1. Background
In December 2009, the Commission launched an EU Stakeholder Dialogue on access to works by people with print disabilities, with representatives from different stakeholder categories (persons with print disabilities, publishers, authors, Reproduction Rights Organisations (“RROs”)) in order to find pragmatic solutions to facilitate the cross-border transfer of works in accessible formats for the print impaired persons in the EU.

The EU Stakeholder Dialogue led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on access to works by people with print disabilities (MoU), witnessed by Commissioner Michel Barnier on 14 September 2010.

2. Memorandum of Understanding on access to works by people with print disabilities
The MoU aims to increase access to works for people with print disabilities, by:

- Establishing a network of "Trusted Intermediaries" (TIs) for the exchange of accessible versions made under copyright exceptions or under licences. TIs will generally be organisations which cater to the needs of the print impaired in each EU Member State, the European Economic Area and/or Switzerland, including creating accessible versions of books and maintaining libraries.
- Recommending a specific model of a Licence/Agreement by which publishers and authors can authorise the cross-border transfer of accessible versions. The purpose for which the accessible versions will be used must be strictly non-commercial.
- Enabling TIs to exchange accessible versions between each other and to supply licensed copies made by the TIs itself to persons with a print impairment based in one of the EU Member States, the European Economic Area and/or Switzerland. It is the responsibility of the TI which delivers the accessible copy to the end-user to ensure that works go to individuals certified as persons with a print impairment, based on an appropriate end-user agreement.

3. The “European Network of Trusted Intermediaries” (ETIN)
The stakeholders, with the support of the European Commission, are working on the practical implementation of the commitments set out in the MoU. For this purpose, the parties established the "European Network of Trusted Intermediaries" (ETIN). This is a stakeholder-based network representing both TIs and right holders. It aims to have pan-European coverage.

---

1 An electronic copy of the Memorandum of Understanding, signed by representatives of rightholders and print impaired persons (Federation of European Publishers; European Blind Union; European Writers Council; European Dyslexia Association; International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers; and IFRRO), is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/docs/copyright-infso/2010/20100914_mou_en.pdf.
The ETIN has agreed a model Licence/Agreement for the cross-border transmission of accessible copies of works. This model Licence/Agreement is put forward as a basis for arrangements between potential TIs and rightholders at national level. The ETIN has also agreed on terms for the mutual recognition of TIs within the ETIN. The ETIN serves as a contact point and advisory and consultation centre for the cross-border transmission and supply of accessible copies of works.

4. The ETIN Board
In addition to the ETIN network, an ETIN Board has been established to govern the project. The ETIN Board functions on the basis of the “ETIN Board By-Laws”, which have been approved by all stakeholders involved in ETIN in November 2012. The ETIN Board By-Laws are available, inter alia, on the ETIN web page of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/initiatives/access/index_en.htm.

The ETIN Board is composed of six organisations, three representing authors, publishers and RROs, and three representing TIs. Its Co-Chairs are Ms. Myriam Diocaretz (EWC), representing authors, and Mr. Koen Krikhaar (Dedicon), representing TIs. Mr. Rainer Just (VG Wort), the IFRRO President, is the IFRRO/RRO representative on the ETIN Board. The European Commission is invited to attend the Board meetings as observer and facilitator.

An important task of the ETIN Board is to formally recognise a TI as an ETIN member and thereby allowing it to participate in the cross-border lending activities of the other ETIN members. The recognition by the Board, together with the signature of the Licence/Agreement at a national level, will enable TIs to transmit/supply accessible versions across borders.

5. Accreditation of Trusted Intermediaries
The default level for the accreditation of TIs is at national level. This means that agreements should be sought and reached at this level between rightholders and candidate organisations. Indeed, the Licence/Agreement is designed to cater to different national contexts, both legislative and organisational. There can be more than one TI per Member State.

6. Recognition by ETIN
The ETIN Board will work on the basis of the recognition of national TIs, which will primarily be achieved by means of the signature of the model Licence/Agreement between rightholders and candidate organisations at national level. A pro forma recognition will take place at ETIN level and is needed in order to enable TIs to transmit/supply accessible versions across borders.

7. Relationship with TIGAR
The ETIN considers that TIGAR and ETIN are complementary projects that can continue progress in parallel. Both systems pursue the same aim of increasing the cross-border transfer of works in accessible versions. Indeed, since accreditation within the ETIN is essentially done at national level, the ETIN considers that there are likely to be considerable synergies between ETIN and TIGAR, and is committed to exploring these going forward.
8. ETIN documents available
The (i) ETIN Licence/Agreement, the (ii) ETIN Accreditation, the (iii) ETIN By-laws, and an (iv) ETIN – TIGAR Information note are available on the European Commission’s website.

9. IFRRO aid-kit available to help RROs to assist authors and publishers
RROs are encouraged to respond positively to requests from authors and publishers to assist them in providing the beneficiaries with access to their works. To this end, IFRRO has developed the following documents, approved by the IFRRO Board: (i) a Mandate for Alternate Format Licensing, (ii) an Accessible Copies Licence, (iii) an Annex to Agreements between RROs, and (iv) a Template for Seeking an Accessible Copies Licence. All these documents are available on IFRRO’s website.

10. More information and contact details
For more information about ETIN, please visit the following websites:

- [http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/initiatives/access/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/initiatives/access/index_en.htm) (European Commission website)
- [http://www.ifrro.org/content/access-persons-print-disabilities](http://www.ifrro.org/content/access-persons-print-disabilities) (IFRRO website)

If you have any questions, please contact the IFRRO Secretariat at secretariat@ifrro.org, Mr. Rainer Just, the IFRRO/RRO representative on the ETIN Board, at rainer.just@vgwort.de, or the ETIN Board at etinboard@luisterpuntbibliotheek.be.