



Mapping and Performance Check of the Supply of Accessible Tourism Services

(220/PP/ENT/PPA/12/6491)

Annex 2

EU National Accessibility Legislation and the Tourism Sector

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Country	Act establishing equal rights for PwD on national level	Legislation regarding accessibility for Persons with Disabilities to the built environment	Standards, guidelines
International	UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, 2007	The European Union signed the UNCRPD on 30.3.2007 and ratified the Convention on 23.12.2010. The UNCRPD contains several Articles addressing accessibility and access to the built environment, culture, leisure and sport... (etc.) with relevance to the tourism sector. The international reference Standard for design and construction of accessible buildings is: ISO 21542:2012 Building Construction: Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment.	ISO 21542:2012
Austria	Federal Disability Equality Act, 2006.	OIB guidelines (2007) ¹ (Oesterreichisches Institut fuer Bautechnik) – binding in four regions. The ÖNORM B1603 refers to "Barrier free buildings for tourism - Design principles" Barrierefreie Tourismuseinrichtungen – Planungsgrundlagen, ÖNORM B 1603: 2005 02 01 (is currently being revised, 2014). Not all provinces have put the B1600 and other standards into their legislation.	A-Standards B1600ff
Belgium: Flemish Region	Decree of 10 July 2008 (a framework for the Flemish policy on equal opportunities and equal treatment)	The Flemish Decree of June 5, 2009: regional urban development regulation concerning the accessibility of public buildings	
Brussels Metropolitan Region	Article 8 of the Decree of 06 April 1995 (the integration of people with disabilities)	Regionally Urban Development Regulation and The Decree of May 28, 2009	
Walloon Region	Decree of 6 November, 2008 against certain forms of discrimination as amended by the Decree of 19 March, 2009	Walloon Code (1995) of Land Management, Urban Planning, Heritage and Energy (CWATUPE) (article 414 and article 415 guarantee the accessibility to public and private buildings)	
Bulgaria	Anti-discrimination Act passed in 2003 transposing the EU Equality Directives (43/2000/EC, 78/2000/EC, 75/117/ECR, 97/80/EC, 76/207/ECR)	Regional Development Act (requires access to the built environment for PwD) - Regulation 4 of 2009 on accessibility contains all standards that make the built environment accessible	
Croatia	The Law on Croatian Citizenship (1991) Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons in 2005 (Official Gazette 47/2005)	The Law on Physical Planning and Construction (Official Gazette 76/07, 38/09, 55/11, 90/11, 50/12) gives the ground to a Rulebook on ensuring accessibility of buildings ² to persons with disabilities and reduced mobility (Official Gazette 78/13) ³	
Cyprus	Persons with Disabilities Laws 2000 – 2007	Streets and Buildings Law of 1999 - Chapter 96 and Regulations (Regulation 61 H) – Regulation on Access for Disabled People in Buildings ⁴	Technical Guide for hotel

¹ <http://www.oib.or.at/veroeff.htm#richtlinien>

² »Public and business buildings in the Rulebook are buildings for trade, hotel/restaurant and/or tourist purposes«

³ http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013_06_78_1615.html

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		Hotels and Tourist Accommodation Regulations 1985-2005 - Regulation 47A - Facilities for persons with disabilities ⁵	businesses from CTO ⁶
Czech Republic	Act No. 198/2009 Coll., on Equal Treatment and on Legal Means of Protection against Discrimination	Decree No. 398/2009 Coll. on General Technical Requirements for Barrier-Free Usage of Constructions Decree No. 499/2006 Coll. on Building Documentation presents solutions for all buildings in terms of their barrier-free accessibility and usage Act No. 183/2006 Coll, Building Act (stavební zákon) (acknowledges that barrier-free environment is in the public interest) Edict No. 501/2006 Coll. sets conditions for designing barrier-free public areas	
Denmark	Motion B 43 on equal treatment and equality between person with disabilities and persons without disabilities (1993)	Building regulation ('Anvisning om bygningsreglement 2010', 4 th Edition, 2014). SBI-Guidance document from the Danish Building Research Institute) ⁷	Danish Standard 3028:2001 Accessibility for All
Estonia	Social Welfare Act (1995) Equal Treatment Act of 23 December 2008	Building Act ⁸ (requires accessibility to buildings in public use) The Decree of the Minister of Economics and Communication No.14 from 28 November 2002 (specific requirements to facilitate access to buildings)	
Finland	Non-Discrimination Act (21/2004) (does not include requirement for accessibility to the built environment)	Land Use and Building Decree (895/1999) ⁹ - Section 53 says that buildings must ensure accessibility Finnish Building Code (2004) ¹⁰ , sections F1 Barrier-free Building, F2 Safety in use of buildings and G1 Housing design	

⁴ <http://prosvasi.blogspot.com/>

⁵ http://www.visitcyprus.com/media/b2b_gr/Tourism_Services/Accommodation/Oi_peri_Xenodoxeion_kai_Touristikon_Katalymaton_Genikoi_Kanonismo_i_to_u_1985_kai_tou_2005.pdf

⁶ http://www.visitcyprus.biz/wps/portal/b2b!/ut/p/c5/hc0xD4lwFATgn_SOTry41gBCDBBLUGQhHYipEXAw_n6rLjqA741f7o5a8j_ahzvbu5tGe6WGWtnFidZVJhi2O3CwpJI630cMgPftI4eF2oCtTcCNSIIz590GdVezaHKuZQBxlqOrz3ZYeY0Pj7TH6plf8vecz_5EFFOg093YYGLruIJ9ILCRE!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfRUZBQVNJNDlwT05GNDAYVfVQMjk5VjMwNjY!/?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/b2b_greek__el/b2b/generic/protypa_odigos_gia_atoma_me_anapiries?contentIDR=f56d910047276888a890b874f712794b&useDefaultText=1&useDefaultDesc=0

⁷ SBI <http://anvisninger.dk/Publikationer/Sider/Anvisning-om-Bygningsreglement-2010.aspx> also refers to Foreningen for Tilgængelighed – an association which issues a label and provides an accessibility information system for public and private buildings including tourism venues (www.godadgang.dk).

