

# DRAFT ROYAL DECREE APPROVING THE REGULATIONS ON BASIC CONDITIONS FOR COGNITIVE ACCESSIBILITY

**Version of 18 September 2025**

I

The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter: the Convention), made in New York on 13 December 2006 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and ratified by Spain on 3 December 2007, represented a fundamental change regarding the rights of persons with disabilities since its purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities.

To achieve this goal, it is essential to guarantee universal accessibility, as this enables persons with disabilities to live in equality, freedom and independence and to participate fully in all aspects of life. In other words, it is a driving principle for making all human rights and fundamental freedoms effective. This implies that accessibility goes beyond the areas in which it was traditionally located, projecting itself onto all rights and all spheres of community life.

In particular, several articles of the Convention regulate universal accessibility. Thus, in Article 3 it appears as a general principle, in Article 4 as an obligation of the States Parties, and in Article 9 as a right, interacting with the other rights recognised throughout its provisions. Likewise, as a consequence of the regulatory adaptation of our internal legal system to the aforementioned Convention, universal accessibility is incorporated as one of the regulatory principles of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013 of 29 November 2013. For this reason, the public authorities must adopt the necessary measures to ensure universal accessibility in the different areas of application of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, there is an aspect of accessibility that goes unnoticed even in the regulations themselves and the ignorance of which means that when people with cognitive difficulties receive, for example, a notification from a court or a medical diagnosis, they encounter insurmountable barriers to understanding it, compromising fundamental rights such as effective judicial protection, or health, among others. This shows that specific regulation of a part of universal accessibility, namely cognitive accessibility, is necessary.

Cognitive accessibility helps us to understand the information provided by the environment provides, master our communication with it and easily carry out the

activities that take place in that environment without any discrimination. To do this, it makes use of a series of tools that can be classified into three categories: information and communication accessibility resources, which include tools such as plain language, easy reading, and augmentative and alternative communication, to facilitate reading comprehension and communicative interaction by providing cognitively accessible alternatives to oral and written communication and information; orientation resources, which enable and facilitate the processes of orientation, navigation, identification and location in the environment through the tools it provides, such as the design of spatial orientation systems or signage pictograms, among others; and technological accessibility resources, which are goods and services that improve communication, orientation and task performance using technology, thus reaching a large number of people regardless of their cognitive abilities. Technological resources include artificial intelligence.

In this regard, it is appropriate to point out that cognitive accessibility has been virtually absent from public policies to date, preventing all persons with some form of cognitive difficulty, whether in understanding, communication and/or interaction, from living fully, independently, freely and participating in society consciously and on equal terms. In order to rectify this situation, Law 6/2022 of 31 March 2022 was passed, amending the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013 of 29 November 2013, to establish and regulate cognitive accessibility and its conditions of requirement and application, so as to effectively guarantee cognitive accessibility for all persons with difficulties in understanding and communicating with the physical environment, transport, information and communication, including information and communication systems and technologies, and other services and facilities available or for public use, in both urban and rural areas.

This royal decree complies with the second additional provision of Law 6/2022 of 31 March 2022 which establishes a mandate for the Government to approve a regulation that develops the basic conditions of cognitive accessibility, bringing together in a regulatory text those applicable throughout the national territory. These conditions are minimum requirements, and the autonomous communities, the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, and the local authorities may establish additional or more stringent requirements, always within the scope of their powers.

It is also worth noting the regulation of universal accessibility established in Royal Decree 193/2023, of 21 March, which regulates the basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities for access to and use of goods and services available to the public, whose purpose is to regulate these basic conditions and establish a series of positive action

measures and other complementary support aimed at compensating for the initial disadvantages that people with disabilities generally experience. In accordance with the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, and as expressly provided for in the report on the analysis of the regulatory impact of Royal Decree 193/2023 of 21 March 2023 cognitive accessibility is understood to be contained in the regulation that it makes of universal accessibility.

Furthermore, this royal decree reinforces the Spanish Strategy on Disability 2022-2030 for access to, enjoyment and exercise of human rights by persons with disabilities, approved by the Council of Ministers on 3 May 2022, particularly in those areas of special vulnerability or where several causes or factors of discrimination converge, such as rural areas or gender issues. People with cognitive difficulties face, in the rural environment, greater barriers than in the urban environment in terms of access to services and their adaptation, due to factors such as depopulation, job insecurity, shortage of services, limited access to transport, the digital divide, lack of accessibility of housing and the surrounding environment, limited presence of associations and institutions, lack of leisure and participation opportunities, lower density of social relations or isolation. These conditions multiply the barriers faced by people with cognitive difficulties when living or developing their lives in rural areas. Taking this into consideration, this royal decree makes a specific mention of this environment with a view to facilitating the enjoyment of the rights of the persons with cognitive difficulties who reside in it.

This Royal Decree also responds to the measures of the Second National Plan for Universal Accessibility, in which cognitive accessibility is highlighted precisely to alleviate those barriers, which are invisible at first glance but which prevent many people from accessing, exercising and enjoying their fundamental rights and freedoms.

On the other hand, gender is also a multiplying factor for the barriers faced by people with cognitive difficulties. General Comment No. 3 on women and girls with disabilities by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states that there is strong evidence that women and girls with disabilities face obstacles in most areas of life and are at greater risk of violence, injury, abuse, maltreatment, neglect, abandonment and discrimination, both inside and outside the home. Thus, this royal decree, applying a transversal approach and a gender perspective in the field of accessibility, aims to fill the gaps present in the joint treatment of cognitive accessibility and gender.

Finally, the renewed Article 49 of the Spanish Constitution establishes that the public authorities will promote policies that guarantee the full personal

autonomy and social inclusion of persons with disabilities, in universally accessible environments. In order to comply with this mandate and guarantee the exercise of constitutional rights by persons with disabilities in conditions of real and effective freedom and equality, regulating cognitive accessibility is essential.

## II

This royal decree consists of a single article, six additional provisions, one derogatory provision and six final provisions.

The single article approves the regulation of the basic conditions of cognitive accessibility.

For its part, the first additional provision regulates the processing of information, the second additional provision regulates the tendering of public contracts, the third additional provision provides for a consensual catalogue of pictograms for signage, the fourth additional provision provides for the production of a report on the technical adaptation of airport and railway facilities, the fifth additional provision updates the rules on the accreditation of the degree of disability in order to give effect to Article 4.2 of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, and the sixth additional provision refers to the financing of the measures envisaged.

