

EUROCITIES – “Barrier-free City for All” Working Group



Minutes of the 18th Working Group Meeting

Place	Prague
Time	Monday, 23 rd of April
Participants	see Annex 1
Programme / Agenda	see in the text
Moderation	Gerd Grenner / Karin Oster

The working group meeting took place in the framework of the Mobility-Forum’s meeting. The members of the working group had the opportunity to participate in the conference „Multimodal cities: common vision, multiple strategies“.

1. Internal work of the working group

The minutes of the last meeting in Toulouse and the agenda for the meeting in Prague were approved.

1.1. Chair and vice-chair

Berlin was unanimously elected as the chair of the working group for the years 2018 – 2019. Toulouse was elected as vice-chair.

The city of Milan was welcomed as a new member of the working group. AMAT’s Andrea Canevazzi will represent Milan. (AMAT: Agenzia Mobilità Ambiente Territorio)

2. News from the cities

Prague

Karolina Klimova

Prague’s public transport operator had launched a complex process of creating a manual for public transport stops and stations which complements the Prague Public Space Design Manual (<http://manual.iprpraha.cz/en>) with the aim to make Prague a pedestrian friendly city. Having involved more than 35 partners and stakeholders over almost 3 years, the company

recently published and promoted it to citizens and local stakeholders. The manual has been widely credited for its quality and usefulness and it will be available in English soon.

Barcelona:

Laura Trujillo

Universal Accessibility Masterplan 2016-2028. Projects developed or in development / in the diagnosis phase:

- "Plan de Paradas": updated study of the accessibility of public transport stations and stops, including bus lines, underground, tram and train stations. Recruitment of a special team of 10 people responsible for data collection, financed by a local employment plan against unemployment.
- Diagnosis phase of facilities' accessibility in the following areas: social services, information points, city offices, community centres, libraries, health facilities, markets, sports centres, streets and parks. Recruitment of a special team of 40 workers with disabilities for data collection, financed by a special local employment plan against unemployment.

Accessible commerce. Publication of the booklet "Fem accessible el nostre comerç" (Let's make our shop accessible) (in Catalan: <https://bit.ly/2HaWWwi>), aimed at spreading accessibility rules to shop owners. The booklet showcases practical solutions of accessibility measures, in order to promote community life for all. The content is divided into 5 chapters and highlights the benefits of accessibility and the consequences of non-accessibility.

- sidewalks: obstacles, façade line and awnings.
- avoiding barriers at shop entrances: steps, carpets and some ramps.
- indoors: corridors, ability to reach products, fitting rooms and counters.
- WC: universal design and avoiding use for other purposes.
- communication: labels, product details, menus and websites.

Playable City. Approval of the local plan to increase, improve and diversify Barcelona's recreation areas for children, considering the range of needs of children and teenagers. One of the plan's objectives is achieving inclusive play areas for different ages, groups, cultures and disabilities.

5th International Congress on Education and Accessibility to Museums and Heritage (Barcelona, June 14-16). Under the title of "Planning and management. Access to content", the organization will be inviting you to participate, debate, exchange ideas and reflect on the accessibility-management for cultural institutions as being a shared responsibility, in addition to a commitment to changing the conception of content, so as to create content that is attractive for everybody. Programme in English: <http://congresoaccessibilidad.mmb.cat/en/programa/>

Social Public Procurement Guide. Publication of the Social Public Procurement Guide (in English: <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/contractaciopublica/en/>), a social and economic transformation tool for people and the common good that expands the range of companies able to take part in public tendering processes, thus ensuring their economic security. This guide has to be applied by the entire City Council and all the companies and other bodies with a majority stake in the municipal group.

It takes into consideration 4 main social rights:

- Universal accessibility. Contract-performance requirement: whether the contractor has the corresponding measures in place must be verified.

