

Home

The home page

The home page is the main entrance to the Web site and here the organisation of contents and services and the browsing system must be immediately clear.

The home page should contain the following:

“Mission statement”

This should be available in a clear and easily accessible form and should consist of a synthetic summary of the aims, contents and the origins of the web site. This declaration should be available in various languages and should be no longer than 50 words. It should include:

- The topic of the web site
- The main contents of the site
- The organisation responsible for running the site
- Destined users (optional)

If, due to choices of graphics, the home page of your site is an animated screen, then the “Mission Statement” and the identity of the site should be inserted into the page MUSEUM. Home pages of this type however, produce a negative effect on the transparency of the site and should be avoided. Should you choose to use an animated home page, then users should have the option of skipping the animation to go directly to the information using, for example, a “skip intro” button.

The logo, part of the “heading” common to all pages of the site, should have a page of its own, and a description (presentation, motivation behind choices, etc.). The logo should be identified using ‘longdesc’. Interactive user functions such as “LOGIN” and “NEWSLETTER” should be clearly in view.

There should be a space reserved for announcements and “NEWS” of the site such as newly published documents, events etc. The structure of the home page should differ from all the others, even if some elements are common to the whole site. These common elements are the heading, main navigation, meta-navigation and footer. The footer should indicate copyright, date of creation of the page, date of last update and the URL of the page.