In direct relation to the fifth additional provision, the single derogating provision repeals Royal Decree 1414/2006 of 1 December 2006 determining the status of persons with disabilities for the purposes of Law 51/2003 of 2 December 2003 on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities.

The first and second final provisions modify specific regulations on electoral matters. The first final provision amends Royal Decree 1612/2007 of 7 December 2007 which regulates an accessible voting procedure that facilitates the exercise of the right to vote by visually impaired persons, with the aim of eliminating requirements for persons wishing to use this procedure. On the other hand, the second final provision amends Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March 2011 approving the Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes, with the aim of expressly incorporating actions on cognitive accessibility, some of which were already being implemented by the Ministry of the Interior. The third final provision amends Order TMA/851/2021 of 23 July 2021, developing the technical document on basic accessibility and non-discrimination conditions for access to and use of urbanised public spaces, to align it with the current regulation and, more specifically, with Law 11/2023 of 8 May 2023 transposing

European Union Directives on accessibility of certain products and services, migration of highly qualified persons, taxation and digitalisation of notarial and registration actions; and amending Law 12/2011 of 27 May 2011 on civil liability for nuclear damage or damage caused by radioactive materials. The fourth final provision regulates the applicable title of competence, the fifth final provision contains the powers of development and enforcement of this regulation and the sixth final provision contains the entry into force.

The regulation consists of three chapters. Chapter I contains the general provisions, Chapter II regulates the accessibility requirements in the different areas of application and Chapter III refers to positive action measures and other complementary support. The aforementioned chapters are spread across twenty-one articles.

### III

This standard advances the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, Goal 3 of Good Health and Well-being, Goal 4 of Quality Education, Goal 5 of Gender Equality, Goal 8 of Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 9 of Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 10 of Reduced Inequalities, Goal 12 of Responsible Consumption and Production and Goal 16 of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

On the other hand, this royal decree complies with the principles of good regulation provided for in Article 129 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October 2015 adapting to the principles of necessity, effectiveness, proportionality, legal certainty, transparency and efficiency.

Specifically, the principles of necessity and effectiveness are justified by the general interest, since the regulation of cognitive accessibility involves implementing policies and measures that promote environments, processes, goods, products and services that are cognitively accessible to all persons, regardless of their cognitive capacities, as well as complying with the legal mandate imposed by the second additional provision of Law 6/2022 of 31 March 2022.

On the other hand, it responds to the principle of proportionality since it contains the necessary regulation to meet the objectives pursued, and complies with the principle of legal certainty, since it is consistent with the rest of the legal system, generating an integrated and clear regulatory framework that facilitates its knowledge and understanding.

In addition, it adheres to the principle of transparency, by clearly addressing the problems that are intended to be solved and the objectives pursued, and by facilitating the participation of citizens during the procedure of drafting the standard through the procedures of prior public consultation, hearing and public information.

Finally, and in accordance with the principle of efficiency, the savings generated by the regulation significantly exceed the administrative burdens imposed by its approval, and it adequately manages the public resources necessary for the application of the measures.

This regulation has been favourably reported on by the National Disability Council and has been analysed by the Territorial Council for Social Services and the System for Autonomy and Care for Dependency.

The Autonomous Communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, as well as the municipalities and provinces have also been consulted through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP).

The regulation has also been the subject of a report by the Spanish Data Protection Agency.

In addition, in accordance with the principle of civil dialogue contained in Articles 2(n), 3(k) and 54 of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013 of 29 November 2013, the most representative organisations that group or represent the interests of persons with disabilities have been consulted in the preparation of this legislative provision.

Ultimately, this royal decree has been subjected to the procedure provided for in Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services, and Royal Decree 1337/1999 of 31 July 1999 regulating reporting in the area of technical standards and regulations, and regulations related to Information Society services.

This royal decree is issued under the provisions of Article 149(1)(1) of the Spanish Constitution, which gives the State exclusive authority to regulate the basic conditions guaranteeing equality for all Spanish people in the exercise of their rights and in the fulfilment of their constitutional duties.

By virtue thereof, at the proposal of the Minister for Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda, with the prior approval of the Minister for Digital Transformation and the Civil Service, in agreement with the Council of State, and after deliberation by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on XX.

I HEREBY DECREE THE FOLLOWING:

Single article. *Approval of the Regulation of the basic conditions of cognitive accessibility.*

The Regulation implementing the basic conditions of cognitive accessibility is approved, in accordance with the second additional provision of Law 6/2022, of 31 March 2022, amending the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013, of 29 November 2013, to establish and regulate cognitive accessibility and its conditions of requirement and application, the text of which is included below.

First additional provision. *Protection of personal data.*

In the actions provided for in this regulation that relate to the collection and processing of personal data, the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 96/46/CE (General Data Protection Regulation), and Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December 2018 on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights, as well as its implementation regulations, shall apply.

Second additional provision. *Tendering for public contracts.*

Public Administrations that publish tenders for public contracts containing forecasts related to cognitive accessibility shall be governed by the provisions of the current legislation on public procurement.

Third additional provision. *Catalogue of pictograms for signage.*

The Royal Disability Trust, through the Spanish Cognitive Accessibility Centre, will create a technical and specialised working group with the aim of analysing, within three years of the publication of the regulation, a reference document with the existing pictograms for the signage with the aim of establishing one as preferential in accordance with the existing regulations, to be used in the areas to which this regulation applies. The catalogue will be public and free of charge and its purpose will be the standardisation and generalisation of the use of these pictograms for signage by the operators obliged by this royal decree.

Fourth additional provision. *Adaptation of infrastructure and means of transport.*

Within two years of the entry into force of this royal decree, the Ministry responsible for transport will prepare a report on the cognitive accessibility of airport and railway facilities, paying special attention to the built environment, including signage and oral and written information, as well as other available supports, and incorporating specific recommendations for improvement. The report may include a proposal for the unification of technical specifications for vehicles and facilities, to the extent that such unification is possible within the framework of the European Union's technical specifications for railway interoperability.

