**Accessible public buildings**

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

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**Are national and local authority buildings accessible for persons with disabilities?**

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| **EUMS** | **Source and supporting information** |
| AT | The Federal Disability Equality Act regulates that public services must be accessible for persons with disabilities. However, the Federal Act does not provide standards on how to implement an accessible environment[[1]](#footnote-1).  The ÖNORM B 1600 on barrier free building is the main guide line. Based on it a new ÖNORM B 1610on accessibility criteria for existent buildings is being drawn up. Further ÖNORM provisions on accessibility are e.g. ÖNORM A 3011 on graphic symbols for information of the public (*Grafische Symbole für die Öffentlichkeitsinformation*) or ÖNORM A 3012 on visual guidance systems for information of the public (*Visuelle Leitsysteme für die Öffentlichkeitsinformation*).[[2]](#footnote-2)  There is a staged plan for buildings of the federal government which foresees accessibility of public buildings by the end of 2015, at the latest by the end of 2019 (§ 8 (2) BGStG). Staged plans that concern the accessibility of buildings of the Laender governments were also adopted in Tyrol and Vienna, where the transition period ends in 2042.  Measure 110 of the National Action Plan on Disability 2012 – 2020 foresees that accessibility will be taken into account in the Board for Building Culture and in the Austrian Standards Institute. Measure 113 foresees that representatives of disabled persons’ organisations will be consulted in all major building projects subsidised by the Federation.[[3]](#footnote-3)  There was no data provided by the Austrian Association of Municipalities on the proportion of public authority and municipal buildings which are accessible to persons with disabilities.[[4]](#footnote-4) |
| BE | The legislation provides a requirement of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities[[5]](#footnote-5) and new public buildings must be accessible to persons with disabilities.[[6]](#footnote-6) There are criteria to ensure the accessibility of the building. Those vary from Region to Region. For example, to be accessible the buildings must ensure the accessibility of the entrance, parking space reserved for persons with disabilities, provide an adapted toilet, etc.  However, there is no data available on the proportion of public national and municipal buildings accessible to persons with disabilities. |
| BG | There is no such statistical data. The Sofia municipal administration and the state institutions were consulted. |
| CY | No data available at the moment. A research regarding the accessibility of public authority buildings to persons with disabilities is being implemented by the Department for Social Inclusion of persons with disabilities. This research is implemented in the framework of the implementation of the CRPD and is still at the stage of the data collection. [[7]](#footnote-7) The criteria used to determine the accessibility of public authority buildings are defined in the Regulation 61H “Use of buildings by disabled persons” under the “Streets and Buildings Law” of 1999.[[8]](#footnote-8) |
| CZ | No data of this type is available at a state-wide level[[9]](#footnote-9).  Some regional authorities (e.g. The Regional Authority of Moravskoslezký Region)[[10]](#footnote-10) have particular data on accessibility of public buildings in their regions. |
| DE | No information available.[[11]](#footnote-11)  Data according to what proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities is not collected.  Regarding the criteria used to determine whether public authority buildings are accessible for persons with disabilities: According to the Federal Disabled Persons Equality Act (*Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz*, BGG) the federal authorities are obliged to ensure that new civilian buildings and conversions and extensions are accessible (Section 8 BGG). Section 4 BGG contains a legal definition of accessibility. “*Accessible are structural and other facilities, transportation, technical consumer goods, information processing systems, acoustic and visual information sources and communication facilities as well as other designed areas of life, if they are available for disabled people in the generally customary manner, without any particular difficulty and accessible and usable without assistance* .” According to Section 7 BGG public authority must not discriminate against disabled people.  Corresponding regulations are contained in the Disabled Persons Equality Acts of the Federal States (Länder). |
| DK | Accurate numbers do not exist but research based on interviews with building administrators and building consultants indicates a slight change in the attention on this subject. It indicates a higher awareness on and knowledge of accessibility.[[12]](#footnote-12) |
| EE | All public buildings should apply the regulation which requires the accessibility of the public buildings to persons with disabilities.[[13]](#footnote-13) However, the actual proportion of accessible buildings is unknown (no data collected), though organisations of disabled people have started to map the accessibility (for instance, the purpose is to map 400-600 buildings in Tallinn).[[14]](#footnote-14) |