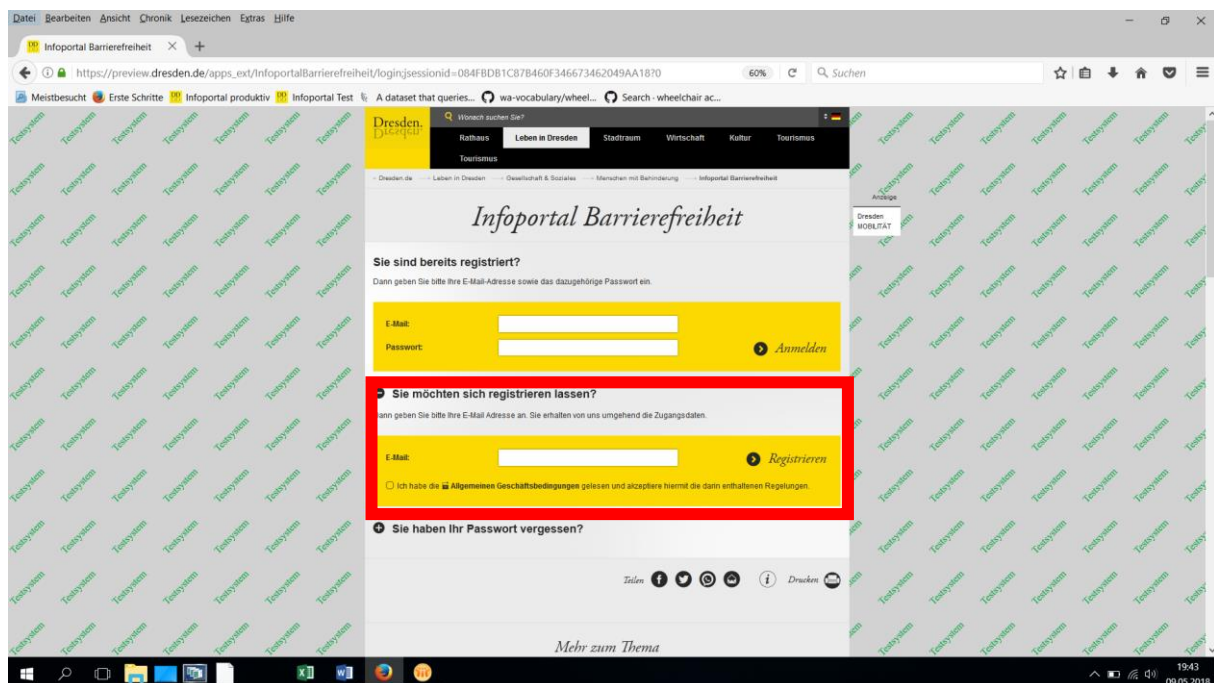
- Workers with disabilities. Contract-performance requirement: whether companies so required are complying with the minimum requirement that 2% of their workforce are people with disabilities must be verified.
- Gender equality. Contract-performance requirement: the contractor must submit a gender equality plan and measures.
- Joint responsibility for work-life balance. Contract-performance requirement: that means ensuring workers can reconcile work with their family and personal life.

Banc del Moviment (Bank for Movement). Creation of a bank of resources and aids for people with mobility impairments. The bank accepts donations and gives temporary loans for orthopaedic equipment and other aids, such as crutches, wheelchairs or walkers. People who take out material on loan leave a deposit, ranging from 10 euros for a pair of crutches to 250 euros for a wheelchair. Once the material is no longer necessary for the person who received it, it should be returned to the “Bank for Movement” for a technical check in order to make it available to those who need it afterwards. In 2017 the service has received 255 donations and has given 375 loans of equipment pieces for people with disabilities. (<http://bcnsostenible.cat/en/web/punt/banc-del-moviment>)

Dresden

Matthias Pfeil

The city’s information portal „Barrierefreiheit“ (barrier-freedom) provides a wide variety of relevant information. A publicly accessible database allows inhabitants and visitors to upload data on the accessibility of the built environment, guided by a set of pre-defined questions and criteria. The data’s validity is checked and, if necessary, corrected externally.



Milan

Andrea Canevazzi

Milan is the winner of the EU's Access City Awards 2016.

Currently the city is preparing a mobility plan with measures directed towards barrier free routing (public transport, pedestrians, publicly accessible buildings).

Ljubljana

Karel Pollak, Andreja Albreht

In the frame of an action plan, the city adopted a new construction planning law. Buildings with more than 10 flats must feature one that is barrier-free.

Frankfurt

Friederike Schlegel

The website www.frankfurt-handicap.de was re-designed and new features were added. The page can now be used with a mobile application and the domain name was changed to: www.frankfurt-inklusive.de.

Warsaw

Michael Mazur informed the group that accessibility issues are given more consideration in the domains of culture, music and sporting events.

Toulouse

Brigitte Grasset

A routing system for pedestrians with details on the route, distance and walking time was developed and is available as a mobile app. Toulouse Métropole has published a charta on the accessibility of streets and public spaces. More information on: <https://www.toulouse-metropole.fr/voirie-et-accessibilite>

Berlin

Gerd Grenner, Ingeborg Stude

The roundtable 'barrierfree city' was carried forward by Berlin's state-secretary for transport. Following the amendment of Berlin's building regulations, in constructions with more than two apartments the flats on one floor need to be barrier-free.

In buildings with more than two apartments and with the necessary elevators, one third of the apartments must be barrier-free. From 2020 onwards, half of the apartments must be barrier-free.