Fifth additional provision. *Accreditation of the recognition of the degree of disability referred to in Article 4(2) of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion.*

1. Recognition of the degree of disability equal to or greater than 33 percent, as referred to in the first paragraph of Article 4(2) of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion, shall be accredited by means of a decision, certificate or accreditation card issued by the Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO) or competent body of the relevant Autonomous Community. In these cases, Royal Decree 888/2022 of 18 October 2022 establishing the procedure for the recognition, declaration and qualification of the degree of disability shall apply.

2. For the purposes of the second paragraph of Article 4(2) and the second paragraph of Article 35(1) of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, the legally established equivalence with a degree of disability equal to 33 percent of Social Security pensioners who have been recognised as having a permanent disability pension in the degree of total, absolute or severe disability and civil service pensioners who have been recognised as having a retirement pension or pension due to permanent disability for service or incapacity, shall be accredited by the following means:
  - a) Decision of the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) recognising the status of pensioner for permanent disability in total, absolute or severe degree.
  - b) Resolution of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, or of the Ministry or public body that previously had these powers, recognising a retirement or pension for permanent disability for service or incapacity.

The aforementioned resolutions shall expressly contain the mention that these pensioners enjoy, by virtue of legal equivalence and for the purposes established by it, the official consideration of persons with disabilities with a degree equal to 33 percent.

In cases of legal equivalence, no resolution, certificate or accreditation card issued by IMSERSO or the competent body of the corresponding autonomous community will be required to certify a degree of disability equal to 33 percent.

3. Without prejudice to the above, the pensioners referred to in the previous paragraph may request from IMSERSO or competent body of the corresponding Autonomous Community the recognition of a degree of disability greater than 33 percent through the disability assessment procedure established by Royal Decree 888/2022 of 18 October 2022. The legally established equalisation shall be maintained even in cases where, having been subject to the aforementioned procedure, it does not reach 33 percent.

Sixth additional provision. *Financing of the planned measures.*

The Royal Decree does not imply an increase in allocations or remuneration, nor in personnel expenses, nor in any other appropriations for the service of the public sector. Furthermore, it does not entail any reduction in revenue for the State Treasury and will be carried out using the existing budgetary resources and the financing instruments for the accessibility measures provided for in the legislation.

Within the framework of their respective competences, the Autonomous Communities and local entities shall take into account compliance with the principles of budgetary stability and financial sustainability.

Single repealing provision. *Repeal of Royal Decree 1414/2006 of 1 December 2006 determining the status of persons with disabilities for the purposes of Law 51/2003 of 2 December 2003 on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities.*

Royal Decree 1414/2006 of 1 December 2006 determining the status of persons with disabilities for the purposes of Law 51/2003 of 2 December 2003 on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities is repealed.

First final provision. Amendment of Royal Decree 1612/2007 of 7 December 2007 which regulates an accessible voting procedure that facilitates the exercise of the right to vote by visually impaired persons.

Article 3 of Royal Decree 1612/2007 of 7 December 2007 which regulates an accessible voting procedure that facilitates the exercise of the right to vote by visually impaired persons is amended to read as follows:

“1. Visually impaired persons who are familiar with the Braille reading and writing system and wish to use the accessible voting procedure regulated by this royal decree must inform the Ministry of the Interior through the specific means to be determined by order of the Minister for the Interior.

Without prejudice to the use of other dissemination mechanisms, the Ministry of the Interior will carry out an information campaign, in accessible format, which, in application of the provisions of article 50(1) of Organic Law 5/1985 of 19 June 1985 on the General Electoral

Regime, will be broadcast free of charge on publicly owned media once the electoral process has been convened.

2. Once the application to use the accessible voting procedure has been made, the visually impaired voter will receive a confirmation of receipt, which will enable them to collect the documentation at their designated polling station. The ministerial order referred to in paragraph 1 shall specify the form of this confirmation.

3. The communication referred to in this Article may be made from the day of the convocation of the electoral process until the twenty-seventh day following it.

4. The Administration may at any time require the verification of the personal data of the visually impaired voter who has communicated their intention to use the accessible voting procedure.

5. The use of technologies facilitating the right to vote of visually impaired persons shall be encouraged”.

Second final provision. Amendment of the Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes, approved by Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March 2011.

The Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes, approved by Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March 2011 is amended as follows:

One. Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 are added to Article 3, as follows with the following wording:

“4. When requested, the Area Electoral Boards shall ensure the presence at polling stations of a person who can explain to anyone who needs so, the steps to follow when voting, guaranteeing in all cases the secrecy and freedom of the vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, persons with cognitive difficulties will be permitted to be accompanied by a support person of their choice.

The monitors shall ensure that the explanations of the support persons relate only to the process. A reporting mechanism will be put in place for cases in which persons with cognitive difficulties are coerced.

5. The public authority organising the training will ensure that in the training provided to the representatives of the Administration referred to in Article 98(2) of Organic Law 5/1985 of 19 June 1985 on the General Electoral System includes content on accessibility.

6. Accessible signage of electoral premises shall be ensured to ensure an understanding of the environment and the steps to be followed during the voting process and a cognitively accessible guide shall be drawn up explaining the steps to be followed when voting.”

Two. A new section 3 is added to Article 5, with the following wording:

“3. Easy-to-read language will be used in communications regarding dates, polling stations, electoral premises and voting times, as well as in the Instruction Manuals for the people who make up the Polling Stations.

In addition, accessible voting materials that comply with the easy-to-read guidelines and recommendations in the voting instructions shall be used.”

Three. A new section 3 is added to Article 13, with the following wording:

“3. Political parties must publish their electoral programmes in plain language, at least. They shall also promote the use of visual support systems that enable everyone to understand the proposals put forward by parties and candidates in a visual way. These contents must also be available in an audio or tactile format and with the possibility of using assistive technologies that facilitate understanding and communication.

At the end of the electoral process, the political parties participating in the European Parliament Elections, the General Elections and the Local Elections must submit a report on the accessibility measures implemented to the Central Electoral Board. In the case of Regional Elections, this report shall be submitted to the Electoral Board of the Autonomous Community. The political parties will publish these accessibility reports on their websites.

The obligations set out in this section shall be optional for political parties that only present candidates in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 residents.”

Third final provision. Amendment of Order TMA/851/2021 of 23 July, which develops the technical document on basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for access to and use of urbanised public spaces.

