

**Title: Participation and accessibility through Easy-to-Read?
Theory and research-based reflection on the risks and side effects of a practical concept**

Saskia Schuppener and Daniel Bergelt

Abstract

Easy-to-Read has become a successful concept in Germany in recent years. The range of products and services has multiplied, and information in Easy-to-Read is increasingly available at the workplace. The presence of Easy-to-Read in public spaces makes it clear that this functional variety of German Language is currently seen as a possibility to provide a (marginalized) group of people with information to which they previously had no or only difficult access. The potential of Easy-to-Read to convey information has so far hardly been questioned in public discourse. The extent to which this partly uncritical appropriation of Easy-to-Read can be agreed to will be discussed with the help of the results of two research projects.