| EL | The Directorate of Simplification of Procedures and Productivity, Section of Accessibility of People with Disabilities, of the Ministry of Administrative Reform and Electronic Government, conducted a survey of all public services, public law legal entities and local governments on the accessibility of buildings where services are located, through a circular ΔΙΑΔΠ/Π.ΑμεΑ.Φ.3/2.6644/11.03.2008 on Accessibility of public buildings for people with disabilities[[15]](#footnote-15).  The survey collected information on a presentation of the accessibility status of buildings, programming of actions and works for improving accessibility and time plan of these actions. The criteria for accessibility were those included in national legislation[[16]](#footnote-16).  The survey was completed on 31/07/2008 and the results were the following:  - the data collected originated from 376 bodies and concerned 3.828 buildings. Of these, 9 buildings were used by Ministries, 6 by General Secretariats, 139 by public law entities, 193 by first tier local government authorities (municipalities), 20 by second tier local government entities (prefectures) and 9 by Districts.  - accessibility works were planned for 776 building (20% of the total) while no works were planned for 3.052 buildings (80% of the total).  - in terms of accessibility in 1.888 buildings (49%) no accessibility measures were adopted while works were planned in 346 buildings (18%). In 1.594 buildings (42%) partial accessibility was ensured. Only 346 buildings (9%) were fully accessible to people with disabilities. No updated information is available.  According to inspections conducted by the Body of Inspectors Controllers of Public Administration, in the Prefecture of Larissa 48% of public buildings are accessible. In the district of Peloponnisos, 21% of the buildings are accessible in the city of Nafplion, 34% in the city of Kalamata, 40% in the city of Tripolis and 42% in the city of Sparta. The criteria used to determine accessibility were those included in construction regulations valid at that time (Law 1577/1985 General Construction Regulations *(Γενικός Οικοδομικός Κανονισμός*).  Following information provided by certain districts:  -In the district of Athens accessible buildings raise to 95% of the total;  -In the district of western Greece 60 % of the buildings of the district entity of Achaia are accessible, 85% of the district entity of Ileia and only 1 building in the District entity of Etoloakarnania  -In the district of Ipeiros the provisions of article 28 of law 2831/2000 on special provisions for people with disabilities have been applied to a percentage of almost 100%. The criteria used to determine accessibility were those included in legislation at that time. |
| ES | In accordance with Royal Decree 505/2007 of the 20th of April, approving the basic conditions for accessibility and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities with regard to the access and use of urbanized public spaces and buildings,[[17]](#footnote-17) all public buildings, both national and municipal, should be accessible.  Criteria to determine whether public authority buildings are accessible to persons with disabilities can be found in point 9 (Accessibility) of the Spanish Technical Code of Construction.[[18]](#footnote-18) It describes these criteria from a technical point of view.  Consultation of the database of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) shows that neither the social indicators, nor the indicators regarding buildings and housing include disability as a variable.[[19]](#footnote-19)  No other reliable information source exists. |
| FI | There is no official data available on the proportion of accessible public authority national and municipal buildings[[20]](#footnote-20).  Measure number 43 of Finland’s Disability Policy Programme 2010–2015 ( *Vammaispoliittinen ohjelma 2010–2015, VAMPO/ Finlands handikappolitiska program 2010–2015, VAMPO*) is to make public administration offices and spaces accessible by the year 2020. The criteria used to determine accessibility is F1, Finland’s building regulations collection on accessible buildings.[[21]](#footnote-21) The implementation of this goal has been started, and accessibility is considered in all renovation and building projects. There is no estimate about the proportion of buildings accessible to persons with disabilities in the evaluation reporting of the programme.[[22]](#footnote-22) |
| FR | There is no specific data concerning government and municipal buildings. The only data existing covers what the French law calls the 'establishments open to the public' (*Etablissements recevant du public*, ERP). This legal category refers to public and private places which receive persons other than employees (in other words, customers and citizens). The law of 2005 on disability stipulates the obligation for ERP to be accessible to persons with disabilities by 2015 (art. 41).[[23]](#footnote-23)  A report of the Interministerial Observatory on accessibility and universal design (*Observatoire interministériel de l’accessibilité et de la conception universelle*) provides the most recent data available (2012) about ERP in conformity with accessibility standards. This data mentions that 15% of ERP comply with these standards.[[24]](#footnote-24)  However, in its introduction, the report highlights the lack of monitoring and assessment of legal objectives.  An Interdepartmental Circular from January 2013[[25]](#footnote-25) requires the assessment of the level of accessibility of State buildings and municipal buildings. Local and regional authority levels are required to assess the current situation of public buildings with regard to accessibility for people with disabilities. The Circular gives them three months to send the information to the national level. Afterwards, a national summary report will be publicly available. At the present time, it has not been issued yet.  The Circular provides a list of items relating to various disability issues: access to the building, parking spaces, entrance, accommodations, and lavatories. For each item, the administration ticks one of the four levels of accessibility (from the greater accessibility to the lower one). |
