



Euro Access

For a **European Accessibility** of Public Transport for People with Disabilities

Final workshop

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A view of Europe today – policies, laws and guidelines

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Background

- Extension of EU membership
- EU Council of Lisbon 2000
 - 2010: Goal for full accessibility
- The EU Disability Action Plan 2003-2010
- Several directives and regulations
- 2007: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- *Question:* How is this at national level?



Objectives

- Get an overview of:
 - the status of policies and legal framework on accessibility of public transport
 - strategies, action plans standards, and guidelines promoting improved accessibility of public transport
 - national provisions on employment and education related to the topic
 - pricing strategies
- Provide an inventory



Methods

- An extensive questionnaire to ministries responsible for public transport
- Review of policy and regulatory documents, previous work and general literature
- Cross-check with previous overviews
- Language and cultural challenges
- Lack of definitions
- Answers of various quality



Policies, strategies, action plans (1)

- Demonstrate a country's will to change *status quo*
 - Most countries have – or are in progress of – making policies specifically for accessibility of public transport systems
 - Action plans: Some countries have clear objectives and defined actions on how to implement these



Policies, strategies, action plans (2)

- National level is the most important, only a few mention local level, and a very few regional level
- Very few countries emphasise urban areas, the rest do not distinguish between urban and rural areas
- None of the current main policy documents are older than 2003



Legal and technical frameworks (1)

- Important for achieving real improvements
 - Laws: primary legislation
 - Provisions: secondary legislation
 - Regulations
- Guidelines and handbooks are important for knowing how to adopt the legal framework



Legal and technical frameworks (2)

- Most countries have:
 - general regulatory texts on human rights
 - building, spatial and planning acts which include the needs of people with disabilities to access buildings, move around in terminals etc
- 1/2 of the countries have a transport act which takes accessibility for people with disabilities into account
- 2/3 of the countries have regulations based on the EU "bus directive" (85/2001/EC)
- 2005: an "accessibility friendly" year



Standards and guidelines

- Guidelines for accessible vehicles are common
- Most countries are in progress of developing guidelines for planning and design of roads and streets
 - bus stops
 - journey to/from terminal



Employment and education

- Policies or legal frameworks which ensure that transport is not a barrier for employment, education or independent living
 - Few countries answer that they have this approach
- But most countries include this in:
 - Policies and legal frameworks with general objectives
 - Special transport services
 - Particular projects and schemes



Other initiatives (1)

- Reducing individual economic barriers
 - All but few have or are in progress of introducing concessionary fares
- Special transport services
 - Many view this as an important contribution
- Budget requirements and economic incentives
 - More than half of the countries have this



Other initiatives (2)

- Strategic plans
 - A minority have such requirements for operators and responsible authorities
- Training
 - 1/2 the countries have this for drivers, 1/3 for planners, very few for people with disabilities
- Development of indicators
 - Few countries



Influence

Influence	No	Low	Moderate	High	I don't know
User groups	0	1	7	14	2
Development in the EU	0	0	6	13	2
Politicians	0	2	8	9	2
The public administration	0	2	10	8	3
Experts	0	2	10	6	3
Development in other countries	0	5	7	2	4



Status

Alternatives	Number of ticks
Our work is completed - we have a fully developed policy, including the necessary laws, provisions, regulations etc., in order to ensure that all public transport is accessible for all	0
We have come a long way – we have a well developed policy, including most of the necessary laws, provisions, regulations etc., but there is still work to do in this field	11
We are in a state of rapid improvements – a lot of work is put into developing necessary policies, laws, provisions etc.	5
We are improving, but slowly. There are not much focus on this topic, but we are adapting to EU-directives etc.	10
We have hardly started – accessible public transport is not on the agenda	0



Output

- Report “Accessible Public Transport: A view of Europe today – policies, laws and guidelines”
 - www.euro-access.org
 - www.toi.no
- An inventory of 157 pages
- Outline based on topic and country
- More than 300 laws and policy documents (including links)
- Article: www.nordicroads.com
- Contact persons:
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Thank you for you attention.