⁸ <http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/tekst.asp?loc=text&dok=X50072K2&keel=en&pg=1&ptyyp=RT&tyyp=X&query=Ehitusseadus>

⁹ <http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/1999/en19990895.pdf>

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France	Law n° 2005-102 of 11 February 2005 for equal rights and opportunities, participation and citizenship of disabled persons	Law n° 2005-102 of 11 February 2005- Chapitre III: Built environment, transports and new technologies. Deadlines for implementation are given in Chapter III "Building, Transports and New Technologies " (articles 41 to 54): 2011 for the accessibility to prefectures, public tertiary education facilities, and State web sites; 2012 for territorial authorities web sites; 1.1.2015 for public and private buildings open to the public and transport services (RO p. 9). The 2015 deadline has been delayed in 2014, as it cannot be reached in time.	AFNOR Standards
Germany	Disability Equality Act [Gesetz zur Gleichstellung behinderter Menschen – Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz, BGG] - at the national level that public buildings have to be accessible (section 8 paragraph 1) 16 Acts on Equal Opportunities of the Länder, (Federal Equal Opportunities Act, 2002)	2005, the target agreement for the German Hotel and Restaurant Association (DEHOGA) Accessibility in the hospitality industry and various DIN standards. 2011-2013 the project "Development and marketing of accessible products and services offered in terms of a Tourism for All in Germany" resulted in a Tourism Information Standard. Section 55 Building Regulation of North Rhine-Westphalia is one of 16 examples of an accessibility regulation at the federal level. ¹¹	Construction of accessible buildings [Barrierefreies Bauen] - Design principles - Part 1: Publicly accessible buildings; standard NA 005-01-11 AA
Greece	Greek Constitution establishes the principle of equality among all Greek citizens (article 4). Article 21 (fundamental rights of disabled people)	Law. General Building Regulations 2831/2000 art.28. Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Works. Special arrangements for people with special needs. Amendment of Law about General Building Regulations no. 1577/1985. Law 4067/2012 New Building Regulations ¹² Greek Accessibility Guidelines (for the autonomous movement and living of people with disabilities) ¹³ Presidential Decree 43, Government Gazette No. 43/7-3-2002 Classification of main hotel types, in categories (star system) and their technical requirements, pages 449 – 772. Ministry of Development. Ministry of Transport and Communications, Presidential Decree 79/2004. Defining the conditions and requirements for establishing and operating bus stations and terminals (infrastructure) for long-distance buses and other vehicles.	

¹⁰ <http://www.ymparisto.fi/default.asp?contentid=68171&lan=en>

¹¹ https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_bes_text?anw_nr=2&gld_nr=2&ugl_nr=232&bes_id=4883&aufgehoben=N&menu=1&sg=0#det241837

¹² http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/Nomothetiko-Ergo/Anazitisi-Nomothetikou-Ergou?law_id=3dc4f0f3-36b8-4431-92d2-4ade78c39705

¹³ <http://www.minenv.gr/1/16/162/16203/g1620300.html>

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		Law 4199/2013 (article 106) amendment of law 4070/2012 (A' 82) and law 3534/2007- .Special license permit for fixed price taxi services for disabled passengers.	
Hungary	Act XXVI of 1998 on the rights and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities Act CXXV of 2003 on equal treatment and on the promotion of equal opportunities	Government Decree 253/1997 (XII.20) on National Requirements of Spatial Planning and Building Act LXXXVIII of 1997 on the formation and protection of the built environment (general)	
Ireland	Equal Status Acts (ESA) 2000 to 2012 are the principal pieces of anti-discrimination law in Ireland	Building Control Act 1990 requires safe and independent access to building by PwD Part M of the Building Regulations Building Control Act 1990 (last update 2010) ¹⁴	
Italy	law 104/92 ("Framework Law for assistance, social integration and rights of the handicapped")	<i>Law 9 January 1989, n. 13. "Regulation to support the overcoming and the elimination of architectural barriers in private buildings."</i> <i>Legislative Decree - Ministry of Public Works 14 June 1989, n. 236 "Technical prescriptions to guarantee accessibility, and adaptability of private and assisted residential buildings for the overcoming and elimination of architectural barriers."</i> Decree of the President of Italian Republic 24 July 1996, n. 503: Rules for the elimination of architectural barriers in public buildings, public environment and facilities. Decree 114 of the Ministry for Arts and Culture of 16 May 2008: Guidelines for the elimination of architectural barriers in places of cultural interest	
Latvia	Article 91 of the Constitution (Satversme) Concept 'Equal Opportunities for All' (Cabinet of Ministers, 1998) was intended to create equal opportunities for people with disabilities etc.	Construction law (1995) (construction has to ensure the accessibility of the environment) Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No.112 - Regulations on the Design of One-Level Parking places (2002) Regulations No.567 of the Cabinet of Ministers; Regulation on Latvian Building Code LBN 208-08; Public Buildings and Structures (2008) (provides ensuring requirements of physical accessibility in public buildings) – I think requirements are in this one Regulation on Latvian Building Code LBN 211-08 on Multi-storey Multi-apartment Residential Buildings (2009) ¹⁵ (requirements if accessible apartments are to be anticipated) – and maybe this one Standard LBN 209-09 "Low-rise residential buildings" ¹⁶	Standard LBN 209-09 "Low-rise residential buildings"
Lithuania	Law of Equal Treatment (IX-1826	Law on Construction ((Official Gazette) [<i>Valstybės žinios</i>] No 32-788, 1996; No 101-3597,	

¹⁴ <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/BuildingStandards/FileDownload,24773,en.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=187528&from=off>

¹⁶ <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=197624&from=off>

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	of 18 November 2003) (not requiring accessibility of the buildings) Law on Social Integration of the Disabled (1991) – requires access to built environment	2001) - buildings need to be designed to accommodate the needs of PwD Technical Building Regulation requirements (Art.2.03.01:2001 of 19 March 2002) ¹⁷ - binding rules for residential and other buildings in connection to accessibility Annex 8 of Technical Requirements STR 1.05.06:2010 Building design ((Official Gazette) [Valstybės žinios] No 4-80, 2005; No 115-5902, 2010) – specific provisions in regard to accessibility	
Luxembourg	Action Plan in favour of Persons with Disabilities (Plan d’action en faveur des personnes handicapées) published in 1997	National Accessibility Acts of 2001 and 2008 (Règlement Grand-Ducal sur l’accessibilité des lieux ouverts au public) ¹⁸ - series of accessibility criteria National accessibility guide (Guide des Normes 20020) ¹⁹ – explanation of detailed requirements.	
Malta	Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Chapter 413)	Access for All Design Guidelines (2011) ²⁰ – Part for the accessibility of the hotels ²¹	
Netherlands	General Act on Equal Treatment [Algemene wet gelijke behandeling] (1994) based in the Constitution (1983)	The Building Code 2012 ²² - compulsory accessibility requirements	Design code NEN 1814
Poland	Charter of Rights for Persons with Disabilities, approved by the Parliament (Sejm) 15 on 1 August 1997 (M.P. 1997, No. 50, item 475) Act on Equal Treatment (2010)	Law on Construction (1994) ²³ Ministry of Infrastructure Regulation of 12 April 2002 on technical standards (OJ 2001, No. 75, item 690) ²⁴ - more specific requirements in regard to accessibility	
Portugal	Constitution of the Portuguese Republic (Article 71 affirms the equal rights	Decree-Law 163/2006 ²⁵ - defines the accessibility standards for buildings, public spaces, shops, tourism facilities, etc.	NP 4523/2014. Turismo Acessível em