| HR | Following the Ministry of Public Administration, there is no data available on what proportion of public authority national and municipal buildings are accessible to persons with disabilities.[[26]](#footnote-26)  The Croatian Union of Counties (*Hrvatska zajednica županija*) does not have the data on what proportion of county buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities.[[27]](#footnote-27)  The Association of towns in the Republic of Croatia *(Udruga gradova u Republici Hrvatskoj*) does not have the data on what proportion of town administration buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities.[[28]](#footnote-28)  The Association of Municipalities (*Udruga općina*) does not collect this data, but surveyed its members upon request for this report.[[29]](#footnote-29)  They received 54 responses, out of 428 municipalities[[30]](#footnote-30)which is a response rate of 12,61%.  Among responding municipalities: 14 reported municipal buildings being fully accessible,[[31]](#footnote-31) 10 reported buildings being partially accessible, with the percentage ranging from about 10% to 90% and in the remaining municipalities, municipal buildings are not accessible at all. One municipality reported that upon phone request, municipal employees met persons with disabilities in the accessible municipal hall. Another municipality reported that the public library, located in the same building, has a ramp. Finally, a municipality responded that municipal employees assist persons with disabilities to enter the offices in absence of the proper access.[[32]](#footnote-32) |
| HU | No official data is available. According to the estimation of the MEOSZ, 65% of public authority national and municipal buildings are accessible.[[33]](#footnote-33)  In 2012, the Hungarian Government was heavily criticized because of the lack of information and monitoring mechanism by DPOs in this regard.[[34]](#footnote-34) As the Government noted in its reply to the list of issues taken up during the consideration of the initial report of Hungary on the eights session of the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 17-28 September 2012: *“[...] we have no substantive information at the moment about exactly where and what type of accessibility is ensured to public services*”.[[35]](#footnote-35) |
| IE | Section 25 of the Disability Act 2005 states that subject to certain specified exemptions, public bodies must ensure that their public buildings are, as far as practicable, accessible to persons with disabilities.  The Building Control Acts 2000-2007 and the Building Control Regulations 1997-2013 set out very detailed criteria which determine whether public authority buildings are accessible for persons with disabilities, providing detailed rules regarding such matters as approach to public buildings, access to public buildings, circulation within public buildings and use of facilities within public buildings.[[36]](#footnote-36)  There is no data available on the proportion of public authority, national and municipal buildings which are accessible to persons with disabilities. |
| IT | There is no data available on this aspect. Monitoring accessibility of public and municipal buildings and on the actual implementation of the removal of architectural barriers in public buildings is only promoted by some local institutions[[37]](#footnote-37).  Accessibility of public building is regulated by Law 30 may 1971 no. 118. Even if in some older building some barriers in the built environment still exist, all new buildings have been projected following accessibility criteria As declared by *Associazione Italiana Ciechi e Ipovedenti* “the blind or visually impaired person, who does not have physical disabilities, is not hampered by the presence of physical obstacles, rather by the lack of measures taken to facilitate the orientation and recognition of sources of danger”[[38]](#footnote-38).  Stemming from an ISTAT survey, data on schools building exist (see indicator 28). |
| LT | There is a lack of statistical data on the status of accessibility of public buildings to the needs of persons with disabilities.  On request of the Lithuanian Government a study was carried out in 2012 assessing the need for financial resources for adaptation of all public buildings to be accessible to persons with disabilities. 34,000 public buildings and objects (schools, policlinics, hospitals, trade and public catering enterprises, theatres, banks, post and other buildings) according to the findings should be refurbished and adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. By preliminary calculations, more than 7 billion Litas (2 bil. EUR) are needed for such adaptations.[[39]](#footnote-39)  In 2012 Lithuanian society of persons with disabilities assessed more than 350 public buildings in nine Lithuanian municipalities, reporting that almost half of them are not accessible to persons with disabilities.[[40]](#footnote-40) |
