

Module 2



LU 7 - The design of an accessible built environment for all users

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LU Objectives:

1. To describe the main access barriers for different types of users.
2. To examine the methods to overcome those barriers either through adjustments to the built environment or by providing objective information in order to allow tourists to make an informed choice about the suitability of their potential destination
3. To show how to identify the key critical points of the tourist offer provided in relation to the requirements of each customer and use the concepts of Universal Design to plan and realise modifications.





Why accessibility is important

Accessibility in the built environment is an essential and fundamental right for all members of society. Providing accessible places and spaces empowers people to enjoy the everyday activities and opportunities taking and enables them to participate safely, independently, conveniently, with confidence and with dignity.





The accessible built environment

- Takes into account the diverse capabilities of human beings
- Is safer and more convenient for everyone
- Contributes to sustainability and is an investment in the future, since it takes account of changing lifestyles and life conditions
- Improves the quality of life
- Supports independence of users and participation





The accessible built environment

Includes:

- Private and and public buildings
- Movement to /inside/from - including emergency access and evacuation
- Public spaces and routes
- Parking
- Transport terminals - stations, ports, airports, etc.
- Buildings and environments for recreation and leisure; cultural, educational and sports facilities
- Building products and services (covered by the EU Construction Products Directive)
- Any technology products and services used in buildings, e.g. lifts, escalators, moving walkways





New and existing buildings and environments

New design projects, buildings and environments can be accessible for all users, from the beginning by following building regulations and standards/guidelines for accessibility

Existing buildings and environments often require adaptations to make them accessible because they were designed at a time when access for all was not considered as a priority

There are different accessibility standards and/or guidelines and legislation in different EU member states

Just following legislation and standards is not always enough because they may consider only minimum requirements and professionals do not have specific knowledge and training to understand and apply standards appropriately in their designs

By applying a Universal Design approach the design of the built environment will be accessible and suitable for the widest range of users





Accessibility-What is the problem?

Although there are many rules and regulations in EU states, the actual accessibility of buildings and the built environment is not yet satisfactory

There are many examples in the current built environment where completed buildings or spaces do not offer an appropriate level of accessibility

Whilst the existing building stock is where the majority of access barriers are found, new buildings and facilities continue to be built with less than satisfactory access for all users

Projects funded with public money (including EU funds) are not checked for accessibility in a consistent or sufficient way

Lack of accessibility is expensive to fix, wasteful of public funding and – fundamentally – it denies many EU citizens their rights to free movement and access to buildings and services

Inaccessible tourism buildings and facilities exclude many potential customers and reduce businesses' profitability





Main Existing standards and Guidelines

- National Standards and Guidelines
- ISO 21542 Building construction- Accessibility and usability of the built environment (under revision)
- ISO TC/228 Tourism and related services (under development)
- EU M420/CEN-EN 17210-Accessibility and Usability of the built environment-Functional requirements (under development)





Who are we designing for?

Very small and... very tall... Older people, who may be frail, or tire easily or have disabilities, due to old age. Families with small children





Who are we designing for?

People with temporary impairments.. People with disabilities and people with long term illnesses : People with motor and/or sensory disabilities, People with cognitive impairments





Who are we designing for?

People with injuries/temporary impairments, people with allergies, people carrying heavy luggage or other objects, tired people.





Good design enables - bad design disables!





Some of the common access barriers

- Lack of level access
 - Steps at building entrances and inside the buildings
- Big problem for people with motor disabilities and all those who temporarily or permanently cannot manage steps





