



# Opportunities and Benefits of Accessible Tourism for All: Experiences in Germany

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#### Introduction |

#### **Tourism in Europe:**

- **Product quality and innovation** are important factors for tourism businesses and destinations to remain competitive.
- The current situation of tourism industry in Europe is characterised by a lack of innovation to meet the main challenges



#### Introduction

#### The main challenges are:

- Reducing the seasonality of demand
- Minimising resource use
- · Responding to the climate change
- Responding to the demographic change
- Responding to the financial crisis
- Making holidays available to all



#### Introduction

#### **Tourism and Demographic Change:**

- The increasing number of people over 60 years and people with disabilities will create new demands
- Tourism industry will find new markets and increase of turnover if they'll cater for the new and growing consumer groups and their demands



#### Introduction

#### **Questions:**

- Which demands do the new and growing consumer groups have?
- Which segments of tourist offers must be newly designed or modified?
- What are the economic effects resulting from more accessibility and DfA in tourism?
- What are success factors and measures to improve quality in tourism?



#### Introduction

Study commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology:

"Economic Impulses of Accessible Tourism for All" (2003)





#### Introduction

#### Methods:

- Written survey among 20,000 disabled Germans
- Special oral survey among persons with activity limitations as part of the F.U.R German Travel Analysis 2003 (7,970 persons)
- Guided interviews with 259 tourists with acitivity limitations and 91 tourism practitioners in 5 different tourist destinations
- Mystery Mailings and analysis of web sites



#### Introduction

Study commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology:

"Analysis of Success Factors and actions to improve quality in Accessible Tourism for All in Germany" (2008)

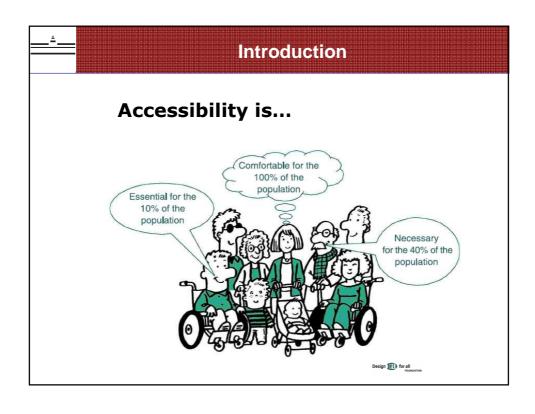


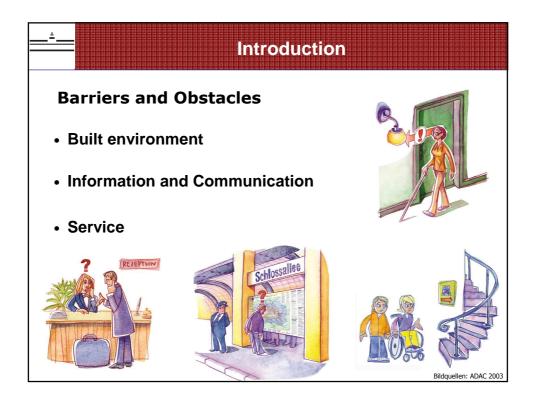


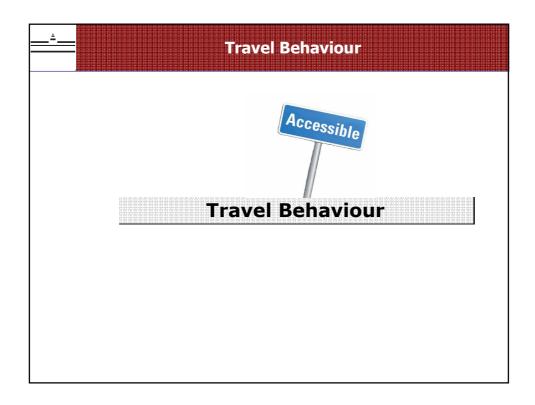
#### Introduction

#### Methods:

- Special oral survey among persons with activity limitations as part of the F.U.R German Travel Analysis 2007 (7,671 persons)
- Desktop research of all 16 federal states and written interviews of 51 federal and 19 national institutions
- Comparative case studies of 6 different tourist destinations (desktop research, focus group interviews and guided interviews of travellers and tourism practitioners)
- Public discussion of first results on ITB 2008, followed by written interviews and further focus group interviews







