



The EU Disability Policy & Accessibility

Inmaculada Placencia Porrero

Deputy Head of Unit

Inmaculada.placencia-porrero@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

Directorate General for Justice

Unit D3 Rights of Persons with Disabilities



UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



- 30 March 2007: the European Community **signs** the UN Convention
- **Mixed competences between EU and MS** (all the MS and the EU signed the UN Convention)
- 26 November 2009: Council Decision on the conclusion (**ratification**) of the Convention by the European Community
- **22 January 2011: entry into force** for the EU



European Disability Strategy 2010/2020: a renewed commitment to a barrier-free Europe

Adopted on 15 November 2010. Three main documents:

[Communication on a European Disability Strategy 2010-2020](#)

[Initial plan to implement the Strategy: List of Actions 2010-2015](#)

[Background Document with facts and figures](#)



Main areas for EU action

1. **Accessibility** of goods and services
2. **Participation** as equal citizens in Europe
3. **Equality** and combating discrimination
4. **Employment** in the open labour market
5. Inclusive **education and training**
6. **Social protection** to combat poverty and social exclusion
7. Equal access to **health** services and related facilities
8. **External action:** EU enlargement, neighbourhood and international development programmes




Key Actions relevant for Tourism

Accessibility:

- Study on the cost benefit of accessibility of goods and services
- Accessibility Act
- Transport regulations for persons with reduced mobility
- Accessibility standardisation Mandates
- European Award for accessible cities
- Improve application of Art 16 of structural funds

Participation:

- Explore mutual recognition of disability cards
- Portability of rights such as personal assistance
- obstacles in exercising rights as EU citizens-> free movement & residency
-  Develop and disseminate standards for accessibility of sports, **leisure**, and recreation organisations, activities, events and venues

Statistics

persons with disabilities are in the order of 10%8 of the working age population LFS (15 % according to EU Silc)

32 % people aged 55-64 report a disability

44 % people aged 65-74 report a disability

60 % people aged 75-84 report a disability

70 % people aged 85+ report a disability

People with 25-64 years -> 55% (2008) and 51% (2030) of EU population

People with 65-79 years -> 12,7% (2008) and 16,6% (2030) of EU population

People with 80+ years-> 4,4 (2008) and 6,9(2030) of EU population



Letters from persons with disabilities

- Questions from persons with disabilities
- Access to information
- Lack of accessibility of venues and services
- Quality and reliability of the accessibility information
- Harmonisation of information
- Quality standards



UN Convention art 9

Accessibility to:

the physical environment

Transportation

to information and communications,

including information and communications technologies and systems & internet

other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas

- A) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;**
- C) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;**
- H) Promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost -> Design for All**



Accessibility at EU level: thematic

Transport

Regulations on Rights of persons with reduced mobility

Ict

eAccessibility Policy

eComm Legislation

Built environment

National and local

Construction Products?



Accessibility related standardization work at EU level

Mandate 376: Accessibility requirements for public procurement of products and services in the **ICT** domain

Mandate 420: Accessibility requirements for public procurement in the **Built Environment** (including **transport infrastructures**)

Mandate 473 to include Accessibility following **Design For All** in **relevant standardization activities**

Mandate 371 Services (several sectors, including tourism and transport for people with disabilities)



Art 19 TFEU Treaty proposal COM (2008) 426

Scope

Social protection, including social security and healthcare;

Social advantages;

Education;

Access to and supply of goods and other services which are available to the public, including housing.

Principle of equal treatment of persons with disabilities

Art 4

Effective non-discriminatory access

Anticipatory

Conditions:

Disproportionate burden

Fundamental alteration

Provisions of alternatives

Reasonable accommodation

Conditions:



Disproportionate burden

Access City Award

- Awareness raising on urban accessibility: (transport, buildings and public spaces, ICT, public services provision)
- Commitment to improvements in accessibility
- Role model to inspire other cities
- Promote best practices
 - First Launch of the competition 2010
 - Award 2011 Avila,
 - Award 2012 Slazburg,



Open Consultation

European Accessibility Act

the consultation and background document:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/discrimination/opinion/111207_en.htm

European Accessibility item 99 Act CLWP 2012.

The related Roadmap:

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/docs/2012_just_025_european_accessibility_act_en.pdf

Costs of Accessibility

The US government Section 508 ICT accessibility standards cost of implementation would be between 177 million \$ and 1068 million \$.

The Federal proportion of the costs is estimated to range between 85 million \$ and 691 million \$.

Comparing to the total Federal budget 1703 trillion \$ of which 37 billion \$ was spent on ICT it is quite a small amount.

By comparison the lower and upper bound of the costs of the standards represent 0.01 to 0.06 % of the total federal budget or 0.23 % to 0.28 % of the amount spent on ICT.

The aggregate benefits are estimated up to 466 million \$.

The assessment of the first ADA standards stated that designing buildings for accessibility from the beginning add less than 1% to the total construction costs of a new facility.

It provides examples of 0.01% of building costs for a shopping centre without considering total costs land, architectural and engineering fees, landscaping and the like.

In 2004 the Access Board merged accessibility standards and estimates that the national costs of the rule (new version of the standards) would be 87.5 million \$ annually for newly constructed buildings, hotels, and sport stadiums and arenas.

The final revised standards will add 0.01 to 0.5 % to the total construction costs of facilities compared to the current guidelines.



Persons with disabilities as consumers

51.2 million People with disabilities in the United States

In 2000, 42% of older adults (65+ years) have one or more disabilities.

The large and growing market of people with disabilities has about \$175 billion in discretionary spending, according to the U.S. Department of Labour, which is more than four times the spending power of teens (8-14 year-olds).

Open Doors Organization study in 2003:

that people with disabilities would spend \$35 billion in restaurants that year.

more than 75% of people with disabilities eat out at restaurants at least once a week.

The New York Times reported that spending by travellers with disabilities exceeds \$13.6 billion annually

United Kingdom: The Employers' Forum on Disability estimated in 2005 that there are 10 million adults with disabilities in the UK.

The estimated annual purchasing power of people with disabilities there is £80 billion.

Euro barometer "Discrimination in the European Union" 2007 on disability matters Fact: 91% of respondent agree to spend more money in eliminating physical barriers for people with disabilities.





Thank you!

