

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



**Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> working group meeting**

Place	Berlin
Time	10. – 11. December 2018
Participants	see Annex 1
Programme / Agenda	see Annex 2
Moderation	Barbara Berninger / Karin Oster

**1. Internal work of the working group**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the working group in Prague and the agenda for the meeting in Berlin were approved.

**2. News from the cities**

Milan

**Andrea Canevazzi**

Andrea Canevazzi presented Milan's mobility plan with measures for barrier-free mobility (see annex to the minutes). An important step was to establish priorities and goals for projects and campaigns that are defined and carried out by the city of Milan - acting both alone and in collaboration with partners. It became clear that it is necessary to have reliable data about public spaces in order to establish priorities. It also became clear that the current evaluation of the accessibility of public transport stops is insufficient. The city is planning to create a comprehensive and reliable pedestrian map so that it can guarantee individual pedestrian routes for people with disabilities.

Furthermore, the city is planning to develop tools for evaluating intervention scenarios for public transport, buildings and urban restructuring (including the associated economic cost-benefit analyses for such measures). Building on bilateral conversations with affected parties, the goal is to agree the work to be done in round table discussions.

Dresden

### **Matthias Pfeil**

Matthias Pfeil informed the group about the continuing (transnational) work on the information portal "Accessibility" of the city of Dresden. He will present the results of this work in greater detail at the next BCA meeting.

Ghent

### **Barth Vermandere**

Barth Vermandere used videos and photos to present campaigns in Ghent. According to Bart, by making work visible, a socially cohesive climate is created.

Future plans of the city on inclusion include:

- Search engine: sport & meeting people
- Charter: "to an accessible city"
- Creation of a group of experts: people with talent

The presentation with videos and photos is available via the following link:  
<https://vimeo.com/306156365>.

Moscow

### **Sergey Chistiy**

Sergey Chistiy informed the group that in Russia a major competition has just come to an end. The topic of "accessibility planning" is included in the curriculum of all 73 universities at which students can train to be architects. More than 1,000 entries were submitted in the competition "Planning an accessible city". Of these entries, 183 reached the second round and a winner was selected from a final shortlist of 10. The competition was organised using the example of the "Schindler Award" and is intended to take place every two years. A video showed the meeting at which the winner was chosen.

Munich

### **Susanne Lang**

Susanne Lang informed the group that the city's group of advisers for barrier-free planning and building has been working for two years on the basis of a concept which the city has continued to develop. The senior managers of the group of advisers work out of the office of the person with special responsibility for people with disabilities. The focus of the group's advisory work during the past two years has been the building of schools and the implementation of accessibility in public spaces. The group advised on a total of 80 projects, including some museums. With regard to the building of schools, it is planned to develop universally applicable standards during the next few months. In addition, the group of advisers is planning to present to the municipal councillor in early 2019 a second action plan for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This plan will contain a large variety of measures in various areas for action, e.g. health, education, mobility.

Barcelona

## **Laura Trujillo**

### Right of all to vote

Last November, the Spanish senate passed the modification to the General Voting Rules, so that Spain has become the 8<sup>th</sup> European country to remove voting restrictions for people with disabilities. This change will mean about 2,500 new voters in the city of Barcelona (100,000 for the whole country), mostly people with intellectual disabilities. At the local level, Barcelona City Council has promised to take all the necessary actions through the IMPD (*Municipal Institute for People with Disabilities*) to make the right to vote effective for everyone, as there will be municipal elections in May 2019. An event has been organised to get to know what kind of support people with every kind of disability actually need in order to cast a truly free and secret vote.

### Universal Accessibility Master Plan 2018-2026

Within the framework of the Accessibility Master Plan, the city of Barcelona is carrying out the diagnosis phase, which aims to analyse the level of accessibility of different facilities. The data collection has finished for several facilities, and so the Municipal Institute for People with Disabilities (IMPD) is beginning to publish the first results in close collaboration with those responsible for the accessibility of each of the areas involved. So far, the IMPD has presented the accessibility diagnosis of the public transport system and health facilities, and soon there will be presentations on markets, community centres and citizens' advice and information offices.

### Research on people with disabilities

- Economic disadvantage for people with disabilities in the city of Barcelona: Research is in progress to quantify the extra costs borne by people with disabilities and their families to achieve those standards of living that they would have in the absence of disabilities.

The study defines 13 different profiles, depending on the level of support needed and identifies what extra costs and social benefits might apply to each profile. The results of the study will be available in 2019.

- Salaries: The IMPD is drafting a paper on the available data about the salaries of workers with disabilities. The paper will quantify average salaries for men and women with disabilities and differences in job categories, amongst other things. It will be published in 2019.

### Innovative pilot project

This project will foster entrepreneurship, job inclusion and city regeneration through the creation of a cooperative of unemployed people with disabilities that will lead to the reopening of 10 vacant street kiosks.

### Publication on accessible exhibitions

An English version is already available on the internet: "Accessible exhibitions. Criteria for eliminating communication barriers and facilitating access to contents": <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dretsocials/sites/default/files/arxius-documents/accessible-exhibitions-acc-en.pdf>

Ljubljana

### **Sašo Rink**

The city of Ljubljana is preparing its next 2-year action plan on accessibility for the years 2019-2020. One of the main tasks it envisages is the financial contribution of the local authority to accessibility measures carried out on privately owned premises (restaurants, shops, etc). Such measures are required by the new construction code, which came into force in mid-2018, and the provision was inserted into the new legislation at the request of the city of Ljubljana.