Order TMA/851/2021 of 23 July 2021 is amended as follows:

One. Article 32 of the Annex is amended to read as follows:

“Article 32. *Other elements.*

The design and location of other elements requiring manipulation, installed in pedestrian areas, shall allow access from the accessible pedestrian route.”

Two. Article 47 of the Annex is deleted.

Fourth final provision. *Attribution of powers.*

This royal decree is issued under the exclusive competence of the State to regulate the basic conditions guaranteeing equality in the exercise of rights and in the fulfilment of constitutional duties, in accordance with Article 149(1). Article 1 of the Spanish Constitution.

Fifth final provision. *Powers of development and enforcement.*

The Minister with responsibility for disability affairs is empowered to issue, after consulting the National Disability Council, the regulations for the development and enforcement of the provisions of this royal decree, without prejudice to the powers of the autonomous communities.

Sixth final provision. *Entry into force.*

This royal decree shall enter into force on 2 January 2027.

The Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and 2030 Agenda

Pablo Bustinduy Amador

# REGULATION OF THE BASIC CONDITIONS OF COGNITIVE ACCESSIBILITY

## CHAPTER I

### **General provisions**

#### Article 1. *Purpose.*

The purpose of this Regulation is to develop the basic conditions of cognitive accessibility, their requirements and application, in order to contribute to the exercise of the rights and duties of citizens, as well as to ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination, for all persons and, in particular, for persons with cognitive difficulties.

#### Article 2. *Scope of application.*

1. This regulation shall have effect throughout the Spanish territory in the areas referred to in Article 5 of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion.
2. The conditions of use stipulated in these regulations are understood to be without prejudice to what is established in the rest of the legal system with regard to each area or subject matter.

#### Article 3. *Definitions*

For the purposes of this decree, the following definitions apply:

- a) **Cognitive accessibility:** dimension of universal accessibility oriented to allow easy understanding, communication and interaction for all people. Cognitive accessibility is implemented and made effective through easily readable materials, alternative and augmentative communication systems, pictograms, and other human and technological means available for this purpose.
- b) **Illiteracy:** according to UNESCO, an illiterate person is someone who cannot read or write, cannot understand a simple text, and cannot present in a basic way facts about their daily life. Functional illiteracy is

understood as a situation that occurs in people who, while knowing how to read and write, do not properly understand the rights and obligations derived from a simple contract.

- c) Visual aids: any visual element, such as an image, object or gesture, which represents verbal information and serves to support understanding, communication and interaction.
- d) Cognitive abilities: those related to brain functions, including comprehension, attention, memory, language, orientation, organisation, and planning.
- e) Code for augmentative and alternative communication: code used by the person who uses augmentative and alternative means of communication, representing tangible and intangible elements of reality and used to communicate. These codes include alphabetic codes, codes with photographs, pictograms, natural gestures, personal gestures, signed gestures, combinations of the above, or any other element with a similar purpose for the person.
- f) Augmentative and alternative communication: a means employed by a person with difficulties in oral communication, to express themselves and interact effectively in any environment, with the necessary and appropriate support for their skills, the use of which is shared with their interlocutors, and which enables them to exercise their rights, and participate actively in society. Augmentative communication is considered when the medium used by the person complements and accompanies their oral communication. It is considered alternative communication when the medium used replaces oral communication.
- g) Basic conditions for cognitive accessibility: a systematic, comprehensive and coherent set of demands, requirements, standards, parameters and guidelines considered necessary to ensure the understanding, communication and interaction of all persons, and especially persons with cognitive difficulties, with all environments, products, goods and services, as well as with processes and procedures.
- h) Brain damage: any acquired brain injury to a previously developed brain, regardless of causal origin. Its most frequent consequences are motor, sensory and cognitive deficits, with manifestations varying greatly from person to person, which may include only one or several of these types of deficits.
- i) Cognitive impairment: decline or loss of cognitive functions that can occur in varying degrees, from mild (not considered dementia) to severe.

- j) Dementia: generic term to refer to several diseases, mostly progressive, that affect memory, other cognitive abilities and behaviour, and that significantly interfere with the person's ability to carry out daily activities.
- k) Cognitive difficulties: barriers encountered by a person in understanding, communicating and interacting with other people and their environment due to impairments, health conditions, age or socio-economic causes, such as poverty or illiteracy, or contextual causes, such as lack of language proficiency, which limit the performance of activities or restrict social participation and the exercise of rights and freedoms. Among other conditions, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, brain damage, mental disorder, cognitive impairment, dementia or other intellectual deficiencies are conditions that cause disability and may entail cognitive difficulties.
- l) Design of spatial orientation systems: refers to the design of understandable built and urban environments, resources and systems that enable and facilitate navigation and orientation processes in the environment, with the aim of moving around effectively, efficiently and safely.
- m) High support needs: those situations that require a high or permanent intensity and/or frequency of support to carry out daily living activities and that, consequently, shape the development and well-being of the person who needs them.
- n) Easy-to-read: a method containing a set of guidelines and recommendations relating to the drafting of texts, design, layout and format of publication of documents and the validation of their comprehensibility, aimed at making information accessible to people with reading comprehension difficulties. With the aim of making a text cognitively accessible through easy reading, the guidelines and recommendations identified by the most up-to-date version of standard UNE 153101 can be followed.
- o) Plain language: communication that prioritises readers and considers what they want and need to know; their level of interest, experience and literacy; and the context in which they will use the document. It ensures that readers can find what they need, understand it and use it. In order to make a text cognitively accessible through plain language, the guidelines and recommendations of the most up-to-date version of the UNE-ISO 24495-1 standard may be followed.