¹⁷ <http://www.spec.lt/index.php?cid=774>

¹⁸ <http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2008/0040/a040.pdf>

¹⁹ http://www.mfi.public.lu/publications/Handicap/GuidedesNormes_brochure_FR.pdf

²⁰ <http://www.knpd.org/pubs/pdf/AADGJune2012.pdf>

²¹ http://www.knpd.org/pubs/pdf/Revised%20Guidelines_Hotels.pdf

²² <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/besluiten/2012/01/19/bouwbesluit-2012-doorlopende-tekst.html>

²³ <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19940890414>

²⁴ http://www.snb.org.pl/pliki/ujednolicone_WT_2013.pdf

²⁵ http://www.inr.pt/bibliopac/diplomas/dl_163_2006.htm

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	<p>of persons with disabilities)</p> <p>Law 38/2004, of 18 August –Legal System for Prevention, Habilitation, Rehabilitation and Participation of the Disabled Person</p>	<p>Accessibility and mobility for all [Acessibilidade e mobilidade para todos]²⁶ - the technical accessibility standards (only applicable to some parts of the construction)</p> <p>The legislative framework for installation and operation of tourism enterprises, in the strict sense, is, in essence, set out by the Decree-Law n ° 39/2008, March 7. It is a fundamental law in the process of installation of tourist developments because it introduces various specialties for the Legal Regime of Urbanization and Construction. That diploma, along with the complementary legislation, also establishes the rules for the installation and operation of tourism enterprises in their various types and groups. Portaria (Order-in-Council) 327/2008, April 8 establishes the specific requirements for the setting up, grading and working of Hotels, Holiday villages, and Tourist apartments. Portaria (Order-in-Council) 518/2008, June 25. Particulars required to draw up applications in respect of urbanisation operations to the provisions of the urbanisation and construction legislation.</p> <p>A new Portuguese Standard on Accessible Tourism facilities was issued in May 2014, Publicação da NP 4523/2014 Turismo Acessível em Estabelecimentos Hoteleiros.</p>	<p>Estabelecimentos Hoteleiros.</p>
Romania	<p>Constitution (article 16, Equality in rights) and Law 448/2006, on the protection and promotion of rights of persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Law 448/2006 includes accessibility to public buildings (Chapter IV – Accessibility, Article 62 and 63)</p> <p>Standard for civil buildings and urban adaptation to the Needs of disabled persons [Normativ pentru adaptarea cladirilor civile si spatiului urban aferent la exigentele persoanelor cu handicap] NP 051/2001²⁷</p> <p>Monitorul Oficial al României, Partea I, nr. 102 și 102 bis din 9 februarie 2011 (Romania's Official Monitor, Part I, no. 102 and 102 bis issued February 9, 2011), national law National set of criteria for issuing tourism certificate and licence (accommodation and tourism operators)</p>	
Slovakia	<p>Slovak Constitution (Act No. 460/1992 Coll., as amended)</p> <p>Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on equal treatment in some selected areas and protection against discrimination</p>	<p>Act No. 50/1976 Coll. on the Field Planning and Building Code (the Building Act) [Zákon o územnom plánovaní a stavebnom poriadku (Stavebný zákon)]</p> <p>Decree no. 532/2002 Coll.²⁸ lays down details on general technical requirements for construction (paragraph 46 is addressing hotel, motel and guest house)</p>	
Slovenia	<p>Act on Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities, 2010</p>	<p>Construction Act (2003) – all buildings in public use must be made accessible (Art. 17)</p>	

²⁶ <http://www.inr.pt/uploads/docs/acessibilidade/GuiaAcessEmobi.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.onphr.ro/dizabilitatea/accesibilitatea/normativ-pentru-adaptarea-cladirilor-civile-si-spatiului-urban-aferent-la-exigentele-persoanelor-cu-dizabilitati/>

²⁸ <file:///G:/zakoni/Slovakia/Decree%20no.%20532%202002.htm>

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		Rules on the requirements for free access to, entry to and use of public buildings and facilities and multi-apartment buildings [Pravilnik o zahtevah zagotavljanja neoviranega dostopa, vstopa in uporabe objektov v javni rabi] (Official Gazette 97/2003) ²⁹	
Spain	Act No. 51/2003 of 2 December 2003 on equality of opportunity, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities (LIONDAU)	Royal Decree No. 173/2010 of 19 February 2007 amending the Building Code ³⁰ – setting ground for → Decree No. 505/2007 of 20 April 2007 adopting basic standards of accessibility to urbanized public areas and buildings etc. ³¹ Regional. Every region of Spain has a legislation regarding accessibility. If the legislation was prior to the national one the measure might change. But the ideal is that in the near future all the regional legislation would refer to the national ones (as a minimum). National Technical Building Code, the latest reference. ³²	
Sweden	Discrimination Act (SFS 2008:567)	Building regulations; Building and Planning Act SFS 2010:900 ³³ ; BFS 2011:26; BFS 2013:9 (regulation with demands on any public building or environment to take away easily removed barriers).	
UK	Equality Act 2010	Building Regulations → Approved Document M: Access to and Use of Buildings ³⁴	BS 8300:2009 can be used as an alternative to part M
Northern Ireland	Disability Discrimination Order 2006 (NI)	Technical Booklet R	
Scotland		Technical Handbooks	

²⁹ <http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?urlid=200397&stevilka=4330> and <http://www.uradni-list.si/1/content?id=45422>

³⁰ <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2010/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2010-4056.pdf>

³¹ <http://sid.usal.es/idocs/F3/LYN11123/LIONDAUbuildings.pdf>

³² <http://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2010/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2010-4056.pdf>

³³ <https://lagen.nu/2010:900>

³⁴ <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingregulations/approveddocuments/partm/approved;>

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/br/BR_PDF_AD_M_2013.pdf

Austria

According to Alternative report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in Austria, published by Austrian National council of persons with disabilities (OEAR), Austria has no regulations on regional development concerning housing or land use planning. OEAR also considers that regulations addressing structural accessibility in construction laws are not organized in a standardized form neither are considered sufficiently. Austrian Standard B1600ff regulates the standards for accessibility, however they have not been taken into consideration in the existing building laws and they are not binding. Non-structural measures that address needs of persons with sensory impairments and intellectual disabilities are not addressed sufficiently in public buildings, even though the requirements are a part of the A-Standards B1600ff (Austrian National council of persons with disabilities (OEAR), 2013). With the exception of the federal buildings, nine existing provinces in Austria have nine different laws that deal with the issue of accessibility in several manners with regard to standard and quality. Austrian Institute for structural engineering (Oesterreichisches Institut fuer Bautechnik - OIB) developed Standard guidelines on accessibility for planning and building in 2007 as a result of an Austrian Parliament resolution requesting the Minister of Social Affairs to negotiate with the provinces on harmonization of accessibility requirements in the building and planning laws in 2005. Even though, all the provinces agreed on the OIB guidelines, only five of the provinces (Vienna, Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Steiermark and Burgenland) had adopted it by 2012 (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). The OEAR states that the OIB guidelines have been declared to be mandatory in four of the provinces; furthermore they see them only as "inadequate guidelines" on the number of accessible apartments in one complex since only few provisions from the Austrian Standard B1600 are incorporated in them. The number of accessible accommodation units in hotels and similar establishments is not mentioned (ENAT National Expert and Austrian National council of persons with disabilities (OEAR), 2013).

