accessibility issues in your digital assets.
- ✅ Publish a detailed accessibility statement, and regularly update this document.

Third-party digital accessibility solution providers, like Level Access, can help you understand your legal obligations and equip you with advanced technology, expert support services, and training to ensure all assets in your portfolio are accessible and compliant.



## Let's get started

Engage our team to make accessibility a priority now. An investment in digital accessibility today is an investment in the sustainability and success of your company tomorrow.

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