| LU | No data exist on this issue.  As set out in the Act on accessibility[[41]](#footnote-41), since 2001 there is a legal obligation for public buildings to respect the given standards for new buildings and for comprehensive renovation projects[[42]](#footnote-42). However, there is no obligation to adapt the current environment. |
| LV | According to information provided by the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia on 29 July 2013, the CSB does not have information about accessibility of the public authority national and municipal buildings to persons with disabilities.[[43]](#footnote-43) |
| MT | According to ‘Access for All – Design Guidelines’ issued by KNPD, public buildings should conform to access for all standards issued by KNPD.[[44]](#footnote-44)  There are no statistics related to the amount which are in fact accessible.[[45]](#footnote-45) |
| NL | There is no data available on the accessibility of the total of public authority buildings. According to the Government Building Agency which manages and develops the majority of (national) government buildings, all of their buildings are accessible to persons with disability. It is however not clear which proportion of the total of national and municipal buildings this applies to.[[46]](#footnote-46)  Additionally, the Federation of Dutch Municipalities[[47]](#footnote-47) and the Council for the Chronically ill and Disabled were consulted, as well as desk research was carried out. No specific statistics are collected on this issue.[[48]](#footnote-48) |
| PL | There is no comprehensive and updated data concerning the total number of all possible public authority national and municipal buildings. Therefore, it is impossible to say what proportion of those buildings is accessible to persons with disabilities.  However, in 2008 the Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled Persons conducted a Study on the Accessibility of Governmental Administration Building and Central Offices[[49]](#footnote-49). The study was based on a survey addressed to ministries and central offices in Warsaw. Altogether, the study covered 33 respondent ministries and offices, and 62 buildings.  In reference to accessibility for persons with physical disabilities, for example:  - The paths to surveyed buildings had hardened, and not soft, surfaces (*utwardzone*),  - 55% had lowered curbs in parking spaces, enabling easy access to the building,  - 32% had informative signs indicating convenient entrances to buildings.  In reference to accessibility for persons with sight impairment, for example:  - 71% had personal assistance of an employee in navigating in and around the building,  - 37% had tone communication regarding navigation around the building,  - in 17% of the buildings staircases were marked correctly.  In reference to accessibility for persons with hearing impairments, for example:  - 63% had legible information boards.  In reference to accessibility for intellectual disabilities:  - 69% of the buildings had provided assistance of the employee.  Moreover, detailed information from ministries and central offices concerning removal of functional barriers, in particular architectural ones, in their buildings has been included in the Annex 9 to the document “Information of the Government of the Republic of Poland on activities undertaken in 2012 to implement provisions of the Polish Sejm Resolution on 1 August 1997 – Charter of Rights of Persons with Disabilities”[[50]](#footnote-50).  At the regional level, the Main Controlling Chamber conducted a study on accessibility of building in the *Podlaskie voivodeship*. |
| PT | This data is not publicly available in national statistics or surveys.  Following an analysis of the 2011 Census questionnaire, an ad-hoc request for statistical data was sent to Statistics Portugal (*Instituto Nacional de Estatística*, INE). The reply received indicates that it is not possible to get data corresponding exactly to the question. The proxy data that could be obtained would only be provided against payment of the cost incurred in making that calculation; on the other hand, the data would not be provided in due time, given the deadline for the submission of this ad-hoc report.  An ad-hoc request for information was also sent to the INR, which replied in writing that there was no data available on this topic.  The Portuguese Association for Consumer Protection, (*Associação Portuguesa para a Defesa do Consumidor*, DECO) conducted a study on the accessibility of public authority buildings to persons with disabilities.[[51]](#footnote-51) The criteria used to determine whether public authority buildings are accessible for persons with disabilities:   * outside the building: reserved parking places, dimensions, marks, inclination of the ground, and accessibility to the entrance; * inside the building: stairs, ramps, lifts, corridors, obstacles, steps, waiting areas, width of doors, and tactile and acoustic information. * The evaluation of 33 public buildings in five cities - Braga, Coimbra, Lisboa, Porto and Setúbal - was made between September and October 2010. The study concluded that none of these buildings is fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Major physical barriers were found in 23 of these public authority buildings. |