Belgium

Belgium is geographically divided in three regions: Flemish Region, Brussels Metropolitan Region and Walloon Region. There are few national law addressing building and construction, since the matter in question is regulated on the regional level. In regard to sustainability topics the only fire resistance and energy performance are regulated by national law, other topics are voluntary and no regulation in regard to sustainability (including accessibility) applies to existing buildings. System of building quality control is grounded in the Civil Code, where building permits are issued by local authorities, but there is no control on general technical compliance. This control is carried out by private insurance companies (on voluntary basis) (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The accessibility concerning public buildings is regulated by Decree of June 5, 2009 in the Flemish region and by the Decree of May 28, 2009 in the Brussels Metropolitan Region, where Regionally Urban Development Regulation sets rules regarding adaptation of public spaces. The access to all buildings for PwD is ensured by Walloon Code (1995) of Land Management, Urban Planning, Heritage and Energy (CWATUPE) in the Walloon region (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). All three regions are involved in several initiatives and projects aiming to make town and cities more accessible (form inventory of accessibility of built environment, parks, wellness facilities etc. in Flemish region, to program of specific initiatives with the purpose to fund projects regarding accessibility in Walloon region etc.). Decree of July 9, 2010 establishes the reasonable accommodation notion (ENAT National Expert and Ministry of Social Affairs,

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Public Health and Environment: Conseil Supérieur National des Personnes Handicapées, 2011).

Bulgaria

Construction regulations in Bulgaria are set by government and implemented by municipalities or private entities (licensed by the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works) depending on the type of construction. The Territorial Development Act is regulating construction area, while Ordinances are issued to strengthen this Act by giving more specific requirements on construction works. Many topics regarding construction have background in the EU directives (among which also the accessibility to buildings for PwD, which is regulated on the national level). Technical aspects of construction plans (where the requirements regarding accessibility fit) are checked more thoroughly, than other aspects such as economic, ecological and social quality. If the object under construction does not satisfy the standards the building process is stopped until non-compliances are resolved (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). Accessibility to the built environment has been addressed in the Anti-discrimination Act (2003), where construction of inaccessible building is declared as discrimination. Legal ground for full accessibility of the built environment is laid down in Regional Development Act, where the Regulation 4 (2009) establishes all requirements that make the built environment accessible. There is no official data on the accessibility of the environment; even though it has been recognized that majority of the urban environment is not accessible (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

Croatia

The Law on Physical Planning and Construction (Official Gazette 76/07, 38/09, 55/11, 90/11, 50/12) gives the ground to a Rulebook on ensuring accessibility of buildings to persons with disabilities and reduced mobility (Official Gazette 78/13). The requirements in the Rulebook are applicable to public as well as to residential buildings. The building control is provisioned from the design of the building to construction and maintenance and sanctions for non-compliance are foreseen for all the parties involved in construction that are somehow involved in breaching the requirements. In 2004 a "Project for solving facility accessibility for persons with disabilities" was started by Ministry of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergenerational Solidarity, co-funded by the government. The funds were granted to local self-administration unit(s) and regional self-administration unit(s). Apart ensuring the accessibility to public building, the project has been including also other facilities (town pools and baths, pavements in streets, tactile warning strips, traffic lights with audible signalization etc). The state has the obligation to ensure funds for removal of construction and other barriers under the National Strategy of Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2007-2015 (ENAT National Expert and Committee for Persons with Disabilities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, 2011).

Cyprus

In the First report of Cyprus for the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities states that there are still significant barriers in access to the built environment for the persons with disabilities mainly because of inadequate enforcement of legislation on accessibility by the relevant local authorities. The legislation that warrants the access to the PwD to the built environment is Streets and Buildings Law - Chapter 96 and Regulations (Regulation 61 H), which is currently under the revision in order to set higher standards for the requirements in the design of roads and buildings. Despite the mandatory provision that

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all public buildings must become accessible (no time frame for the implementation of the Regulation 61 H for buildings (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012)), the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities of Cyprus finds that implementation of the provisions of the Law for the buildings built before the Regulation 61 H is weak. In the process of issuing the building permit the documents concerning the building certificate have to comply with the requirements set in the Regulation 61 H. Architectural plans of hotels that provide infrastructure for persons with disabilities in the context of the Hotels and Tourist Accommodation Regulations 1985-2005 - Regulation 47A - Facilities for persons with disabilities are approved by Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO). For premises that wish to improve or expand their infrastructure the CTO has created a Technical Guide containing technical specifications, criteria and best practices and they also maintain a list of the hotels that provide accommodation and additional services for persons with disabilities (ENAT National Expert and Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance: Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, 2013).

Czech Republic

In Czech Republic certain basic requirements for the barrier-free environment are set down by Act No. 183/2006 Coll., on Special Planning and Building Code in which the state acknowledges that barrier-free solutions and usage of buildings are in public interest., while the Decree No.501/2006 Coll., on General Land Use Requirements establishes the conditions for designing barrier-free public areas. The Decree No. 499/2006 Coll., on Building Documentation contains solutions for all buildings in terms of their barrier-free accessibility and usage. The Decree No. 398/2009 Coll., on General Technical Requirements for Barrier-Free Usage of Constructions stipulates technical requests to enable the usage by persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, the Initial report submitted by Czech Republic under article 35 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes that there are still some gaps in ensuring completely barrier-free environment. In order to eliminate the barriers in transportation and public buildings the government approved the Governmental Plan for Funding the National Development Programme Mobility for All. On the municipal level the Ministry of Regional Development introduced the programme "Barrier-Free Municipalities" that provides the municipalities with subsidies for projects for barrier-free ways, entrances, insides of the buildings, purchases of lifting and transport technologies etc. (ENAT National Expert and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2011).