Prague

### **Karolina Klimová**

Capital city Prague supports the boroughs of the city in order to improve the accessibility of public buildings. It provides subsidies, for example, for the installation of elevators, stairlifts, permanent ramps, guidance systems and the improvement of barrier-free public restrooms. The city has also published a flyer with a view to raising public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities.

Furthermore, a record was made of the GPS location and the barrier-free accessibility from the nearest pavement of all public parking spaces for disabled people in 2018. A record was also made of all public parking spaces for people with disabilities at important public buildings (schools, hospitals, cultural facilities etc.). This data is publicly accessible at: <http://www.geoportalpraha.cz/cs/opendata/4580C13E-4B52-4E13-B8B0-6BD5038FE6AB> and will shortly be published online at [www.pragueaccessibilitymap.eu](http://www.pragueaccessibilitymap.eu).

### **3. Presentations**

**Katrin Glinka**, responsible for the overall academic management and control of Sub-project V (joint platform) "museum4punkt0" of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation

In the joint project museum4punkt0, cultural institutes of different sizes that have differing profiles and organisational structures and different degrees of familiarity with digital processes work together. The visitor is the focus of this project, which is looking for new ways of exchanging ideas and experience with visitors, of developing individualised offers for them and of addressing new target groups. To achieve this, implementation scenarios for modern technologies, e.g. virtual reality, augmented reality and 3D-modelling are explored in six sub-projects. The results are then available to all cultural facilities in Germany for them to use flexibly. The joint project is designed to run for three years and is supported by Germany's minister for culture and the media with a total of EUR 15 million. Originally, the topic of accessibility was not part of the project. However, because of the current developments and requirements for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the topic of accessibility was also included via the work of a PhD student. The members of the working group conducted a spontaneous written survey and then passed on suggestions to the people working on the project.

**Antonio Espinosa Ruiz**, Director of Vilamuseo, Villajoyosa

Antonio Espinosa Ruiz presented current debates and new challenges concerning accessibility in museums and exhibitions. Accessibility comes about, according to Antonio Espinosa Ruiz, as a result of empathy and training. Training is the key to raising awareness and improving the understanding of directors and managers of museums. In many European countries, little emphasis is placed on accessibility on degree courses in architecture, design, tourism and museology. Accessibility in museums requires initiative from both politicians and museum directors. It also requires standards and clear criteria.

At the same time, diversity and variety are essential for developing and applying supportive technology. In the end, accessibility covers lots of things: websites, telephone services, the environs of a museum, directions and signposting, and customer service.

**Imke Baumann**, Förderband e.V.

Förderband e.V. initiates, develops and runs cultural projects of a temporary nature as well as permanent projects. As part of a project, Förderband e.V. collaborated with various museums in Berlin to run a series of workshops with a focus on museum management and inclusion. The workshops dealt with topics like the presentation and communication of art and culture for people with sensory impairments (in particular, hearing and sight) and with cognitive impairments as well. The target group of the workshops was planners, managers and designers in museums. What is decisive is that people with and without impairments are equally represented as participants, advisors and moderators. In all of this, it is important that people with the impairments mentioned above can be heard as experts with regard to disability and can share their world and their perception of it with museum designers. Focus groups were set up in selected museums. In these groups, experts with various disabilities worked together in order to come up with and develop integrationist approaches for museums.

**Andreas Wessel**, capito Berlin, **Hannah Furian**, GETEQ

The aim of the capito network is to ensure that information is easily intelligible (<http://www.capito-berlin.eu/ueber-uns/netzwerk.html>). To achieve this, capito has developed very high standards which are certified with the capito seal of quality (<http://www.capito-berlin.eu/ueber-capito/capito-standard.html>). Working together with people with impairments, capito carried out checks in museums in Berlin and made suggestions about how to improve accessibility.

The checks looked at the following:

- the clarity and intelligibility of the website
- the accessibility of the museum by public transport
- the accessibility and signposting of the exhibition rooms
- the accessibility of the café, cloakroom and restrooms
- the visibility of the exhibits and the intelligibility of the accompanying texts
- the intelligibility of aids like audio guides and maps of the museum
- the quality of support and communication provided by museum staff and the availability of personal support

**Sebastian Wormsbächer**, Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Berlin

Sebastian Wormsbächer informed the working group about projects and support programmes regarding accessibility and integration in the area of art and culture in Berlin. The overall aim is to strengthen the participation of disabled artists and creative people and to improve their access to cultural facilities. The Berlin project office "Diversity.Arts.Culture" supports cultural institutes with empowerment strategies designed to support artists and creative people with disabilities. A relevant aspect in evaluating applications for financial support is how accessible the cultural institute is to people with disabilities. On the initiative of the senate department, checklists regarding the design of barrier-free exhibitions were developed in collaboration with the Regional Association of Museums in Berlin, amongst others.

**Laurent Saby** and **Sébastien Froment**, CEREMA

Laurent Saby and Sébastien Froment presented the project group "GIS and Accessibility" under the direction of CEREMA (France). The aim is to develop criteria for the standardised collation and processing of data concerning barrier-free navigation in French

towns. The results of the project group could be developed into a set of standards for Europe. The discussion in the group showed that it is necessary not to place the main emphasis on the technical realisation of the project but to focus on the results one hopes to obtain and the advantages for the user.

**Laurent Saby** presented the work of the French network of barrier-free cities. In 2018, the following topics were dealt with:

- New forms of mobility and accessibility
- Pedestrian guidance systems in towns and cities
- The accessibility of public buildings

#### **4. The next meeting**

Two meetings are planned in 2019. Consideration is being given to the idea of organising a joint meeting in Ljubljana with the Eurocities working groups Urban Ageing and Housing. Warsaw is available for a second meeting.

Gerd Grenner / Karin Oster