| RO | The National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (*Agenţia Naţională pentru Plăţi şi Inspecţie Socială, ANPIS*)[[52]](#footnote-52) provided data on the level of accessibility according to legal standards for certain elements of the built environment (ramp, wall rail, entrance door, lifts) in a number of institutions.  In 2012, of 832 town halls verified, 431 had an access ramp or did not need one (the entrance was already at ground level), 387 had wall rail or did not need one, 683 had an adequate entrance door, and one had a lift.  Of the 9 tribunals (one type of courts of law - There are three types, depending on competence and area covered: county courts (judecatorii), tribunals (tribunale) and courts of appeal (Curti de apel)) verified, 8 had a ramp, 8 had a wall rail, 7 an adequate entrance door, none had a lift. Taken together, police sections, postal offices and local labour agencies, of 229 entities, 142 had a ramp or did not need one, 120 a wall rail or did not need one, 214 an adequate door, and none had a lift. Of 8 hospitals checked, 5 had a ramp or did not need one, 5 a wall rail or did not need one, 7 had an adequate entrance door, none had a lift. Of 25 financial administration units, 12 had a ramp or did not need one, 12 had a wall rail or did not need one, 20 had an adequate entrance door, none had a lift or did not need one. Of 808 teaching units checked (kindergartens, schools, high-schools, universities), 405 had a ramp or did not need one, 388 had a wall rail or did not need one, 705 had an adequate entrance door, and 2 had a lift. [[53]](#footnote-53) |
| SE | The Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Co-ordination (Handisam) published a study about the participation in political life in Sweden for persons with disability in municipalities and county councils (Kommunfullmäktige).[[54]](#footnote-54) The response rate was 77 percent for municipalities (222 out of 290 municipalities) and 71 percent of county councils (15 out of 21 counties). According to the study, 64 percent of local governments have inventoried all premises used for committee meetings from an accessibility perspective.  Three out of ten municipalities and four out of 10 County Councils (*landsting*) - elected assemblies in the counties concerned with issues like primarily health care and public transport - have contrast marked stairs and doors. Nine out of ten municipalities have flat floors without obstacles in the premises where meetings are held. Four out of 10 municipalities and six out of 10 County Councils had well-lit signs with brightness contrast, and letters or symbols in raised relief or Braille on the premises. In 36 percent of the municipalities and 47 percent of the County Councils, elected officials who use wheelchairs could not reach the seats in the boardroom. 93 percent of the municipalities and County Councils have hearing equipment that covers all or part of the room where the council meets. People with cognitive disabilities can get help with getting to the premises and participate in meetings; escort was necessary for one of the premises (For more information, see annex.)  The Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Coordination also follows the development of accessibility in governmental agencies. Twelve years ago, the government stated in an ordinance that governmental agencies have a responsibility to ensure that their premises, operations and information are accessible to persons with disabilities. Handisam is doing yearly follow ups of the development.  Twelve out of 289 agencies fulfil the criteria for basic accessibility set out by Handisam. 54 agencies have deteriorated compared to the previous year, and 68 agencies do not meet even half of the criteria. A growing number of agencies indicate that their websites meet international standards for accessibility. More agencies conducted training of its staff in accessibility and legislation. More agencies removed barriers in their premises. This applies to both the public areas and staff areas. Agencies have especially focused on measures that improve accessibility for people with visual and cognitive disabilities[[55]](#footnote-55).  According to the report published by the Swedish Agency for Disability Policy Co-ordination (*Handisam*) six out of 21 County Boards (*Länsstyrelser*) received complaints in the 2010 elections relating to election and voting places that do not meet the requirement of accessibility. In total, it was about 111 polling stations, 55 polling premises and 4 buses that did not meet accessibility requirements. |