Denmark

The accessibility in the new buildings, refurbishment and renovation of existing buildings is regulated by Danish Building Regulations from 2010 (BR10) and require that all parts of the new building are being accessible for the wheelchair users who are subsequently being able to move throughout the building without being stopped by barriers or obstacles such as staircases (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). As to existing buildings, stricter accessibility requirements in relation to requirement of level-free access have been introduced in 2008. Another change in the building legislation was the introduction of requirement of accessible signs and information as a response to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2010 (Ministry of Social Affairs, 2011). Danish Building Research Institute issues SBi Directions (Anvisninger). A system of progressive access requirements is used, consisting of A, B and C standard. The A standard is a higher standard (for buildings such as nursing homes), the B standard is standard DS3028 Accessibility for All (meaning the building is accessible) and the C standard is the compliance with the existing legislation (BR 2010). A sign for accessibility for existing buildings has been made by the association Accessibility for All, where the building is

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eligible for the sign if it meets at least B standard (ref. ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

Estonia

The construction area in Estonia is regulated by Law of Planning and the Law of Building, however additional code of building practice, standards and several other instructions exist. Municipality or other public authority inspects objects under construction on functional quality (including accessibility). The accessibility for PwD in construction area is regulated on the regional level (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The Social Welfare Act sets requirement to provide access to buildings used by the public for persons with sight, hearing and mobility impairments. The Decree No.14 from 28 November 2002 is providing specific requirements for facilitating mobility of PwD in public buildings. Preparation of guidelines, comprising technical solutions for accessibility of PwD to residential buildings, was one of several activities set in Estonian Housing Economy Development Plan 2008-2013 in order to improve accessibility. Information on the access to buildings in Estonia is available on liikumisvabadus.invainfo.ee, however the data on the proportion of the buildings covered by the website on continuing basis (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). The site is available in Estonian, Finish, English and Russian. On 8th April, 2014 among 2101 entered buildings 107 were listed as accommodation facilities (80 hotels, 18 guesthouses, 2 camping sites, 5 spas and one tourist cottage) (ENAT National Expert and Järve, 2014).

Finland

Land Use and Building Act (2000) established by Ministry of Environment [Ymparisto] is sets up building regulations and procedures, while the local authorities have the responsibility over enforcement of building regulations in their jurisdiction and land use planning. The Code applies to new buildings and renovation of the existing ones (according to the nature and extension of the adaptation). The Code is comprised of technical regulations and instructions (established in decrees), where the former are binding, but the later only offer a possible solution how to approach the requirements (Ministry of the Environment [Ymparisto], 2014) Checking of building plans and checking of work under construction is done by local authority, but might delegate the later task to the developer or designer of the building. Local authority is in charge of the control before the occupation of the building and issuing completion certificate, if all the requirements are met. Accessibility in housing design and barrier-free building is regulated by National Building Code G1 Housing design and National Building Code F1 Barrier-free Building (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The paragraph 53 of Land Use and Building Decree (895/1999) contains the provisions that that administrative and service buildings, commercial and service premises as well as residential buildings and associated spaces must ensure accessibility. The regulation F2 Safety in use of the Building Code set the requirements for accessibility in regard to fire safety and evacuation process in all buildings (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

France

Construction area in France is regulated on several levels. The licences are issued by public authorities and the control over the construction is carried out by the private sector. Requirements for acoustics, thermal insulation, fire safety and accessibility are regulated by the Housing and Building Code, comprising legislative and regulatory articles (regulatory have the backgrounds in the legislative articles and are a combination of specifications (for accessibility among others) and performance requirements). Ministerial decrees (Décrets)

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have the same binding effect as the law. Implementing orders (arrêtés) are often introduced in order to set levels of the requirement. Housing and Building Code is complemented by the standards and local regulations. The legal requirement for 'Obligatory insurance of decennial guarantee' imposes that a verification of technical compliance with the standards is made by a controller hired by the insurance company. The accessibility for PwD in construction area is regulated on the national level (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The Law 2005-102 Titre IV Accessibility, Chapitre III: Built environment, transports and new technologies sets the obligation for all buildings (new and existing ones) to be accessible by 2015 (dwellings excluded). Specific standards in regard to accessibility of buildings have been issued between 2006 and 2009 in series of decrees and orders (see in the table). However, after submission of the cases by disabled persons and NGOs constitutional council decided to censure the respective decrees (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

Germany

Germany is composed of 16 states (Länder) which all have their individual Act on Equal Opportunities and building regulations for private and public buildings as well as buildings of local authorities, which are similar in all 16 states (these regulations are laid down in the Landesbauordnungen (Building Code of the States)). On the national level Disability Equality Act [Gesetz zur Gleichstellung behinderter Menschen – Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz, BGG] requires that new public buildings have to be accessible. The obligation for the existing buildings is that these have to comply with accessibility requirements when being renovated. The regulations addressing barrier-free construction have to be taken into account in all construction projects, which can prescribe compliance with technical regulations (Deutsche Industrie Normen (DIN)) entirely or just partly, depending on the law of the federal state. Public tenders can be prescribed with additional requirements in regard to accessibility (of any kind) by contracting authorities in line with the European Directive 2004/18/EC and matching amendments of Act Against Restraints of Competition [Gesetz gegen Wettbewerbsbeschränkungen]. In the period 2009-2011 a significant contribution for barrier-free or barrier-reduced housing conversions was provided under the programme "Age-tailored conversion" by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs. The Committee on Labour and Social Affairs recognizes that accessibility has brought about the need for more and additional training of architects on that matter and promises that a concept on this will be drawn by the Federal Government [Committee on Labour and Social Affairs (Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales), 2011]. Building and Civil Engineering Standards Committee (NABau) has drawn up a standard NA 005-01-11 AA "Barrierefreies Bauen" ("Construction of accessible buildings") in 2010 that establishes technical requirements for accessible buildings and applies to planning, execution and equipment of publicly accessible buildings (ENAT National Expert and Beuth Verlag GmbH, 2014).

Greece

Principle of equality among all Greek citizens is founded in the Greek Constitution. The Law 3304/2005 establishes the notion of the reasonable accommodation in the workplace. Detailed technical specifications for accessible indoor and outdoor facilities as well as horizontal and vertical access are set in Design Guidelines for the Autonomous Movement and Living of People with Disabilities (Disability Office, Ministry of Environment 1986-1990) which according to Law 4067/2012 New Building Regulations all the new buildings must comply with. According to the New General Building Regulation (art.26) all Public and Public use buildings must provide horizontal and vertical access to people with disabilities. Provisions must also be made for accessible toilets and parking spaces. Buildings existing before the enactment of this Act including government agencies, public entities, private

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entities of the public sector, charitable organizations, local governments and first tier or uses public gathering (Venues, exhibitions, museums, concerts, sporting or cultural concentrations, temples, theaters / cinemas, restaurants / bakeries / cafes / nightclubs, multipurpose rooms, passenger lounges, banks / bureaux etc.), temporary residence, education, health and social welfare, justice and correctional, offices and commerce, industry and crafts, as well as in car parks and service stations must make the necessary adaptations and other functional spaces that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Buildings that host public services and spaces, industry, trade and offices built before 2012 should comply with the standards by 2020. Changes must be completed by 2020, provided it does not affect the main body of the building, otherwise buildings should be considered arbitrary.