Some of the common access barriers





Some of the common access barriers

Access barriers and potential hazards for users





Some of the common access barriers

Access barriers and potential hazards for users





Some of the common access barriers- mistakes in new projects





Some of the common access barriers- mistakes in new projects





Accessible entrances



Level access with automatic doors | Ramp access beside steps

| Entrance with steps and alternative level entrance beside steps





Doors should be wide and easy to operate



Wider doors benefit everyone: wheelchair users, people moving furniture

| Push-button door-opener for heavy doors





Public spaces – accessible for all



Plaza free of obstacles



| Ramp access next to steps



| Accessible route and seating





Public spaces



Millennium Bridge, London
A footbridge designed to be used by everyone

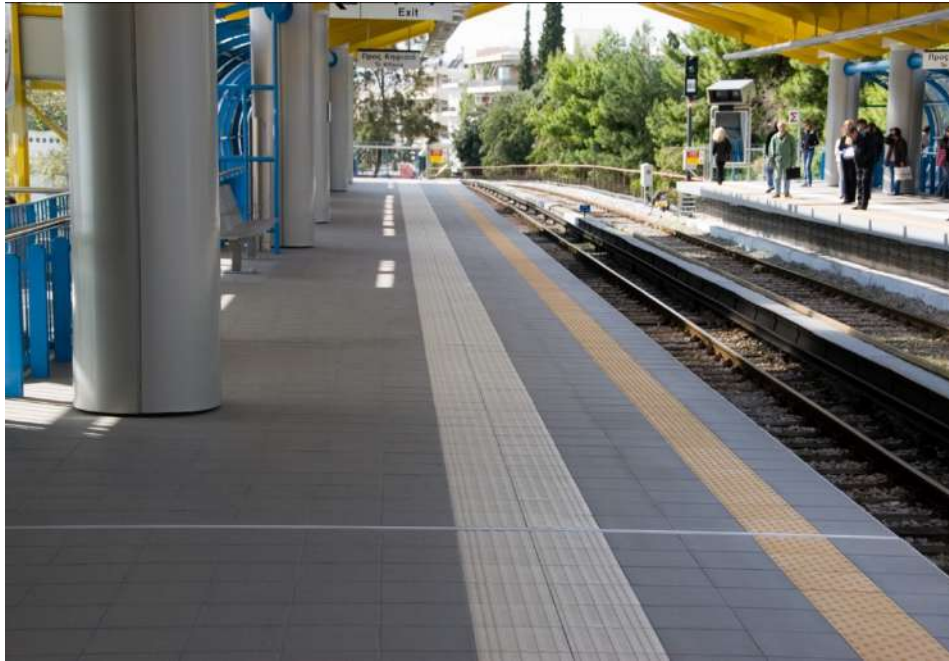


Pedestrian crossing with level access,
people with visual impairments, tactile
routes





Public transport



Train station platform

Platforms with tactile routes and level access to carriages



Tram station platform





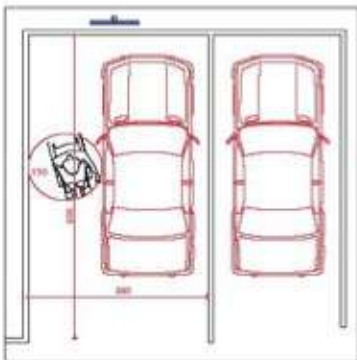
Designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities

Reach the building



Designated car parking spaces for disabled visitors:

Clearly marked, at shortest possible distance to building entrance, by level access route.



Katerina Papamichail, ENAT

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UD HOTELS REFERENCE SHEET

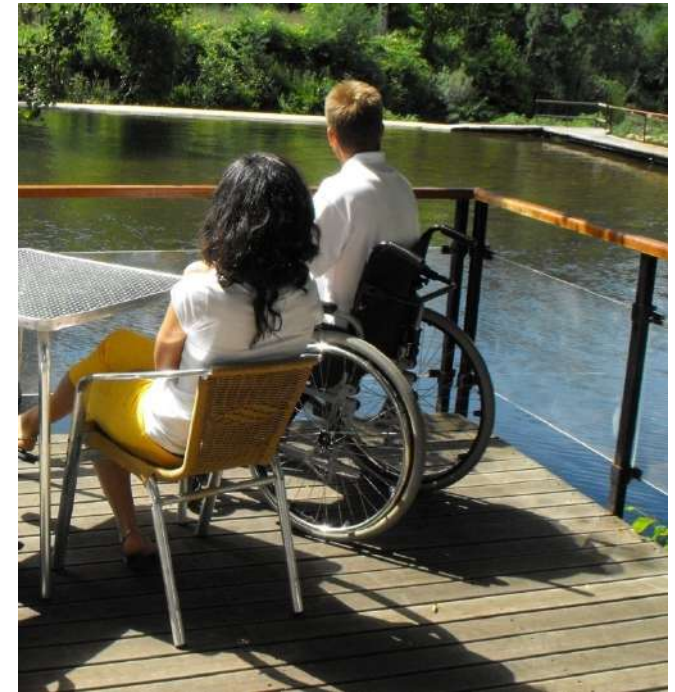




Access to natural environments



Accessible forest path and information board



Riverside cafe





Dining: indoors and outdoors



Restaurants and cafes: Furniture arranged to allow free passageway





Dining: Low self-service counters for all





Dining: Suitable furniture for the diversity of visitors



Restaurants and cafes:

Tables with central leg and at suitable height allow easy reach people using a wheelchair





Accessible hotel guest rooms

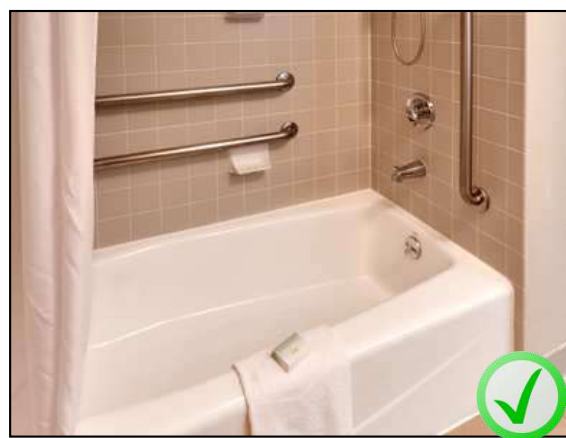


Charming spacious hotel guest rooms with colour contrast, suitable for everyone and in particular: for people using a wheelchair and enabling orientation in the room for people with visual impairments





Accessible bathrooms



Roll-in shower, support handrails are suitable and safe for everyone





Signage





Signage





Adapting existing buildings





Adapting existing buildings





Adapting existing environments





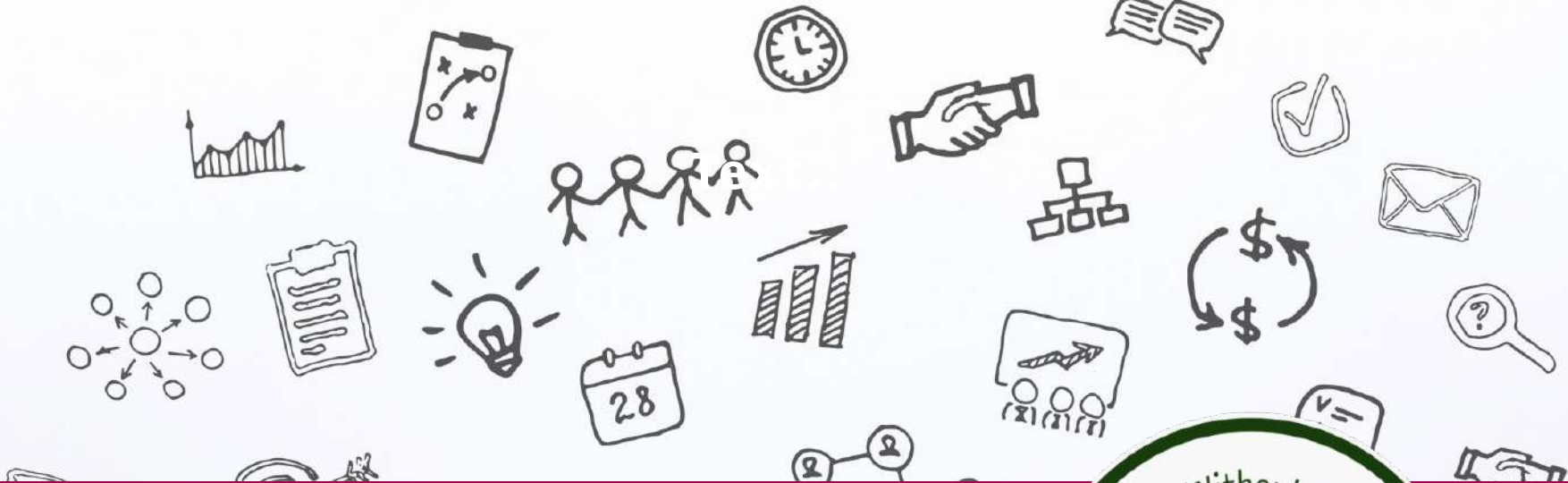
Adapting existing environments





Adapting existing environments





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