| SI | The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (*Statistični urad Republike Slovenije*, SURS), the national statistical agency, does not collect these data.[[56]](#footnote-56)  The ministry responsible for public administration, similarly, does not have these data.[[57]](#footnote-57)  A three-year research projects, lasting from 2008 to 2011, focused on the accessibility of physical environment and public building for the persons with disabilities in Slovenia. The project entitled “Measures for the realisation of the rights of the disabled to barrier-free access” (*Ukrepi za uresničevanje pravic invalidov do dostopa brez ovir*) was conducted by the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (*Urbanistični inštitut Republike Slovenije*) and the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (*Inštitut Republike Slovenije za socialno varstvo*). It was funded by the Slovenian Research Agency (*Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije*) and the then Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs (*Ministrstvo za delo, družino in socialne zadeve*). The project was implemented in three phases, the first in 2008/2009, the second in 2009/2010, while the last phase of the project took place in 2010/2011.[[58]](#footnote-58) This research project was based on the two surveys targeting the individuals with disabilities and the organisation representing the persons with disabilities. It also included a fieldwork research.  The survey sample included 181 individual respondents with disabilities and 41 organisations representing this population. The respondents were asked about their experiences with the built-environment and the communication barriers in a variety of sectors, including, among other things, transportation, education, employment and the public administration services. The survey results showed a rather unfavourable picture. For example, 30% of individuals stated that they experienced many or a lot of built-environment and communication barriers regarding the access to city buses, respectively. The figures for access to organisations were 48 and 45%. Regarding the access to elementary schools, 39.6% of the individual respondents tend to face the built-environment barriers and 30.4% of them also experienced the communication barriers. The access to hospitals was assessed rather favourably by the individual respondents, whereas the figures on individual respondents experiencing barriers stood at 13.2% and 31.6%, respectively. The first percentage is related to individual respondents who experienced built-environment barriers in access to hospitals, while the second figure shows the percentage of individual respondents who experienced communication barriers with regard to their access to hospitals. However, the access to the public services tends to be among the most problematic area. The representatives of the organisations included in the survey, 51% of them, stated that they experience many or a lot of built-environment barriers in the access to the public administration services, while the figure for the communication barriers was 53%. Similarly, 45.5% of the individual respondents claimed that they were subject to the built-environment barriers when accessing the municipality building, while the percentage for the communication barriers was 43.3%.[[59]](#footnote-59) |
| SK | This type of statistics is not kept in the SR, and therefore the information is not available.[[60]](#footnote-60) |
| UK | The following is the only information that is available. The Office for National Statistics Opinions and Lifestyle Survey collects data relating to the Disability Equality Factor – Difficulty in Accessing Goods and Services. Under the Equality Act 2010, reasonable adjustments have to be made to all buildings, not only to public buildings, to ensure the accessibility of goods and services. Therefore the following data refers to difficulties reported by disabled persons in accessing facilities at a private club, going to the cinema/theatre/concert, going to the library/art galleries/museums, shopping, pubs/restaurants, sporting events, using public telephone, using websites, using a bank or building society, arranging insurance, arranging accommodation in a hotel/guest house, accessing health services/Local Authority services, Central Government services, law enforcement services, or any other leisure, commercial or public good or service. In 2012, 32 % of the disabled population reported having difficulties accessing goods and services. This figure has decreased significantly from the baseline year (2005) where 40% of the disabled population reported difficulty in accessing goods and services[[61]](#footnote-61).  The Equality Act 2010 [Section 20 and Schedule 2 Paragraph 2][[62]](#footnote-62) and the Equality Act (Disability) Regulations 2010[[63]](#footnote-63) require local authorities to make changes (‘reasonable adjustments’), free of charge, to the built environment where needed, for disabled users or potential users. Where the built environment cannot be made accessible, it is reasonable for the service to be provided at an alternative venue. Reasonable changes are required wherever there would be a substantial disadvantage (more than a minor or trivial disadvantage) compared with non-disabled people. The reasonableness of the changes will depend upon all the circumstances, including the cost of an adjustment, the potential benefit it might bring to other customers, the resources an organisation has and how practical the changes are. The Equality Act 2010 requires that service providers must think ahead and take steps to address barriers that impede disabled people.[[64]](#footnote-64)  The Equality Act (Amendment) Bill 2013 had its first reading in May 2013. The Bill would amend the Equality Act 2010 to improve access to public buildings; and to introduce six and twelve inch rules for step free access.[[65]](#footnote-65) |