The Law 4067/2012 also allows to persons with disabilities to make changes in common areas (on their expenses) to ensure the access to these spaces without any building permit (if these changes do not affect the building infrastructure) (ENAT National Expert).

Hungary

Act XXVI of 1998 on the rights and equal opportunities of persons with disabilities in Hungary establishes the right to equal access to buildings, services and information for the people with disabilities. The act relates to public and private buildings as well as to the buildings built before the adoption of the Act XXVI of 1998, though the public administration buildings were exempted until 2013. For breaking the above regulation The Equal Treatment Act (125 of 2003) is applicable (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). The requirements regarding the removal of the obstacles in public buildings are regulated in the Act LXXXVIII of 1997 on the formation and protection of the built environment provides interpretation of general terms such accessibility of the built environment, while details on the requirements of the elimination of obstacles regarding the built environment are provided by the Government Decree 253/1997 (XII.20) on National Requirements of Spatial Planning and Building. In 2009 Public Foundation of Hungary published "Auxiliary document for providing the conditions for the free accessibility to public services with equal opportunities" (revision of the version created in 2007), which among other objective aims at elimination of obstacles in the built environment and introduction of the architectural elements of the info-communication accessibility. In order to apply for EU resources the tender has to apply the document to the project. Magyar Turizmus Zrt. provides list of tourism accommodation facilities providing accessible rooms, nevertheless according to the report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities this data is not always trustworthy (ENAT National Expert and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2011).

Italy

In Italy building control is under the competence of 20 regions. Five of these have a high degree of legislative and financial autonomy. Every region is divided in provinces and further in municipalities with their individual sustainable building codes. Municipalities issue building licenses and can set more specific requirements of buildings projects. Technical regulations for some specific types of buildings (such as hospitals, public housing, schools) are regulated at national level by Ministerial Decrees, however the requirements regarding accessibility for disabled people are set at the national level (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The law that addresses equal

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opportunities for PwD is Framework Law for assistance, social integration and rights of the handicapped (Law n. 104 of 5 February 1992). The laws in Italy that ensure the right to access in public environments are the Decree 114 of the Ministry for Arts and Culture of 16 May 2008 and Law n. 41 of 28 February 1986 (Finance Act 1986). The former contains guidelines for the elimination of architectural barriers and design oriented suggestions in places of cultural interest, while the later requires local authorities, the state and regions to distribute part of their annual budget for this purpose (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). Decree of the President of the Republic 503/96 and decree 236/89 contain implementation norms, where the accessibility of physical environment is grounded in the normative framework concerning the elimination and/or the removal of physical barriers. Technical prescriptions regarding accessibility are embodied in a plurality of norms that include dimensional limits and minimum requirements. Currently the Parliament is preparing a proposal on a single normative framework related to accessibility in a universal design perspective that will be coordinating and bringing up to date all technical provisions concerning public and private buildings (ENAT National Expert and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2013).

Ireland

Ireland, similarly to UK, regulates the construction area with Building Regulations (2010) that set out generic functional requirements, while Technical Guidance Documents provide more specific provisions (which are in some areas stricter than ones in England and Wales) – they provide advice how to comply with requirements, but are not binding as far as requirements are met. Same as in UK, the accessibility for PwD is regulated in the Technical Guidance Document M Access and Use (by Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government). Planning permissions are issued by the local authorities that are also in charge of monitoring the construction process. The Control Act 2007 among other provisions also raises penalties for breaching provisions of the National Building Regulations (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011; Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). What is different from UK, is that Disability Access Certificate (DAC), introduced by Building Control Regulations 2010 and issued by local Building Control Authority is required. This applies for all New Non-Domestic Buildings, Apartments and in respect of all works or a building to which a Fire safety certificate is required. The certificate verifies the requirements under Part M of the Building Regulations are fulfilled. The fee for the is €800 per building (Wicklow County Council [Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin], 2014). (ENAT National Expert).

Latvia

The access to buildings in Latvian Legislation is regulated by National Building Law (1995) which specifies that building should be constructed in a way that enables access for PwD, however municipalities can specify more stringent construction methods. Second level legislation refers to Regulations and Latvian Building Codes (LBN), which are binding for all public and private entities as well as for the natural persons. In 2011 there were 24 Latvian Building Codes and 15 Regulations regulating the area. The third level acts are in the domain of the municipalities. Building permits are issued by municipal Building Councils (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). LBN 211-08 covers Multi-storey residential buildings (in case of foreseen apartments for families having disabled people with movement impairments), LBN 209-09 covers Low-rise residential buildings, while LBN 208-08 sets requirements of physical accessibility in public buildings together with the Regulations No.567 of the Cabinet of Ministers. The law does however not regulate requirements for the private rooms (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012; Priestley, 2013).

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Lithuania

The law drawing up the requirements for accessibility of built environment (also designing of buildings and public facilities) is Law on Social Integration of the Disabled (1991), while the Law on Construction ((Official Gazette) [*Valstybės žinios*] No 32-788, 1996; No 101-3597, 2001) says that buildings need to be designed, built and renovated in a way that accommodates needs of the disabled people. The regulation Technical Requirements STR 2.03.01:2001 Buildings and territories - Requirements related to the needs of persons with disabilities ((Official Gazette) [*Valstybės žinios*] No 53-1898, 2001) sets down binding rules for residential and other buildings in connection to accessibility. The plans and designs for construction of the buildings and constructed buildings are inspected by Department of the Affairs of the Disabled (8 of Annex 9 of Technical Requirements STR 1.07.01:2010) where renovated buildings are exempted, successively the building permit documentation must be issued by the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania ((Official Gazette) [*Valstybės žinios*] No 116-5944, 2010). Construction Completion Certificate is issued by Construction Completion Commission, stating that the building was built or renovated in line with building design solutions. Annex 8 of Technical Requirements STR 1.05.06:2010 Building design ((Official Gazette) [*Valstybės žinios*] No 4-80, 2005; No 115-5902, 2010) contains information specifying environment and building accessibility solutions for the disabled. At least 5% of the number of apartments in the building should be suitable for PwD according to Technical Requirements STR 2.02.01:2004 Residential buildings ((Official Gazette) [*Valstybės žinios*] No 23-721, 2004). STR 2.03.01:2001 Buildings and Territories (*Requirements related to the needs of persons with disabilities*) sets the requirements for entrances, passageways, stairs and ramps. Republic of Lithuania Code of Administrative Violations contains provisions in case of breaching the requirements set in the Technical Requirements STR (ENAT National Expert and Ministry of Social Security and Labour, 2012).