- p) Plain language: communication that, whether oral, written or a combination of both, puts people first and considers what they want and need to know, their level of interest, their experience and linguistic competence, as well as the context in which the communication takes place. It ensures that people obtain the information they need, understand it and can use it. For practical purposes, a communication shall be deemed to be conveyed in plain language if it complies with the descriptors corresponding to level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- q) Cerebral palsy: pluridisability caused by an injury to the brain that occurs before the brain has fully developed and matured. The injury causing cerebral palsy can occur before birth, during childbirth, or after birth, up to the age of three years. In most cases, cerebral palsy is linked to significant support needs, whether physical, cognitive, communicational, or a combination of two or more factors.
- r) Pictograms: visual representation of a reference, real or abstract, such as an object, space, action, activity or person. The pictograms, when used as a communication code, must be adapted to the cognitive and linguistic capacities of each user, while the pictograms for the signage must be standardised taking into account the agreed-upon references for their design and the assessment of their comprehensibility and perception, so that they can be used extensively.
- s) Assistive product: device, instrument, equipment or software that optimises a person's functioning and reduces their disability. These may be specially manufactured products or products available on the general market.
- t) Accessible signage: a set of text elements, pictograms, arrows and directional signs designed to inform, identify, guide, direct or regulate the understanding and use of a space. These signage elements must be perceptible and comprehensible to all persons.
- u) Down syndrome: main cause of intellectual disability and the most common human genetic alteration. This chromosomal abnormality is not considered a disease. People with Down syndrome share some common characteristics, but each individual is unique, with a distinct appearance, personality, and abilities.
- v) Autism Spectrum Disorder: A condition of neurobiological origin that affects the configuration of the nervous system and brain function,

leading to difficulties in two areas of evolutionary development: communication and social interaction, and flexibility of thought and behaviour. Occasionally, atypicalities are also experienced in the processing of sensory stimuli.

- w) Mental disorder: a very broad term that encompasses a range of different disorders that cause distress or impairment in some area of functioning, whose symptoms and influence on each person's life depend on the interaction of multiple factors.

#### Article 4. *Principles*

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the principles set out in Article 3 of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion apply.

2. In addition, the following principles shall be taken into account in the application of this standard:

a) Principles of use derived from universal design:

- 1st. Fair use: useful for persons with different abilities by providing identical or equivalent means of use for all persons, ensuring that it is attractive to all people and without compromising non-discrimination, autonomy and safety, as well as without stigmatising.
- 2nd. Flexible use: adaptability of use to different preferences and abilities by offering different options, facilitating easy understanding, communication and interaction for the individual, and adapting access.
- 3rd. Intuitive and simple use: regardless of knowledge, age, previous experience, language skills or concentration levels, the design will be easy to understand by organising the information according to its relevance, giving warnings and comments, establishing usage guides and guidelines for use or help and allowing the person to use it autonomously.
- 4th. Perceptible information: the design facilitates sensory access, presenting the information in different formats, optimising contrast, readability, differentiation between fundamental and secondary information and in a manner compatible with assistive products.
- 5th. Tolerance to error: the consequences of unintentional errors in use should be reduced by providing warnings, drawing the attention of the person when there is a danger or risk and making the most

used things accessible and the most unsafe things less accessible.

- 6th. Effort reduction: it is used with minimum of mental and physical fatigue allowing natural and ergonomic use.
  - 7th. Control of sensory stimuli: it allows the personalisation of the incidence of sensory stimuli, such as light, sound or movement, or provides information about environmental conditions so that users can use their own assistive resources.
  - 8th. Size and space for access and use: Adequate size and space are provided for access, reach, handling, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.
- b) Guidance: in the field of cognitive accessibility, orientation is understood as a guide that facilitates the establishment of guidelines for action and the possibility of tracking what has been done in order to be able to repeat it or identify possible errors. Cognitive accessibility allows for effective, efficient and safe orientation, in space or in the use of products and services, guaranteeing the autonomy of people and not making them dependent on other people.
  - c) Safety: fundamental principle on which cognitive accessibility is based and one of its basic operational pillars. It is articulated as a dual-action mechanism that guarantees, on the one hand, physical security and, on the other hand, security in terms of the actions and steps that are taken. In the context of cognitive accessibility, physical safety means that any person can understand the safety measures that exist in locations or in the use of goods and services. In terms of actions, safety is a process that, by ensuring understanding, allows people to be aware of their decisions and the actions they are taking, promoting control over the steps they follow and avoiding hostile environments.
  - d) Diversity of needs: the measures implemented must cover all the cognitive accessibility needs of people with cognitive difficulties.
  - e) Autonomy: the cognitive accessibility measures implemented will make it easier for intended users to control, cope with and make, on their own initiative, personal choices about how to live in accordance with their own norms and preferences, as well as to carry out daily life activities.
  - f) Adaptation: the measures implemented must include the possibility of adaptation and adjustments in the communication, understanding and interaction of people with environments, products, goods and services, as well as in processes and procedures, promoting cognitive accessibility that ensures the full enjoyment of rights.
  - g) Validation: the measures contained herein shall, where possible, be subject to processes of participation, verification and monitoring of their implementation and operation by specialised teams in which persons with cognitive difficulties participate.

Article 5. *General information and communication requirements.*

1. Cognitively accessible information must meet the following requirements:
  - a) Have easily understandable content, provided in written visual format, pictographic visual format, sound format, by means of visual or tactile supports or through accessible information and communication technologies. Within the framework of information relating to the safety and protection of the physical integrity and health of persons, as well as in the prevention, warning and monitoring of situations considered to be emergencies, this information must be easily and rapidly perceptible and identifiable by all persons regardless of their cognitive capacities.
  - b) To be provided at no additional cost, even in cases where it relies on technological tools, applications or virtual assistants.
  - c) The request to adapt the information to make it cognitively accessible cannot entail undue delay in the provision of the information, especially in cases where the person is requesting the exercise of a right, urgent activities or services, claims and complaints or situations of danger or emergency.
  
2. In cases where, according to this royal decree, easy reading or clear language does not constitute an obligation, the information must be provided at least in plain language.

Article 6. *Penalties.*

Actions and omissions that involve a violation of the conditions of cognitive accessibility provided for in this royal decree and are typified in Title III of the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of said Law.

CHAPTER II  
**Applicable Technical Standards**

Article 7. *Telecommunications and Information Society.*

1. Public Administrations and private providers that frame their activity in the field of telecommunications and Information Society, including advertising activities, must implement sufficient measures for the full guarantee and enjoyment of cognitive accessibility.

2. Cognitive accessibility measures shall consist of applying the principles contained in Article 4 and the requirements of Article 5 to the following content:

- a) Textual and non-textual content.
- b) Documents and forms.
- c) Multimedia content.
- d) The systems and mechanisms of interaction and, in particular, the forms of provision of consent, identification processes, authentication, signature and payment and all types of forms or digital tools linked to the contracting, acceptance of conditions or assimilation of conditions.