1. Austria, Federal Disability Equality Act (*Bundesgesetz über die Gleichstellung von Menschen mit Behinderung – Bundes - Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz – BGStG*), BGBl. No. 82/2005, available at: <www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004228>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Austria, help.gv.at, available at: [www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/127/Seite.1270100.html#B1610](www.help.gv.at/Portal.Node/hlpd/public/content/127/Seite.1270100.html%23B1610). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Austria, BMASK (2012), National Action Plan on Disability 2012-2020. Strategy of the Austrian Federal Government for the Implementation of the UN Disability Rights Convention (*Nationaler Aktionsplan Behinderung 2012-2020. Strategie der Österreichischen Bundesregierung zur Umsetzung der UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention*), [Vienna, BMASK, [ 57 - 58], available at: <www.bmask.gv.at/cms/site/attachments/7/4/9/CH2092/CMS1359980335644/nap_behinderung-web_2013-01-30_eng.pdf>, p. 59. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Information provided by the Austrian Association of Municipalities *(Österreichischer Gemeindebund)* on 2 July 2013 in a response to an information request. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Belgium, Articles 14 and 27 of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 10 May 2007 (*Loi du 10 mai 2007 tendant à lutter contre certaines formes de discrimination – Wet van 10 mei 2007 ter bestrijding van bepaalde vormen van discriminatie*), available at: <http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/loi/loi.htm> and Article 143 of the Electoral Code (*Le Code électoral; Algemeen Kieswetboek*), available at: <http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/loi/loi.htm>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Belgium, List of legislation available in the annex of the following document: CEOOR, ‘Accessibility of public buildings’, available at: http://www.diversiteit.be/?action=publicatie\_detail&id=14&thema=3&setLanguage=1. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Information obtained from the Department for Social Inclusion of persons with disabilities, (Τμήμα Κοινωνικής Ενσωμάτωσης Ατόμων με Αναπηρίες). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Cyprus, Regulation 61H “Use of buildings by disabled persons” (K.Δ.Π. 86/99) of the “Streets and Buildings Law” of 1999, (Κανονισμός 61.H του Περί Οδών και Οικοδομών Νόμου για την χρήση κτηρίων από ανάπηρα πρόσωπα). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Sources: Government Board for People with Disabilities and the Czech National Disability Council, personal communication. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Data from 2004 and 2005 are available at http://verejna-sprava.kr-moravskoslezsky.cz/cz/pruzkum-bezbarierove-pristupnosti-staveb-obcanske-vybavenosti-10234/ [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. The federal ministry of labour and social affairs and the CRPD - focal points of all states were consulted. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Statens Byggeforskningsinstitut (Danish Building Research Institute), University of Allborg, 2007. Hyperlink found 24 July 2013: http://www.sbi.dk/tilgaengelighed/bygningsindretning/kendskab-til-tilgengelighedsbestemmelser/tilgengelighed-i-offentlige-bygninger-forbedret. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Estonia, Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications (Majandus- ja kommunikatsiooniminister) (2002), Requirements for ensuring mobility options for people with

    mobility, visual, and hearing disabilities in public buildings [Nõuded liikumis-, nägemis- ja kuulmispuudega inimeste liikumisvõimaluste tagamiseks üldkasutatavates

    ehitistes], Riigi Teataja Lisa 2002, 145, 2120, available at: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/226420> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Information obtained from the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People [Eesti Puuetega Inimeste Koda], also see [http://liikumisvabadus.invainfo.ee/?go=index&lang=eng](http://liikumisvabadus.invainfo.ee/?go=index〈=eng) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Circular ΔΙΑΔΠ/Π.ΑμεΑ.Φ.3/2.6644/11.03.2008 on Accessibility of public buildings for people with disabilities (*Εξασφάλιση της προσβασιμότητας των κτιρίων των δημοσίων υπηρεσιών στα Άτομα με Αναπηρία*) [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. At that time legislation in force was Law 1577/1985 General Construction Regulations *(Γενικός Οικοδομικός Κανονισμός)*. Τhis legislation was replaced by Law 4067/2012 (OG A79/9.3/2012) New Construction Regulations (*Νέος Οικοδομικός Κανονισμός)* that includes a number of provisions on accessibility of buildings and built environment. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Royal Decree 505/2007, of 20 April, approving the basic conditions for accessibility and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities with regard to the access and use of urbanized public spaces and buildings [*Real Decreto 505/2007, de 20 de abril, por el que se aprueban las condiciones básicas de accesibilidad y no discriminación de las personas con discapacidad para el acceso y utilización de los espacios públicos urbanizados y edificaciones*]. Consolidated version in Spanish: <http://noticias.juridicas.com/base_datos/Admin/rd505-2007.html> (accessed on 20.07.2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Technical Code of Construction [*Código Técnico de Edificación (CTE)*]: [www.codigotecnico.org/web/recursos/documentos/dbsu/su9/010.html](http://www.codigotecnico.org/web/recursos/documentos/dbsu/su9/010.html) (accessed on 06/09/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. See: [www.ine.es/inebmenu/mnu\_construc.htm#5](http://www.ine.es/inebmenu/mnu_construc.htm#5) (accessed on 20/07/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