Luxembourg

In Luxembourg laws and regulations in connection to construction of the buildings are set mostly on the national level and lesser amount at local level. Accessibility to and within the buildings is regulated on the national level by Accessibility Act of 29 March 2001 (Loi du 29 mars 2001 portant sur l'accessibilité des lieux ouverts au public) that covers new buildings and renovations of the existing ones, but existing buildings prior to the act are left out. The amendment of the act in 2008 (Règlement grand-ducal du 25 janvier 2008) contributes series of requirements in regard to accessibility that are mandatory for all the buildings built or renovated after 2001. National accessibility guide (Guide des Normes 20020 provides the detailed explanations of the requirements (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). The monitoring process during the construction is done by the architects and technical advisers on behalf of insurers. The aspects controlled are social and technical quality as well as control on energy, however the respondent from the Ministry of Housing [Ministère du Logement] to the questionnaire of the PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology collected under the Construction Products Regulation did not know whether the aspects of functional quality (under which the accessibility for PwD is located) were being monitored. The construction of the object is stopped in case of non-compliance with technical aspects, for other types of non-compliance the contractor is requested to solve the problem. *Existing buildings in use* are not monitored on compliance with the regulations (ENAT National Expert and PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011).

Malta

The Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs is in charge of formulation of building regulations in Malta. Construction regulations affect all types of buildings (there is no

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distinction between the types). The control of building plans and control of work under construction is done by architects in a superficial way, construction regulation covers only ecological aspect related to water consumption (Malta together with Qatar the world's second water poorest country, after Kuwait (Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, n.d.)), however other aspects are not regulated. Existing buildings are not monitored on any of the aspects (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (2000) establishes the ground for the regulation of built environment in relation to accessibility for PwD, stating that public and private buildings opened to the public use must be accessible to all. The Access for All Design Guidelines, issued by Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) with support of National Commission Persons with Disability (KNPD [Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b' Dizabilita] - part of the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity), sets the accessibility requirements for access to buildings open to the public. The planning (building) applications are submitted to MEPA and examined by KNPD. If there are no objections by KNPD, KNPD gives the clearance regarding accessibility to issuing the permits for building (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). The section of Access for All the of the official website of KNPD contains a section Guidelines for the Hotels and accessibility checklist to assist architects in the drafting of drawings that will be vetted by KNPD for accessibility issues (KNPD: National Commission Persons with Disability, 2014). (ENAT National Expert)

Netherlands

The construction area in Netherlands is regulated by the Housing Act that refers to the Building Decree (2012) [Bouwbesluit] for technical requirements supplemented by instructions in National standards and codes of practice on how to meet the requirements. Municipal building authority (overseen by national building inspectorate) is empowered to check planning requirements and technical requirements of a permit application as well as inspections of the building sites – if requested (not regulated by law) and has the power to halt the construction if needed. However, the municipalities' staff has been criticized for their lack of knowledge in regard to physical aspects of construction work. Existing buildings are not inspected on the aspects of sustainability. The sustainability aspects are regulated in a top-down manner, where the government sets the requirements and the construction sector follows them. The accessibility too buildings for PwD is regulated on the national level (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The Building Decree (2012) accessibility requirements are binding for all the new buildings open to the public that are bigger than 400 m² (workplaces are included). As for the existing buildings the requirements from the initial construction date apply in case of renovation or adaptation. The application of accessibility requirements for schools, restaurants, bars and new apartment buildings depend on the size or area of the establishment. The voluntary Dutch design code NEN 1814 contains more detailed accessibility requirements (ENAT National Expert and Priestley, 2013).

Poland

Many areas of functional and technical quality are regulated in Construction Law (1994) and Ordinance of Ministry of Infrastructure on Technical requirements to be fulfilled by buildings and their localization (2002). Among these requirements is also the obligation to render buildings accessible and consider the needs of PwD in construction projects. Building plans control and control of Work under construction is carried out by the municipality (or its technical advisor) and includes the usability of the object for PwD, regulated on the national level. Existing buildings are inspected on several sustainability aspects, including functional quality (that comprises access to the built environment for PwD) (PRC Bouwcentrum

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International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). Regulation on Technical Standards of 12 April 2002 drawn by Ministry of Infrastructure sets more specific requirements in regard to accessibility. In order to remove architectural barriers that present the obstacles for PwD in their daily life the Regulation of 25 June 2002 of Minister of Labour and Social Policy gave to PwD the right to the resources from the State Fund. In case that the barrier removal is approved, the Pwd has the right to up to 80% reimbursement by the government(Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). Act on Social Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons (2010) established the concept of reasonable improvements for Poland (ENAT National Expert and Priestley, 2013).

Portugal

Anti-Discrimination Law (Law 46/2006) regulates general requirements regarding access to the public and private built environment, while Decree-Law 163/2006 (under revision) sets specific requirements for buildings (such as lobbies, lifts, passageways, toilets, ramps, parking spaces, floor and pavements etc.). All the buildings, existing as well as new ones, are covered by the Decree. National Plan for the Promotion of Accessibility 2007/2015 (PNAP) has been launched in 2007, which among other issues addresses requirements to remove barriers to accessibility in the built environment. In 2011 new measures for improving accessibility have been proposed for the second phase (2012-2020) of the National Plan (Ministry of Solidarity and Social Security: National Institute for Rehabilitation (INR), 2012). Methods to remove barriers in the built environment, particularly in public buildings have also been contained in The National Strategy for Disability 2011-2013 (Resolution of the Ministers Council 97/2010). Implementation of accessibility requirements deadlines differ depending on the building year of the facilities, however the technical accessibility for dwellings is binding for those buildings whose construction have been started after the adaption of the law. Another exempt to the accessibility requirements of the Decree-Law 163/2006 are buildings and facilities constructed in compliance with preceding accessibility law (Decree Law 123/97 of 22 May) (Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012). Private sector building licenses are issued at the municipal level and statements of responsibility are submitted to the General Directorate for Buildings and National Monuments Inspection for local, regional and central government organizations works that do not need authorization (ENAT National Expert and Priestley, 2013).