#### **Travel intensity percentage (> 5 days)**

	Total population	People with mobility or activity limitations
2002	75,3	54,3
2006	74,7	58,3
Difference	- 0,6	+ 4,0

Source: IFG / PROJECT M © 2008, Data: F.U.R. RA 2003 und 2007



#### **Travel frequency (more than 5 days)**

	Total population	People with mobility or activity limitations
2002	1,3	1,3
2006	1,3	1,4

Source: IFG / PROJECT M © 2008, Data: F.U.R. RA 2003 und 2007



#### Travel Behaviour

#### **Travel destination**

Travel Destinations	Total population (in %)	People with activity or mobility limitations (in %)
Inland	28,4	42,9
Abroad	71,6	57,1

Source: IFG / PROJECT M © 2008, Data: F.U.R. 2007



#### **Access to Internet**

	Total population	People with mobility or activity limitations
2006	56,2	30,8

Source: IFG / PROJECT M © 2008, Data: F.U.R. RA 2003 und 2007



#### Travel Behaviour

# Use of Internet (only those who have internet access)

	Total population	People with mobility or activity limitations
used to get information	70 %	70 %
interested in information	17 %	21 %
used for bookings	34 %	35 %
interested in bookings	29 %	30 %

Source: IFG / PROJECT M © 2008, Data: F.U.R. RA 2003 und 2007



#### **Travel-Behaviour**

(of German disabled tourists)

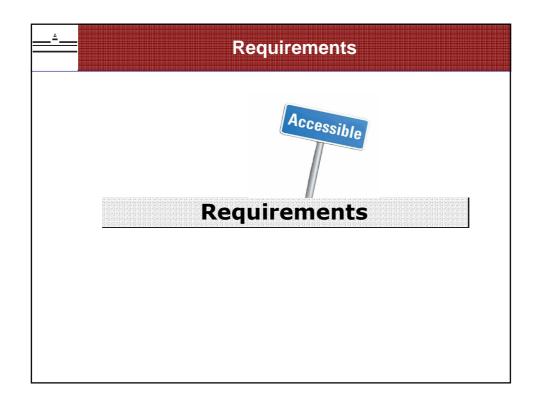
- 37 % have previously decided not to travel due to the lack of accessible facilities (or information)
- 48 % would travel more frequently if more accessible services were available
- 60 % would be willing to pay higher travel expenses for improved accessible facilities
- 17 % decided to travel abroad specifically because of the accessible facilities (or information) there



#### Travel Behaviour

# Comparison of travel behavior of travellers with mobility or activity limitations and the average

- Hardly any difference between travel intention and behavior
- Lower travel intensity
- Loyalty to travel destinations above average
- Importance of health and nature holidays above average
- Marketing of touristic themes, instead of addressing "target groups" (like disabled people or wheel chair users)



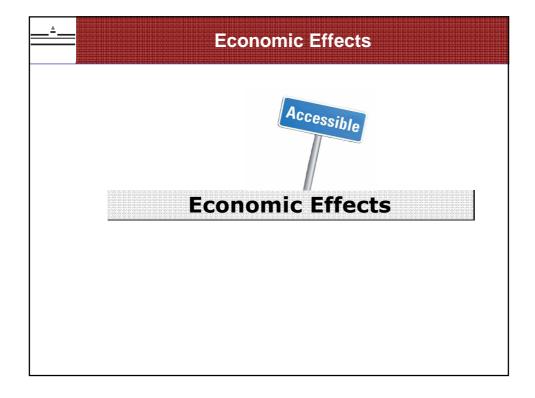




#### Requirements

#### Other requirements:

- Stronger consideration of demands of older and disabled travellers
- Respectful, authentic and friendly interacting with all guests
- Orienting products, services and businesses towards Design for All!





