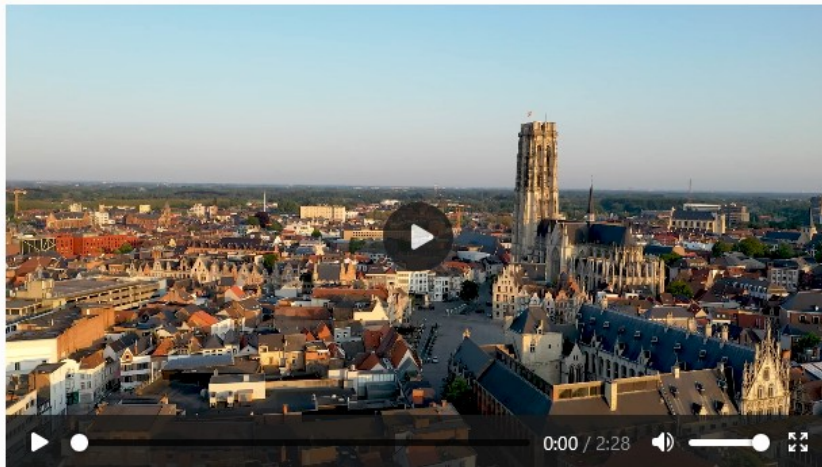


19th AAATE Conference
Assistive Technology creating Impact: connecting People, Research, Practice and Policy
Mechelen (BE), 6-10 September 2027

Call For Papers

The 19th international Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe (AAATE) will take place at [Thomas More University of Applied Sciences](#) in **Mechelen** from **September 8 to 10, 2027**, with 2 preconference days on Sept 6 and 7.

More information will be provided on this website in the next months. In between you can check out the [previous AAATE conferences](#).



The Venue

AAATE2027 will take place at Campus De Vest, a new campus opened by Thomas More in 2025 in the heart of the city of Mechelen. The campus sits along the scenic **Dijle River**, offering a spacious outdoor terrace with water views — a favourite spot for students and visitors to relax or enjoy a meal. Unless they prefer our green roof garden.

Campus De Vest is situated near Mechelen's city centre and close to the railway station, providing easy access for international visitors.



Partners



OVERVIEW

AAATE is looking forward to welcoming you on September 8-10, 2027 in Mechelen, Belgium, for the 19th biennial AAATE 2027 Conference. The conference is one of Europe's leading forums to exchange knowledge, research, innovation, policy, and practice in Assistive Technology (AT) and Accessibility.

Every two years, the conference brings together researchers, experts, practitioners, AT users, educators, policymakers, service providers, manufacturers, and industry representatives from across the world. The conference provides a unique platform to share knowledge, discuss emerging developments, build collaborations, and explore solutions that promote inclusion, participation, independence, and quality of life through technology.

We welcome contributions addressing all stages of the assistive technology and accessibility value chain, including: Research, Design & Development, Production & Distribution, Service Delivery, Education & Training, and Use & Impact.

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Broad conference **themes** include but are not limited to:

- AT for cognitive, sensory and motor disabilities
- Emerging and innovative AT products and solutions
- AT and education, employment, and leisure/sports
- AT, smart environments, home automation and IoT
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Inclusive gaming
- Accessibility across all domains and sectors
- Universal design of products and services
- Artificial Intelligence and disability
- Mobility and seating solutions
- Ageing and technology
- AT service delivery systems, practices, quality and outcomes
- Robotic AT
- AT, digital health, and innovation in care
- AT in low- and middle-income countries
- AT in emergency settings and humanitarian crisis
- Policy related to AT and services
- Global challenges in access to AT
- AT education
- Digital skills for all
- AT and wider social challenges (e.g. gender, environment, conflict,...)



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CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The conference offers two main strands of contributions:

Research Strand

Presentation of scientific papers showcasing research outcomes, as well as conceptual and theoretical perspectives in all disciplinary areas in the field of assistive technology and accessibility.

Inclusion Forum

- **Policy Sessions:** presenting and discussing a wide range of issues in the broader context of AT and accessibility, in relation to policy and decision-making in all disciplinary areas and across sectors
- **Educational Sessions:** sharing and acquisition of knowledge and skills, development of learning experiences, delivering short workshops, and sharing of educational content
- **Innovation Area:** showcasing new products, prototypes, technologies or service innovations

IMPORTANT DATES

(all deadlines are 11.59pm CET)

- September 30th – December 31st 2026: **Special Thematic Sessions (STSs) submission period.** This is a rolling process. STSs notification of acceptance and announcement on the conference website: 2 weeks after STS submission
- January 31st 2027: Deadline for all **Research Strand contributions**
- March 16th 2027: Research Strand notification of acceptance following peer review
- January 1st 2027 - May 16th 2027: **Inclusion Forum contributions submission period.** This is a rolling process. Notification of acceptance will be provided during the process.
- May 16th 2027: Deadline for submission of camera ready for all Research Strand contributions and presenters' registration
- June 1st 2027: Preliminary Programme announcement
- June 15th 2027: Early bird registration deadline
- July 15th 2027: Conference final programme announcement
- September 6th-7th 2027: Pre-conference events
- September 8th-10th: Conference

REGISTRATION

- Before May 16th, 2027: at least one author per accepted Research Strand contribution must complete registration.
- June 15th, 2027: early registration ends for all participants.
- After June 15th, 2027: regular fee registration.



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SUBMISSIONS

Special Thematic Sessions

A Special Thematic Session (STS) includes a set of individual contributions (minimum 4, maximum 8) focusing on a specific topic or centred around the work of a national or international project. STSs are aimed at providing highly relevant discussions on innovative or emerging topics in the AT field.

Proposers of a STS should submit their proposal, using the STS proposal template*, to conference@aaate.net by 31st of December 2026.