Romania

Construction area in Romania is regulated by B.I.A. The majority of the regulations are adopted on the national level and local authorities can only act upon local planning requirements. According to Romania Green Building Council the vast majority of the regulation on sustainable topics has their background in the EU Directives, which are implemented in the national legislation as soon as they are adopted on the EU level (not implemented that smoothly though). As Romania Green Building Council states in the questionnaire of PRC Bouwcentrum International, the national legislation is as strong as EU Directives. Construction plans are checked on almost all aspects (including Usability for PwD, that is quasi-mandatory in Romania) by municipality/other public authority and the architect, while the control of work under construction is checked thoroughly on technical aspects and only superficially on other building aspects (including usability for PwD). The existing buildings are not checked (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). Law 448/2006 includes accessibility to public buildings (Chapter IV – Accessibility, Article 62 and 63) applying to all new buildings and existing buildings that are adapted with public funds. While Academic Network of European Disability Experts states that the building permit will not be issued if accessibility requirements are not met, the Romania Green Building Council states the permits will not be issued only in case of technical quality non-compliance in practice (usability for PwD is counted under functional quality). The standards regulating accessibility are NP 051/2000 regarding the adaptation of

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public buildings and urban spaces for persons with disabilities (many of the requirements stayed unfulfilled despite the set deadlines) (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

Slovakia

Technical building regulations in Slovakia are mainly set by national authorities, however some of these may be additionally supplemented by regional authorities issuing their own building codes subordinating the national regulations. These rules apply to new and existing building (however in case of energy consumption performance lower level of regulation applies) (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). Act No. 50/1976 and its amendments contain requirements for the access to built environment. Decree No. 532/2002 addresses the general technical requirements for buildings used by persons with reduced mobility and orientation (basic requirements for buildings in the building act are derived from Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011). Decree No. 532/2002 Coll., as amended is setting more specific requirements on the general technical requirements to ensure a barrier-free environment and it applies to new buildings and extension/renovation of existing ones (Priestley, 2013). Paragraph 46 of the Decree No. 532/2002 Coll. covers hotels, motels and quest houses. Supportive measures to eliminate physical obstacles are laid down in Regional Operational Programme and are mainly intended to improve access to government and municipal facilities such as schools, cultural heritage etc. (ENAT National Expert and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 2012).

Slovenia

The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is responsible for the construction area, regulated mainly on the national level. The practice of adopting the regulations is top down in area of construction. The usability of the buildings is considered when checking of building plans by technical advisor on behalf of future owner, in case of non-compliance the building permit is issued. The work under construction must be controlled by other public authority, architect and technical advisor on behalf of future owner, in case of non-compliance the constructor is required to solve the problem. The functional quality of the existing buildings might be checked by technical advisors on behalf of the authorities or on behalf of the (future) owner (PRC Bouwcentrum International and Delft University of Technology, 2011). The barrier free environment is required in the Rules on the requirements for free access to, entry to and use of public buildings and facilities and multi-apartment buildings [Pravilnik o zahtevah zagotavljanja neoviranega dostopa, vstopa in uporabe objektov v javni rabi] (Official Gazette 97/2003) and applies to the existing buildings and to the ones that are to be renovated. Standard SIST ISO 21542:2012 sets more detailed recommendations in regard how to achieve barrier free environment (Engineering Chamber of Slovenia [Inženirska Zbornica Slovenija], 2014). The Act on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (2010) sets the deadline in 2025 for all the public buildings to be accessible (including penalty provisions) (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

Spain

Similarly to Austria, 17 Spanish Autonomous Communities have the power to develop specific normative responses on accessibility based on national legislation (Priestley, 2013). Act No. 51/2003 of 2 December 2003 on equality of opportunity, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities has caused adoption of Royal Decree No. 173/2010 that amended the Building Code and created grounds for Royal Decree No.

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505/2007 adopting basic standards of accessibility and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities as regards access to and use of urbanized public areas and buildings. On national level Technical building code CTE (Código Técnico de la Edificación) grounded in Ley de Ordenación de la Edificación) of 5th November 1999 establishes technical regulations and standards for buildings, however the local authorities can set additional requirements. The part 2 of Technical building code contains series of volumes ('documentos básicos') that establish technical rules and examples how to achieve the requirements. The First Accessibility Plan 2004-2012 introduced certain specific accommodation and emphasized achievement of universal accessibility by means of the generalization of design for all. The Initial report on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of Spain states that under of the Ministry of Housing technical document on basic standards on access to and the use of urbanized public spaces been prepared and will be made public. A study on access to the buildings of the different ministries, using as the basis first part of regulation UNE 170001-1 and its DALCO requirements, was carried out in 2006. This allowed the detection of the non-compliance areas with the respective standard and enabled formulation of proposals for corrective measures. Since then ministerial departments have been using the study with the intent to achieve better accessibility since it covers many aspects of the built environment (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2010)

Sweden

Legislature regulating accessibility of the built environment is Swedish Planning and Building Act (PBL) and Public Procurement Act, setting requirements that technical specifications in tender documentation are to take account of accessibility for people with disabilities, where applicable. One of nine technical prerequisites for construction work and refurbishments of existing buildings in PBL is accessibility and usability for persons with disabilities and it applies to public as well as to private premises. Another provision in the Act that contains retroactive requirements is the removal obstacles to accessibility that are easy to eliminate (introduced in 2001), still the regulation in this matter is optional if there is an alternative to fulfilling the accessibility requirements (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, 2011). In PBL there are sanctions established for breaching individual requirements such as monetary value and/or ban on the use of the part of the building that is non-compliant with the regulations. Regulation 2011/338 on planning and construction (Plan - och byggförordningen) gives voice to the requirements on constructions in the built environment. The implementation of the Building Act is overviewed on municipal level, therefore The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning has since 2006 been publishing series of guidances for municipalities, which address also accessibility. Graphic symbols have been developed into national standard by the Swedish Institute of Assistive Technology, which are supposed to increase the use of non-verbal information presentation in buildings and other public locations (ENAT National Expert, Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012 and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, 2011).

United Kingdom

The Equality Act 2010 gives ground to the right to accessible built environment in the UK. The Approved Document M (referred as to Part M) of the Building Regulations sets the requirements to ensure accessibility for construction of new buildings by all people. The British Standard BS 8300:2001 'Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people - Code of Practice' is the ground for the Approved Document M, however these are not binding if there another more suitable or convenient way of achieving compliance with the requirements exists (HM Government, 2013). Regimes of the three UK

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government regions (England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland) in connection to the construction regulations are slightly differing among the regions. The Part M (in England and Wales), Technical Booklet R in Northern Ireland and Technical Handbooks in Scotland apply to the construction of new buildings and existing buildings that undergo material alteration. If the new construction does not fulfil the accessibility requirements, an Access Statement is required providing the justification for the event. British Standard 8300 contains detailed code of practice on accessibility incorporating accessibility of entrances into a building and facilities within a building, including approach routes to a building and cover all types of residential and public buildings, dwellings are exempt from it though. In relation to the hotels a specific guidance on the accessibility of large hotels was published in 2008 (PAS 88:2008) (non binding), but the title has since been withdrawn. (ENAT National Expert and Academic Network of European Disability Experts, 2012).

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