This obligation will be enforceable for the elements that make up the substantial part of the service.

3. When the aforementioned services are provided through a website or mobile application, compliance with the criteria of the most up-to-date version of the UNE-EN 301549 standard must be guaranteed.

4. The means and channels of customer service shall take into account the diversity of accessible modes, means and formats of communication and, in particular, augmentative and alternative communication.

5. The use of other cognitive accessibility elements will be promoted for common aspects such as profiles, help, financial data, invoices, payment gateways, contact forms, and complaints, among others.

#### *Article 8. Urbanised public spaces, infrastructure and buildings.*

1. With regard to urbanised public spaces, the provisions of Article 41 of Order TMA/851/2021, of 23 July, shall apply within its scope of application. With regard to buildings, the provisions of the Technical Building Code approved by Royal Decree 314/2006 of 17 March 2006, shall apply within its scope of application.

2. The competent Public Authorities may regulate the inclusion of cognitive accessibility measures in their urban planning policies. To this end, in addition to the principles and requirements provided for in Articles 4 and 5.1 respectively, the following criteria shall be taken into account:

- a) Ambulation: refers to physical accessibility and the need to understand which path or elements of the facility are adapted to the person.

- b) Apprehension: refers to the possibility of grasping, grabbing and reaching the manual, visual and auditory elements that allow the use of the facility.
- c) Location: the ability of persons to determine where they are and to know how to get to where they want to go.
- d) Communication: refers to all the processes of issuing, exchanging and receiving information regardless of the channel through which it is carried out. It covers everything related to signage in terms of safety, customer service and use of the facilities.
- e) Gender equality: in the use of pictograms and signage, the images, signs and symbols used must treat both genders equally.
- f) Placement and design: the configuration and location of cognitive accessibility elements shall ensure their effectiveness, incorporating, where possible, standardised indications.
- g) Symbology: the symbology used should be inspired by basic graphic concepts that can be easily interpreted and quickly oriented and locate in a given space. Internationally recognised symbols shall be used and, where these do not exist, those that comply with recognised standards shall be used.
- h) Tactile resources: will be used in a prominent way in areas of special consideration and use by people in need of these resources.
- i) Control of sensory stimuli: designs will be promoted that allow the personalisation of the incidence of sensory stimuli, such as light, sound or movement or anticipate information about environmental conditions so that users can use their own assistive resources. Such stimuli shall be avoided, as far as possible, when it comes to carrying out the activities of daily life that shape the development and well-being of any person.
- j) Accompaniment: Free access will be guaranteed to personal assistants and other support persons for those persons with disabilities who require them in order to make use of the services provided in these spaces.

3. Within the framework of Order TMA/851/2021 of 23 July, the accessibility conditions contained in this article shall apply to newly constructed urbanised public spaces. In those that already exist, they will be enforceable in the event of renewal.

For its part, within the scope of application of the Technical Building Code, cognitive accessibility conditions will be required in new buildings, major interventions on existing buildings, and other interventions on existing buildings only in those elements that are affected by the intervention.

## Article 9. *Transport.*

1. Signs and notices on access to and use of modes of transport must comply with the principles regulated in Article 4 and the requirements contained in Article 5, as well as the regulation established in Royal Decree 1544/2007 of 23 November 2007 regulating the basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for access to and use of modes of transport for persons with disabilities.
2. In addition, the following obligations are established:
  - a) Stations, stops, routes and vehicles, as well as signs for entrances, arrivals, exits and routes, must be easy to use, intuitive and easy to understand.
  - b) The necessary measures will be implemented to facilitate spatial orientation in accordance with the following criteria:
    - 1st. Attention to cognitive accessibility, using signage, in written, audio or tactile formats on means of transport.
    - 2nd. Attention to sensory needs in relation to lighting, acoustics and appropriate ventilation.
  - c) Offices and information services located in transport infrastructure shall provide augmentative and alternative communication systems to users who require them.
  - d) Access and travel for the accompanying or support person, in the exercise of these functions, when a percentage of intellectual disability equal to or greater than 33 per cent is accredited and the need for assistance from a third person is demonstrated by means of the certificate referred to in section 1 of the first additional provision of Royal Decree 888/2022 of 18 October 2022 establishing the procedure for the recognition, declaration and qualification of the degree of disability, shall be free of charge.
3. In the field of air transport, the obligations contained in this article shall apply only to aspects not regulated by specific European Union legislation, and to the extent that they are compatible with it.

## Article 10. *Goods and services available to the public.*

1. The provisions of this Article are without prejudice to the obligations provided for in Royal Decree 193/2023 of 21 March 2023 regulating the

basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities for the access and use of goods and services available to the public, in Law 11/2023 of 8 May 2023 transposing European Union Directives on accessibility of certain products and services, migration of highly qualified persons, taxation and digitalisation of notarial and registration actions, and amending Law 12/2011 of 27 May 2011 on civil liability for nuclear damage or damage caused by radioactive materials, and in Royal Decree XX/XXX of XXX regulating the accessible labelling of consumer products. Goods and services falling within the scope of this regulation shall apply the principles contained in Article 4 as well as the requirements of Article 5. In addition, for the aforementioned goods and services, the following obligations are established:

- a) The dissemination of information on all services offered will be promoted, in cognitively accessible formats and media, both for information of a general nature and information specifically aimed at people with cognitive difficulties.
  - b) Augmentative and alternative forms of communication and cognitively accessible means of communication shall be enabled so that no person is excluded or hindered from regular access to these services.
  - c) Mechanical and electronic devices, assistive products and assistive technologies, as well as, where appropriate, sufficiently trained and qualified personnel, shall be made available to enable persons with cognitive difficulties to access goods and services on an equal basis with other citizens and to receive appropriate care. It should be noted that the support offered must be adapted if cognitive difficulties are accompanied by other types of physical or sensory difficulties.
2. To ensure cognitive accessibility in the use of goods and services, the following obligations are established:
- a) Transparency and clarity in commercial information: suppliers of goods and services shall provide the consumer with basic information in plain language and, where possible, with other visual supports.
  - b) Guarantee that a complaint form is available in an easy-to-read format.
3. Issues relating to procurement, consent and instructions for use and consumption shall be conveyed in plain language.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 1, in relation to goods and services of a health-related nature and those promoting and protecting health, including those related to sexual and reproductive health, understood as those made available to the public in the facilities, premises and other physical spaces dedicated to health services and the promotion and protection of health in the health centres or establishments listed in Royal Decree 1277/2003 of 10 October 2003 which establishes the general bases for the authorisation of health centres, services and establishments, as well as in veterinary centres, the following obligations are established, which, in all cases, shall comply with the principles and requirements regulated in Articles 4 and 5, respectively:
  - a) Staff at the centres where these goods and services are provided will ask the person if they would like the information to be provided in an accessible or adapted format, and it will be up to the person concerned to choose what type of adaptation they require. This obligation refers to both possible medical treatments and interventions and medications.
  - b) Health centres and veterinary centres shall enable the use of augmentative and alternative systems and other cognitively accessible means of communication support to ensure that people can make full and appropriate use of the facilities, goods and services according to their needs.
  - c) In the emergency health and veterinary services, the person's interaction shall be facilitated through their usual means of augmentative and alternative communication, in addition to having cognitively accessible means of communication support so that the person can communicate and identify their problem or need.
  - d) These centres shall always be able to be accessed by the person with cognitive difficulties, accompanied by a person they trust, for any type of consultation, assessment, examination or treatment.
  - e) When professionals in these services identify a risk of gender-based violence, sexual assault or any type of threat or danger with respect to the accompanying person, the centre will take the appropriate actions, guaranteeing the provision of the service by other means and without prejudice to the application of the corresponding action protocols.
5. The annual reports published by consumer and user associations shall include an assessment of compliance with obligations on the cognitive accessibility of goods and services, which shall be publicly available.

Article 11. *Relations with Public Administrations.*

1. The provisions of this article, as well as the provisions of Royal Decree 366/2007 of 16 March 2007 which establishes the conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in their relations with the General State Administration, shall apply the principles regulated in Article 4 as well as the requirements referred to in Article 5.
2. In order to ensure cognitive accessibility in relations between the Public Administrations and citizens and irrespective of the channel through which they occur, the following obligations are established:
  - a) The documentation shall be provided in a clear and simple manner. This will mean that forms and applications, as well as guides on for completing procedures, will be available in easy-to-read format.
  - b) The use of auditory and/or visual supports to comprehension, communication and interaction in different areas:
    - 1st. User guides for public sector websites and applications.
    - 2nd. Instructions for following procedures.
    - 3rd. Completion of forms and identification of the administration to which the application should be addressed.
  - c) Facilitating communication through the use of cognitively accessible communication options. In the digital environment, it can be implemented with live chat or artificial intelligence that guides the process in writing, by voice, and through visual aids.
  - d) Training and capacity-building in cognitive accessibility for staff in Public Administrations to provide face-to-face assistance in procedures that ensure the understanding, communication and interaction of persons with cognitive difficulties.
  - e) The procedures of the Public Administrations to be carried out electronically shall be designed in a cognitively accessible manner so that they can be carried out by anyone, and must comply with the accessibility guidelines laid down in Royal Decree 1112/2018 of 7 September 2018 on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications in the public sector.
3. The Public Administrations will promote complementary actions in the field of cognitive accessibility, which may consist of:
  - a) The unification of the interface of administrative websites, without prejudice to them maintaining their distinctive features, where necessary.

- b) The development of cognitively accessible administrative procedure guides that enable users to quickly identify the procedures available in all administrations. These guides shall include an accessible search system that makes it easier to find the information in a clear and comprehensible manner.
  - c) The translation into accessible formats of documents and standards related to the rights of persons with disabilities.
4. At any time, persons who can prove a disability rating of 33 percent or higher and an intellectual disability by means of the certificate referred to in section 1 of the first additional provision of Royal Decree 888/2022 of 18 October 2022 or, where applicable, the person chosen by the interested party who meets these requirements to represent them, may request that the procedure, in the remaining phases from that moment onwards, be carried out with the necessary cognitive accessibility measures to guarantee the full exercise of their rights. To this end, at least the following shall be ensured:
- a) All oral or written communications with people with cognitive difficulties will be made in simple and cognitively accessible language, taking into account their personal characteristics and their needs, being able to make use of means such as easy reading or clear language and enabling the use of augmentative and alternative communication, professional assistance and other cognitively accessible means of communication support.
  - b) The person with cognitive difficulties may be accompanied by a person of their choice from the first contact with the authorities and the civil service.
5. Information relating to calls for public employment, both open access and internal promotion, and in particular those that include places reserved for persons with intellectual disabilities, shall be communicated in an easy-to-read version. When requested, the syllabuses, provided that the convening administration makes them available to candidates, the tests, practical assessments and examinations shall also be available in a cognitively accessible version.

*Article 12. Administration of Justice.*

- 1. With regard to the Administration of Justice, universal accessibility and the provision of the supports provided for in the third paragraph of Article 27(1) of Royal Decree 193/2023 of 21 March 2023 and in Article 9 of Organic Law 5/2024 of 11 November 2024 on the Right of Defence shall be guaranteed.

2. Cognitive accessibility in the administration of justice must guarantee the right to justice and a fair trial for all persons, with special attention to persons with cognitive difficulties.
3. All judicial decisions and communications, regardless of the legal form they adopt, must be drafted and presented in an understandable format, in accordance with the principles and requirements regulated in these Regulations, when requested by the party with cognitive difficulties.”
4. Persons with cognitive difficulties may be accompanied by expert professional personnel who, acting as procedural facilitators, will carry out the necessary adaptation and adjustment tasks so that the person concerned can understand and be understood.
5. The Judicial Offices of the Courts of First Instance and the professional associations of lawyers and solicitors must have trained personnel to provide assistance, support and care to persons with cognitive difficulties who request it, whether to make applications for free legal assistance, to file complaints or to submit initiating or procedural writings in which legal assistance is not necessary.

*Article 13. Participation in public life and electoral processes.*

1. As regards electoral processes, the provisions of Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March 2011 approving the Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes shall apply.
2. In the procedures for drafting regulations, documents relating to prior public consultation and public hearing and information procedures shall include a version in plain language and in an alternative format to writing, such as audio, visual aids and the use of accessible information and communication technologies. The publication of these documents in easy-to-read format will be promoted whenever possible.

