

WIPO
Technology Trends 2021

Assistive Technology



Foreword

7

About the contributors

8

Acknowledgments

13

Executive
summary

14

1 Introduction

Definition of assistive technology and its end-users; how the different assistive technologies were categorised; the data used in this report and how it is analyzed.

20

2 Assistive technology patent landscape

Analysis of patenting activity for conventional and emerging assistive technology by functional category, focusing on growth trends, the profile and filing strategy of key players and geographical distribution, supported by case studies and experts' comments.

32

3 Trends in assistive technology

Overall patenting and technology trends of conventional and emerging assistive technology, including the impact of enabling technologies, the use of industrial designs and an analysis of technology readiness of emerging assistive technologies.

160

4 Assistive technology – the wider context

Factors influencing the entry of a product to the market and its accessibility and availability to end-users, and how policy is seeking to address the associated challenges and opportunities.

196

5 The future of assistive technology

How assistive technology could develop in terms of technology and policy-making, considering potential intellectual property and other implications.

232

Annex 1:
Conventional taxonomy

254

Annex 2:
Emerging taxonomy

258

Annex 3:
Use of enabling technologies across emerging assistive technology

260

Annex 4:
Technology readiness level (TRL) rating scale and impact assessment questions

264

Annex 5:
Abbreviations and glossary

265
