



International and European Accessibility Requirements in the built environment – legislation & standards

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Facts to be considered

- 1 UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD)
- 2 EU Disability strategy 2010 – 2020
- 3 Directive 2008/57/EC “Inoperability of the rail system in the European Community” (TSI PRM)
- 4 Relevant EU Mandates for the built environment
- 5 CEN/CLC Standardization activities on accessibility

UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD)



- First legally binding international human rights instrument for the European Union and EU Member States
 - entry into force on 3 May 2008,
 - signed by all EU Member States (ratified by 7 EU MS)
- Promoting *Universal Design* as a developing strategy
- UNCRPD = mainstreaming instrument
- Minimum standards for accessibility of facilities, products and services open or provided to the public
- Proposal for an **European Accessibility Act** to complement the EU legal framework in this field (ongoing consultations with Member States)

EU Disability strategy 2010 – 2020



- UNCRPD – procedural matters for conclusion (UN Optional Protocol)
- 8 main areas for action: **accessibility**, participation, equality, **employment, education** and training, social protection, health and external actions
- Accessibility = a precondition for participation in society and economy
- EC proposes to use legislative and other instruments such as **standardisation and public procurement to optimise accessibility in the built environment, transport (and ICT)**

EU Disability strategy 2010 – 2020: Actions

- Accessibility to goods, public and private services and assistive devices for people with disabilities **and older people** (demographic change)
- Full participation of people with disabilities in society
- Eradicate discrimination on grounds of disability in EU
- Improve accessibility of work places for employment
- Promotion of inclusive education and lifelong learning
- Decent living conditions for people with disabilities
- Equal access to health service facilities and related ones
- Promote accessibility also in external actions

EU Disability strategy 2010 – 2020: Strategies



- Awareness raising activities
- Optimize use of funding instruments (EU Structural Funds)
- Supplement the collection of relevant statistic data, research
- Monitoring all mechanism requested by UNCRPD
- Proposal for an **EU Accessibility Act** in 2015 ? (2012!)
- Standards (mainstream, accessibility mandates)
- *Design for all/Universal Design* knowledge, training

Inoperability of the rail system in Europe

TSI PRM Directive 2008/57/EC



- Based on Directive 2008/57/EC with detailed requirements for accessibility of rail system, rolling stock and of railway stations included
 - Combined document of legislative and detailed requirements – future standard will be developed under Mandate M/483
- **New Mandate M/483:** in the field of the Interoperability of the Rail System. A technical specification of interoperability is maintained by the European Railway Agency and will be supported by standards.

EU Legal Framework related to standardization for buildings

- UNCRPD Implementation
- Mandate M/483 for railway stations: TSI PRM
- Mandate M/420 in support of European accessibility requirements for public procurement in buildings
 - Phase I: inventory and feasibility of European and International accessibility standards and existing conformity assessment schemes in the built environment
 - Phase II: development of a European standard at the level of common functional accessibility requirements of the built environment as well as TRs on technical performance criteria and conformity assessment
- Mandate M/473 to include 'Design for All' in all relevant standardization initiatives (started 2014)



CEN Standardisation Activities on accessibility in buildings - summary

- Mandate M/420, phase I (2012), phase II (start 2014)?
- Mandate M/473 started 2012
- Mandate M/483 for railway stations: TSI PRM
- Other sectoral activities:
 - **Accessibility to spectator facilities** (CEN/TC 315): standards for architectural design and performance requirements for spectator facilities for sports etc.
CEN/TR 15913:2009 Spectator facilities – Layout criteria for viewing area for spectators with special needs
 - **Accessibility to lifts**: e.g. EN 81-70 Lifts for persons including persons with disabilities (revision started May 2014); Enquiry 2015-09!
 - **CEN/CLC Guide 6** = ISO/IEC Guide 71 Guidelines for standard developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities (published rev. version 2014)

But standards alone are not enough!

Thanks for your attention!
Have you any questions?

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