*Article 14. Cultural heritage and historical heritage.*

1. The provisions of this article shall apply without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 23(4) and 23(5) of Royal Decree 193/2023, of 21 March 2023, on the assets constituting the Spanish Historical Heritage.
2. The brochures and information panels of museums, libraries, archives, auditoriums, theatres, projection rooms of the Spanish Filmoteca, exhibition rooms and, in general, all cultural centres and services available to the public which are owned and managed by the General

State Administration or the Autonomous Communities, as well as by their related or affiliated public bodies, shall be available in easy-to-read formats. Every effort will be made to ensure that all information is available in plain language. It will also be available in an alternative format to the written version as an audio version adapted for easy reading, through other visual aids or through accessible information and communication technologies.

3. In these spaces all signage related to safety, monitoring and order of visits for understanding and orientation in the enclave shall be accessible, applying the principles and requirements set out in Articles 4 and 5 and using simple, clear and understandable formats. For this purpose, pictograms, symbols or any graphic element that allows different parts of the exhibition to be distinguished will be used. Information shall be provided in advance regarding environmental conditions and the possibility of personalisation and control of sensory stimuli.
4. The annual report referred to in Article 3(d) of Royal Decree 1709/2011 of 18 November 2011, which establishes and regulates the Forum for Inclusive Culture shall include a specific section on compliance with the cognitive accessibility requirements contained in this Royal Decree.

#### Article 15. *Employment.*

1. The obligations contained in this article shall apply when workers prove a percentage of disability equal to or greater than 33 percent and an intellectual disability by means of the certificate referred to in paragraph 1 of the first additional provision of Royal Decree 888/2022 of 18 October 2022.
2. Training promoted by companies and public administrations for their workers, whenever requested, and irrespective of funding, shall be carried out in accordance with cognitive accessibility recommendations, providing easy-to-read documentation and alternative formats to written text, such as audio of the easy-to-read format, visual support or accessible information and communication technologies. The documentation used during the training in occupational risk prevention, as well as that used in the training on action guidelines and protocols for cases of emergency, shall be drawn up in clear language and shall have an easy-to-read version, incorporating, where possible, visual supports.

3. In personnel selection procedures, the offers, conditions and requirements shall be published in an accessible manner and, in any case, in plain language. Furthermore, having met the qualification and experience specifications required for the position, and in order to make them cognitively accessible, any candidate may, free of charge, request an adaptation to the conduct of the job interview without this being grounds for exclusion from the selective process.
4. The timekeeping and authentication systems on the business website must comply with the following accessibility parameters:
  - a) Allow access that does not require the person to remember a password, as well as the possibility for the person to choose the access alternative that best suits their cognitive abilities.
  - b) The establishment of double verification systems for sending information.
  - c) Ensure the possibility of remote assistance and indication and monitoring of the steps performed on the platform.
5. Workers will be encouraged to use their usual means of augmentative and alternative communication. They may also request adaptation of documents necessary for the tasks assigned and for the meetings in which they participate. The company shall be obliged to make such adaptation unless there is a duly justified reason, which must be communicated in writing and in a cognitively accessible manner. Any change of task or communication of information relevant to the fulfilment of the objectives shall be communicated at least in writing, and also conveyed orally if required by the person concerned.
6. Companies and Public Administrations shall have the obligation to implement and provide support systems and reasonable accommodation in relation to working hours, allocated times and workload and the possibility of using assistive technologies on request and with the involvement of the worker concerned. These assistive systems will be reviewed periodically.
7. Trade unions will develop good practice manuals that will be in the public domain to ensure knowledge transfer and better dissemination of cognitive accessibility measures in the field of labour relations. To the extent possible, these manuals shall be drafted using plain language.
8. Private entities and contracting public administrations shall promote the development of easy-to-read guides and manuals, as well as the appointment of a person to provide support to the worker during their

induction and adaptation to the job, with the possibility of collaborating with social organisations for this purpose.

### CHAPTER III

#### **Promotion of Cognitive Accessibility**

##### *Article 16. Rural Environment.*

The public authorities shall pay particular attention to persons with cognitive difficulties in rural areas, seeking to ensure sufficient budgetary resources within the scope of their competences for the implementation, in this environment, of the measures contained in this royal decree.

##### *Article 17. Women and girls.*

The public authorities shall pay increased attention to women and girls with cognitive difficulties, in order to mitigate the intersectional impact on the basis of gender, promoting sufficient budgetary allocation within the scope of their competences for the implementation of the measures contained in this royal decree aimed at women and girls.

##### *Article 18. State Aid.*

Public administrations may establish, within the scope of their competences and depending on their budgetary availability, aid schemes that may consist of grants, incentives or any other form of support conducive to compliance with cognitive accessibility duties by natural or legal persons bound by this regulation.

##### *Article 19. Information activities, awareness campaigns, and training initiatives.*

Public administrations, within the scope of their competences, shall develop information activities, awareness-raising campaigns and training actions and any other activities that may be necessary to promote cognitive accessibility and to raise awareness of the large number of people benefiting from its implementation. To carry out these activities, Public Administrations may seek advice from the Spanish Centre for Cognitive Accessibility (CEAGOG) and other advisory centres belonging to the Royal Board on Disability.

##### *Article 20. Promotion of codes of conduct and good practices.*

The Public Administrations, within the scope of their competences, will promote and facilitate the adoption of codes of conduct and good practices, of a generic or sectoral nature, which aim to regulate conditions of cognitive accessibility in the matters regulated in this royal decree.

These codes of conduct and good practices shall be drawn up by agreement between the most representative trade union organisations and the representative organisations of persons with cognitive support needs or cognitive difficulties and their families.

*Article 21. Promotion of research, development and innovation.*

Within the scope of their powers, the General State Administration and its related or dependent Public Law bodies and entities, with the advice, where appropriate, of the Spanish Centre for Cognitive Accessibility and the other advisory centres of the Royal Board on Disability, shall promote research, development and innovation projects in the field of cognitive accessibility, resorting, whenever possible, to public-private partnerships.

Interdisciplinary research networks and collaborative environments will also be promoted, enabling the creation of innovative solutions at the European and international levels, encouraging the participation of people with cognitive difficulties in these networks.