After the approval of the STS, each corresponding individual contribution will need to be submitted following the Research Strand submissions guidelines below. These will be blind-reviewed following the same review process as the individual scientific contributions that will be presented at the conference. During the submission process, it will be possible for authors to indicate the appropriate STS.

Please note that all submissions related to a STS will be assigned to the STS chair as meta-reviewer (the role of meta reviewers is to check the different reviews, ensure they have been provided by reviewers in time, and propose a decision to the Programme Committee).

In case the minimum number of individual contributions is not reached, the Programme Committee may either assign additional thematically relevant contributions to the session, or cancel it and distribute the submitted contributions to other sessions.

STS proposers will chair the Sessions. The Conference registration fee will not be waived for STS speakers or chairs.

Research Strand

Initial submissions to the Research Strand must be submitted as extended abstracts of 2-3 pages using the official conference template* for Research contributions.

Submissions exceeding the required length or submitted in a different template will be desk rejected and not reviewed.

Submissions will be uploaded on the conference content management system:
<https://www.conftool.org/aaate2027/>.

During submission, the author(s) must indicate their preferred publication route: a Short Paper (the extended abstract (2-3 pages) revised following the review) or a Full Paper (8-10 pages, extending the reviewed abstract) - see publications options below. Additionally, authors will have the possibility to indicate a preferred STS. It is, however, noted that the final decision about the programme will be made by the Programme Committee.

All submissions of the research strand will be blind-reviewed by at least two experts of the Scientific Committee.

Inclusion Forum

Inclusion forum contributions will be submitted using a specific template which differs according to the type of contribution. Acceptance of Inclusion Forum contributions is subject to programme capacity, and will be considered on a first come, first served basis, between January 1st and May 16th, 2027.

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You may download the corresponding templates from the conference website* and submit your contribution **by email to the following addresses:**

- **Policy Session:** policy@aaate.net
- **Educational Session:** education@aaate.net
- **Innovation Area:** innovation@aaate.net

Submissions not provided on the correct template will be desk rejected.

All inclusion forum contributions will be reviewed and finally approved by the Programme Committee on a rolling basis. Approved submissions will be included in the programme following the registration of the promoter.

Templates

All templates can be downloaded on the conference website: <https://aaate2027.eu> (check the “Contribute” menu item).

PRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATION OPTIONS

Presentations on the day of the conference

- Each accepted **Research Strand Contribution** will be presented in an oral session (approximately 10 min + 3 min for Q&A).
- Each accepted **Policy and Educational Session** will be assigned a time slot in the programme of 60 or 90 minutes.
- Each accepted **Innovation Area Contribution** will be assigned a timeslot of 25 minutes.

Publications in Conference Proceedings Volumes

Research Strand

There are two possible options for publication of the accepted Research Strand contributions.

- **Short Papers Collection from the AAATE 2027 Conference (AAATE self-publication)**
Short paper publications of 2-3 pages following the camera-ready short paper template that will be provided on the conference website.
- **Proceedings of the conference by Springer in Springer's Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS)**
Full papers of 8-10 pages (LNCS format, including figures and references) following the camera-ready full paper template and instructions that will be provided on the conference website.
*NB: For more information about LNCS series : <https://link.springer.com/series/558>
LNCS series are indexed by: Web of Science (CPCI-S), Scopus, EI Compendex, ACM Digital Library, DBLP, Google Scholar, MathSciNet, Zentralblatt MATH and IO-Port.*

IMPORTANT: During submission for review, authors should indicate which type of publication they are interested in for their final paper.

Inclusion forum

Contributions to the inclusion forum will be published on the conference website, after final approval.



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Book of Abstracts

For all contributions, a book of abstracts (150-200 words each) will be published for complete documentation and to support conference navigation.

Special Issue of the journal *Technology and Disability*

As an **additional publication opportunity**, the Program Committee will invite the best research-strand papers presented at the conference to submit a journal version of the work to be published in a Special Issue of the journal *Technology and Disability*. These will go through the journal's review process once submitted through the SAGE system.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Become a collaborating organisation/consortium, allowing your members and affiliates to have access to a reduced fee. Check the conference website <https://aaate2027.eu> for more information.

Become a sponsor, creating visibility for your company and offering discounts to your business partners. Please contact hoogerwerf@aaate.net to discuss options.

Become a partner organisation by contributing "in kind". Please contact hoogerwerf@aaate.net to discuss options.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND THE AAATE 2027 IN BELGIUM?

Share and Contribute

Present your work to an international audience and contribute to advancing assistive technology and accessibility across Europe and beyond. Share your expertise, learn from others, and help shape future developments in the field. Join us in empowering the participation of all through the use of technology and the right of every person to access appropriate, affordable and accessible assistive and mainstream technologies.

Network, Collaborate & Learn

None of us knows everything! Together, we can remove barriers, provide opportunities, and unlock each person's potential! The assistive technology field thrives on interdisciplinary collaboration: we interact for equal opportunities and participation for now and the future. Join the conference to keep the community growing!

Accessible and Convenient Location

Mechelen is easy to reach. Belgium is located in the heart of Europe and from Brussels Airport it takes only 11 minutes to reach Mechelen by train. Conference venues, accommodation and city attractions are within easy walking distance. Detailed accommodation options, negotiated rates, and booking information will be published on the conference website.

Enjoy

Take time to discover the rich cultural heritage of Mechelen while enjoying Belgian hospitality, historic architecture, vibrant public spaces and renowned cuisine. The conference combines academic excellence with a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere.

Conference Address and Weather Forecast

Thomas More, Campus De Vest, Zandpoortvest 60, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium

September typically offers mild and pleasant weather, with average daytime temperatures above 20°C.