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## **The Steria - Institut de France Foundation helps to overhaul and enhance access to the GIAA's website dedicated to the visually impaired**

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The Steria - Institut de France Foundation, which offers financial support and information technology skills to community projects in the area of education, training and solidarity, has been chosen to support the GIAA (Blind or Amblyopic Intellectuals Group) and its OKO project. This project aims to overhaul the association's website to improve accessibility to visually impaired people with speech synthesisers or Braille keyboards and to enhance the services offered to its members.

### **The OKO project: enhancing and facilitating access to the GIAA's website dedicated to the visually impaired.**

New technologies and the Internet in particular, offer a host of opportunities to blind and partially sighted people for reading, keeping up-to-date, training, gaining knowledge and quite simply enjoying themselves.

The GIAA's goal is to offer visually impaired people the resources to be able to take part in these intellectual activities. By printing in Braille or recording all kinds of audio material on request, the GIAA is thus helping visually impaired people to study, seek employment or do their job and access culture in general. This initiative relies on the commitment of thousands of volunteers.

With new technologies constantly developing and in light of the new needs of its members, the association has decided to improve its information exchange resources and access to its services by overhauling its website. Some of the key changes include:

- a catalogue of existing Braille, large-print or CD publications online and a special reservation service,
- a system for requesting Braille versions or audio recordings of new publications,
- online registration for different activities,
- an audio blog for publishing audio material relevant to the visually impaired.

### **The role of Steria France's volunteers: guidance and advice.**

The Steria - Institut de France Foundation's support for the GIAA includes a **15,000€** aid package to finance the four application phases and technical support provided by Steria experts.



The OKO project will be sponsored by Thierry, a Director at Steria France, who will support association volunteers by providing the skills required to manage and ensure the success of this project, including finalisation of specifications, coordination of the providers developing the application phases and advice for approving certain technical decisions. He will call on the skills of Steria France consultants and employees.

**For more information, log on to [www.fondationsteria.org](http://www.fondationsteria.org)**

**About the Institut de France ([www.institut-de-france.fr](http://www.institut-de-france.fr))**

The Institut de France groups together five academies: the Académie Française, the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Académie des Sciences, the Académie des Beaux-Arts and the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques. It was founded on 25 October 1795 and is currently chaired by a former Prime Minister of France, Chancellor Pierre Messmer.

**About Steria ([www.steria.com](http://www.steria.com))**

Extensive expertise in its three core businesses of consulting, systems integration and managed services has made Steria a leading end-to-end IT services provider for companies and public authorities throughout Europe. With a revenue of more than €1.1 billion and 9,000 employees, Steria is one of the top 10 European IT services companies.

Understanding the challenges facing its customers, an exceptional ability to respond and an industrial approach to business enable Steria to design innovative solutions with a commitment to results and customer satisfaction. Steria thus applies its expertise backed by more than 35 years' experience in managing large-scale projects. Steria's employees, who hold 26% of the Group's capital, draw on its core values of simplicity, creativity, independence, respect and openness to transform the latest technology into added-value services – enabling Steria to help its customers achieve and maintain competitive advantage – and into charitable projects via the Steria - Institut de France Foundation.

**About the Blind or Amblyopic Intellectuals Group (<http://www.giaa.org>)**

The GIAA, which was founded in 1949, is a state-approved association that is today supported by an extensive and active community of volunteers. The GIAA works to support the intellectual and cultural life of the blind and visually impaired by improving their access to information, education, employment and leisure activities. It is represented by nine delegations working throughout France.

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