



European approach to accessible built environment

View of persons with disabilities

22 March 2021

**Towards common European criteria on accessibility of
the built environment workshop (UNE/Fundación ONCE)**

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Content of Presentation

- Who we are
- Importance of a European Standard for persons with disabilities
- Our involvement in the development of the Standard
- Accessible way forward
- Questions?

Who we are



- European Disability Forum (**EDF**)
- **100 million** persons with disabilities in the EU
- Brussels-based umbrella organisation
- Advocating for the **rights of persons with disabilities**
- Implementation of the **UN CRPD** in the EU and member countries

Nothing about us without us!

Importance of a European Standard for persons with disabilities: the problems

- Different approaches to accessibility, requirements at national/regional level
- Construction codes often not up-to-date; not implemented properly
- “Design for all” approach still not prevalent in many cases
- Unequal rights, fragmented market, loss for business
- No other instrument at EU level: a common standard is a first step



Importance of a European Standard for persons with disabilities: the benefits (1)

Good for people:

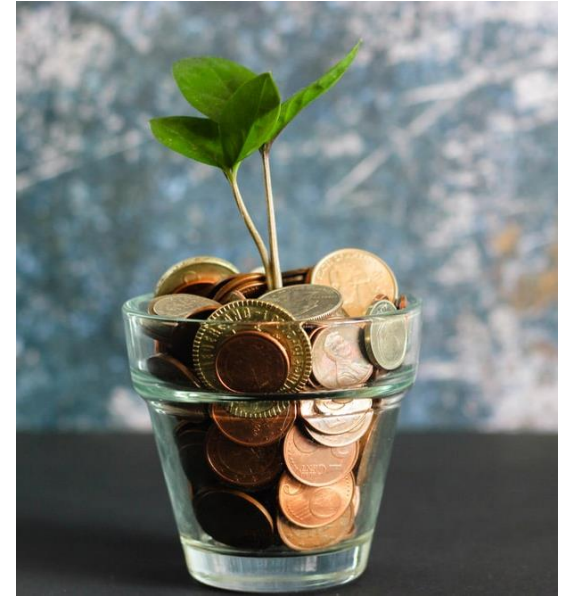
- Freedom of movement for all
- Persons with disabilities – 100 million
- Older persons - 90 million => 130 million by 2050
- **Fun fact! persons \leq 100 y/o x 5 times by 2050**
- Design for **all!**



Importance of a European Standard for persons with disabilities: the benefit (2)

Good for business

- **Certainty** for construction industry
- Accessibility is expensive? Not really! Inaccessibility is expensive! Yes, really!
- **Enlarged consumer base** for hospitality and tourism
- 2011: 138.6 million people with access needs
- 2012: 783 million trips within the EU
- Direct gross value added € 150 billion;
- Multiplier effect € 356 billion
- Estimated 862 million trips in 2020 (but covid ☹️)



Our involvement in the development of the Standard

- EDF involved at EU-level from M/420 phase 1
- Participating in CEN-CLC JTC 11
- Presenting at open workshops
- Ad hoc participation of EDF members in meetings of JTC11 (e.g. EBU – lifts)
- Input to draft + Position Papers on EN17210
- Supporting through communication: e.g. support statements, webinars
- Engaging network:
 - built environment & standardisation experts – policy advice, lobbying
 - national members – lobbying NSBs

Accessible way forward (1)

- Approve the Technical Reports!
- Consistency between standards: e.g. EN17210 vs EN_81-70?
- Raise awareness: not only requirements but benefits!
- Ensure enforcement: Implementation of accessibility requirements and compliance with Standards has to be monitored and enforced better
- Use public procurement as accessibility driver
- Underpin by legislation: harmonise for the Accessibility Act
- EN + Act -> opportunity to update national laws and building codes
- Hire experts with disabilities: experiential, policy, technical expertise

Accessible way forward (2)

- Make European Standardisation truly inclusive! For DPOs this means:
 - Free of charge participation
 - Accessible meetings, documents and portals
 - Level playing field at national level: industry vs users? Better cooperate!
 - More decision-making power: right to vote!





Questions?



Thank you for your attention

The European Disability Forum

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