3. Presentations

Bart Rousseau presented the Open Data Portal of the city of Ghent. The Open Data Portal provides data sets and apps for different categories. The city of Ghent has an open data policy. In accordance with this policy, the Open Data portal uses an open source platform. Anyone can freely copy and use the source code of the Open Data portal. The "Smart Flanders" project already uses freely accessible real-time data for intelligent parking management.

Sebastian Askar of the Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Business presented the open data portal "daten.berlin.de". Among other things, this portal supports developments for barrier-free route planning (<https://wheelmap.org>; <http://www.brokenlifts.org>; App "accessBerlin") and barrier-free public transport. Currently, the Open data Berlin group works in 22 categories. According to Sebastian Askar, the possibilities are enormous, but capitalizing on them requires very close cooperation with the respective actors, also on the topic of accessibility, in order to formulate precise tasks.

The Presentation by **Gerhard Buchholz** on barrier-free tourism and the app "accessBerlin" with information on the barrier-free tourist service chain can be downloaded from the EURO CITIES website - Gerhard Buchholz had to cancel his participation on short notice.

TopGis s.r.o.'s **Vladimír Plšek** presented the extensive application possibilities of mobile data acquisition of public road space. Originally it was an assignment for the measurement of old town facades. Due to the high level of detail of the panoramic images, barriers can be precisely located in public spaces. Furthermore, it is possible to use this data for the planning of specific works.

Laurent Saby and **Sébastien Froment** presented the project group "GIS and Accessibility" under the leadership of Cerema (France). The aim is to develop criteria for a standardised collection and processing of data for barrier-free navigation in French municipalities. The results of the project group will be presented to the WG-BCA and could be developed into a standard in Europe.

Matthias Pfleil presented the online survey tool for the information portal Accessibility of the City of Dresden. The information portal is designed as an open data portal and offers everyone the possibility to enter data on the accessibility of buildings in Dresden according to a defined query pattern. The correctness of the data is checked and corrected externally. Further information is available at: https://www.dresden.de/apps_ext/InfoportalBarrierefreiheit

Monika Klenovec informed about the current status of the standardization process of the European standardization institute CEN/CENELEC on accessibility of the built environment (mandate 420). The draft will be available in autumn 2018 and will be discussed with the expert public in public workshops. The expertise from the "Barrier-free City for All" working group is to be contributed as part of the public consultation.

Federico Batista Poitier introduced the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES). GAATES is the leading international organisation for the promotion of accessibility and has offices in the regions: Asia-Pacific, Arabia, North America, South America, Europe and Africa. GAATES received consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in 2008. GAATES was thus involved in the Habitat III process and in

the development of the United Nations New Urban Agenda. Federico informed that GAATES has developed "Toolkits for Accessibility" for IT users, NGOs and businesses and works together with Microsoft among others. (more at www.GAATES.org and www.GlobalAccessibilityNews.com).

Anne Berit Rafoss, City of Oslo and **Tom van Benthem**, City of Amsterdam, presented the EUROCITIES working group on "Urban ageing". Active members are the cities of Oslo (chair) Amsterdam (vice-chair) Gothenburg, Manchester, Frankfurt, Vienna, Nantes, Barcelona, Gent, Utrecht, Tilburg, Hengelo, Leeds, Stockholm, Madrid, Düsseldorf and Edinburgh. The working group concentrates on the exchange of best practices for active and healthy ageing in cities.

The cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Manchester are also active in the working group on "Innovation for age friendly buildings, cities and environments". This working group is part of the "EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP on Active and Healthy Ageing" of the EU Commission. The shared intersections between the individual working groups should be exploited for knowledge transfer. Universities should be encouraged to cooperate in the areas of health sciences, urban and regional planning and architecture.

4. Evaluation

Content of the meeting: answers (5 x very good and 2 x good)

Organization: answers (7 x very good)

5. Miscellaneous

In July there will be a workshop for French cities - a French speaking expert is very welcome. (Contact: Laurent SABY, Chief of Accessibility and Building department, Phone: +33 (0)4 72 74 58 85 laurent.saby@cerema.fr)

6. Information from the steering committee

After 32 years EUROCITIES wants review and evaluate its work. The following steps are planned to achieve this:

- Reports / Comparisons with similar organizations
- Consideration of different financing models
- member survey
- Discussions in the "Vision for European Cities" forums
- Annual Meeting 2018 - political discussion
- Draft in 02/2019 and discussion in all bodies
- Resolution at the 2019 Annual Meeting

7. The next meeting

There were proposals for hosting the next meeting of three WG BCA from Ljubljana, Warsaw and Berlin. After consultations it was agreed to hold the next WG BCA meeting in December 2018 in Berlin within the framework of an international transport conference. The spring 2019 meeting is expected to take place in Ljubljana.