



Ageing well in European Cities, Social Affairs Forum, Brussels, 27-28 March 2012

Developing standards for barrier-free design

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THE EUROCITIES - Working Group Barrierfree-City for All:

- Network of major European cities
- Platform to share knowledge, to exchange experiences, to analyze common problems through a wide range of forums, working groups, projects and activities

Chair: City of Berlin

Division for EU and International Affairs in the Senate Department for
Urban Development and the Environment

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For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us

Cities: Barcelona, Berlin, The Hague, Dresden, Frankfurt/Main, Hamburg, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Cologne, Lille-Metropolregion, Munich, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Southampton, Toulouse, Vienna, Warsaw

Associations:

National Designers Association of Russia
European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)
European Disability Forum (EDF)
Design for All Foundation

Activities

Kick-off meeting on 10-12 March 2010, Berlin

Exchange of experiences on:

- Barrier-free design of traffic and street area
- Access for all concerning public transport
- Barrier-free public spaces (buildings and open spaces)
- Barrier-free public services
- Marketing strategies to promote the requirements of accessibility for all

2nd meeting on June 2010, Copenhagen

- The complexity of implementing a barrier-free public transport in an existing traffic system
- Presentation and discussion of the results from an international research project "Mobility for All – MOFA"
- Presentation of two manuals:
„Barrier-Free Planning and Construction“
„Design for All and Public Open Spaces“

3rd meeting on 29-30 November 2010 in

EUROCITIES' House of Cities, Brussels

- European strategies on accessibility for people with disabilities/ the EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020
Meets the needs of all people who wants to stay active at any age
- UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Strategies for the implementation at European, national and municipal levels

- European Standardization on accessibility / The influence of European standards
- **external speakers:**
- DG Employment social affairs and equal opportunities
- Industry and Technology, European Committee for Standardisation (CEN-CENELEC)
- European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium sized Enterprises for Standardisation (NORMAPME)
- European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation (ANEC)

Results of the 3rd meeting :

- need for harmonisation of European standards on accessibility
- need for a European manual “Accessibility/ Design for all“ or Universal Design because ***systems vary in different countries – even in single cities***
 Definition “**Universal Design**”:
 means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be useable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design
- efforts in education and advanced training for city and traffic planners, architects etc.

4th meeting on 27- 28 June 2011, Vienna

Focus on Safety and Mobility :

- City and traffic planning
- Inspection of best practice
- Information and guide systems for indoors and outdoors
 e.g. Indoor Navigation for visually impaired and blind people)

Clear and simple to understand orientation systems also for persons with sensorial or cognitive impairments

Topics for 2011 – 2012:

- Requirements of accessibility/ Design for all in higher education and advanced training of architects, city and traffic planners
- Urban heritage conservation
- Tourism for All
- Mobility and demographic change
- Participation of people with disabilities in planning processes

Agenda for 2011 - 2012

Permanent working focus

- Exchange of municipal actions to implement the
- UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Workplan in 2012

- Cooperation with the EU-Commission on Implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to improve accessibility in Europe
- Cooperation with the EU-Commission in Phase 2 of the EU Mandate M/420 European Accessibility Requirements in Public Procurement in the built environment
- Working group meetings in Paris, Dresden and Munich
- Application for the European Accessible Cities Award (participation for networks of cities or organizations promoting accessibility in cities in collaboration with the European Commission)

Consequently it is a major task to include the idea of Design for all as well as Accessibility in all our planning processes, because it is equally necessary for everyone at any age and will be appreciated/ valued by all citizens