#### **Economic Effects**

### **Current net turnover generated by German disabled travellers**

Holidays: 1,5 bn Euro Short breaks: 1 bn Euro

Total: 2,5 bn Euro

#### **Economic significance of accessible tourism**

Full-time jobs: 65,000

Source: Neumann/Reuber 2004



#### **Economic Effects**

#### **Economic Impulses**

Maximum additional economic

impact: up to 4.8 bn Euro

Additional full-time jobs in all areas of the economy: up to **90,000** 

Source: Neumann/Reuber 2004



#### **Economic Effects**

# Further potential is available in the following areas and target groups

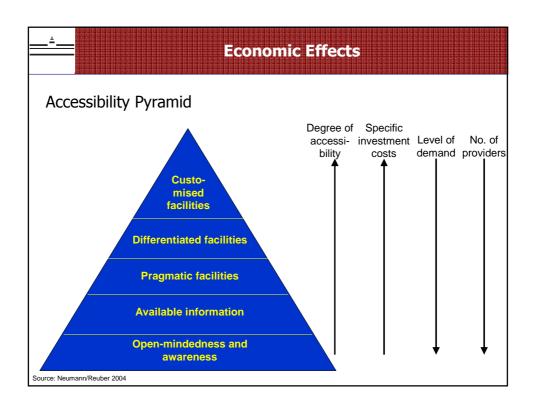
- Day-trip tourism
- Event & Conference tourism
- Overnight stays with friends and relatives
- Travelling companions
- · Foreign tourists
- •

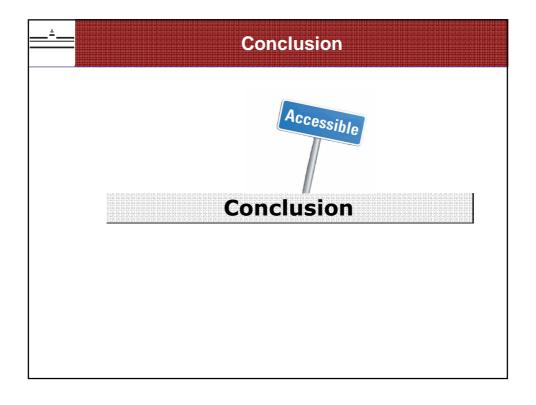


#### **Economic Effects**

# Further potential is available in the following areas and target groups

Since everyone has accessibility requirements, the actual figure of the economic effects is therefore expected to be much higher







#### Conclusion

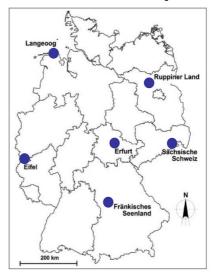
- There is a lack of knowledge transfer on national and international level
- Accessibility is hardly considered strategically and on a long term basis
- Most activities in Accessible Tourism for All are carried out by single initiatives
- Single destinations have become leaders and secure competetive advantages



#### Conclusion

#### "Accessible Tourist Destinations in Germany"

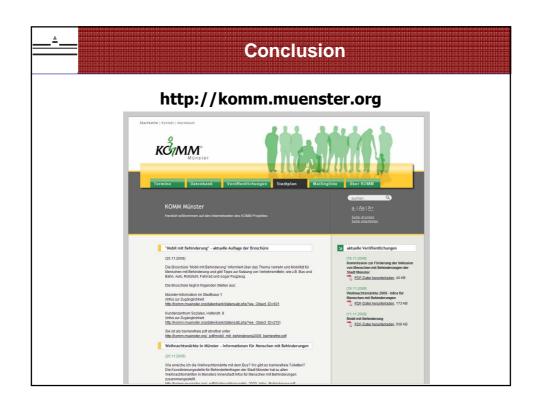
- Realisation of an initial action recommendation of the 2008 study
- 6 founding members
- Sustainable promotion of accessible tourism
- Continious cooperation of destinations
- Constant exchange of experiences and promotional cooperation













# Tourism industry and businesses could successfully benefit from the potentials of accessibility by understanding it as a cross-sectoral task and a quality benchmark







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