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24. Report of the Interministerial Observatory on accessibility and universal design, for the Prime Minister, 2012. Available at: [www.territoires.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Rapport\_Obiacu\_2012.pdf](http://www.territoires.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Rapport_Obiacu_2012.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Interministerial Circular (to local officers) about accessibility for people with disabilities, 3 January 2013, available at: www.circulaire.legifrance.gouv.fr/pdf/2013/01/cir\_36392.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Information obtained from the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministarstvo javne uprave*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Information obtained from the Croatian Union of Counties (*Hrvatska zajednica županija*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Information obtained from the Association of towns in the Republic of Croatia (*Udruga gradova u Republici Hrvatskoj*) (2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Please note that the term accessibility is typically colloquially understood to refer to wheelchair access, and that data reported likely also refers, at least in part, to accessibility to persons with physical/motoric impairment. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Data on municipalities available at: http://www.uprava.hr/default.aspx?id=12. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. According to Art. 7 of the Ordinance on ensuring accessibility of buildings to persons with disability and persons with limited mobility (***Pravilnik o osiguranju pristupačnosti*** građevina osobama s invaliditetom i smanjenom pokretljivosti), Official Gazzete (Narodne novine) Nos. 151/05, 61/07, mandatory elements of accessibility include: elements of accessibility in terms of overcoming differences in elevation; elements of accessibility connected to independent living; and, elements of accessibility related to public transport. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Information obtained from the Association of Municipalities (*Udruga općina*) (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Hungary, [HVG.hu](http://www.vg.hu) (14 May 2013) Deadlines for complying with accessibility requirements are not set out by an Act of Parliament (*Nem törvényben rögzítik az akadálymentesítési határidőket)*, [www.vg.hu/vallalatok/egeszsegugy/nem-torvenyben-rogzitik-az-akadalymentesitesi-hataridoket-403588](http://www.vg.hu/vallalatok/egeszsegugy/nem-torvenyben-rogzitik-az-akadalymentesitesi-hataridoket-403588). There is no official data available, this is an estimation only. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
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35. Replies submitted by the Government of Hungary to the list of issues (CRPD/C/HUN/Q/1) to be taken up during the consideration of the initial report of Hungary (CRPD/C/HUN/1), 6 July 2012, p. 5., available at;:[www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Session8.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/Session8.aspx). [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. See further Department of Environment Building Standards available at [www.environ.ie/en/developmenthousing/buildingstandards](http://www.environ.ie/en/developmenthousing/buildingstandards) (accessed on 13 September 2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. F.I.A.B.A confirmed that there are no comparable data. FIABA is an Italian NGO active in promoting removal of architectural barriers in Italy. A few regions and cities monitor accessibility. Also national and local associations are committed to such monitoring, but data are not merged for a comprehensive national picture. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Information provided by the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired upon request. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Lithuanian Government (2012), Final report of the survey „Financial (economic means) analysis of the adaptation of public premises to the needs of persons with disabilities“, available at: <http://www.lrv.lt/bylos/LESSED%20projektas/Dokumentai/galutine_ataskaita_sadm_2012-05-25.pdf>, last accessed on 2 August, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Virginija Motiejūnienė, Persons with disabilities cannot access half of the buildings („*Neigaliesiems neįmanoma patekti į pusę pastatų*“ ), L TV „Šiandien“, www.lrt.lt, 13 December 2011. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
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42. See list of buildings in the GDD of March 2008 [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Information provided by the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia on 29 July 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
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