

AccessibleEU: Building inclusion at Public Transport.

Typology: Workshop and Mutual Learning

Venue: Fira Gran Via, Barcelona_ [UITP Global Public Transport Summit 2023](#)

Partners: RENFE, TMB, FGC, UITP

Date: June 6th, 2023. 12.00-14.00 pm CET

Duration: 2 hours

Format: Hybrid

Number of participants: 150 - 200 participants

Context

Social inclusion is based on equality. Therefore, society must focus on the inclusion of universal accessibility criteria making day to day activities and opportunities accessible to every single person in every single condition, independently from their situation of disability.

Transport is one of the shared competences of the European Union, which means it has the right to legislate and therefore also one of the policy areas in which it has a strong impact.

We are of course still a long way from a fully accessible transport system that can be used independently and spontaneously by everyone.

The implementation of existing rules is also a problem, as well as gaps in existing legislation. For example, enforcement of the requirements by national bodies is often neglected and there is little in the law that addresses the needs of people with hidden disabilities.

The use of other legislative and technical “tools” such as standardisation or public procurement rules also must be used more consistently, and they need to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities. Public procurement is a key lever to implement accessibility and non-discrimination policies in the transport sector, for

example when a municipality has to buy new buses or renovate a train station. However, they often lack the expertise and technical knowledge to apply the EU rules properly which leads to unsatisfactory results for persons with disabilities. Standardisation should be a way to develop technical guidance to help manufacturers to follow the EU rules and explain in detail how to make for example a train vehicle accessible, but the procedure on how those standards is developed are not inclusive at all and Disabled Persons' Organisations have a hard time making their voices heard in the development process.

This workshop will provide to the different agents from the transport institutions with the required tools and knowledge for compliance with the fundamental principles of Design for All enshrined in the European Regulations, thus enabling managers, public administrators and transport manufacturers to work on a more accessible transport for all the citizens.

The participation of Accessible EU within the framework of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit as the world's biggest event dedicated to sustainable mobility which brings together all transport modes, industry authorities and operators, as well as exhibitors, represents a space for the exchange of knowledge and good practices that will allow progress and collaboration in this matter.

Objectives

- To learn about and analyse measures that guarantee universal accessibility in public transport.
- To learn about experiences that facilitate the incorporation of universal accessibility transport, so it become an intrinsic part of professional's philosophy and activity.

All different panels will address the rights and needs of people with disabilities, the daily challenges they face, solutions to solve them, and the advances already carried out in this matter.

Special attention will be focused on considering the implication of the different agents that will intervene within public transportation ecosystem.

Expected Agenda:

Opening Session

10' Introduction to Accessible EU Project and its paper in implementing accessibility in University at European level

Presentation of Accessible EU Project, as one of the flagship initiatives proposed in the European Commission's Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030.

As AccessibleEU main goal is to ensure persons with disabilities' participation in all areas of life on an equal basis with others, undoubtedly, education is a key tool to achieve this full inclusion in society of people with disabilities, in two ways, both for the people with disabilities themselves, and for the rest of society to create the conditions that allow it.

- **Mrs. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero**, European Commission
- **Mrs. Lucie Petersen**, Senior Policy Expert_ UITP

Panels

60' How to implement Accessibility in Public Transport?

In this panel, steps which must be taken to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities and older people in public transport.

First, different issues related to the accessibility of public transport will be dealt with, detailing the legislative scope at the European level and the implementation methodology of these legislative requirements.

Next, three success stories in terms of accessibility in urban public transport in three European cities will be shared.

Speakers

- **Mrs. Ann Frye**, Accessible EU Transport Senior Expert
- **Case of Success 1: Barcelona, Spain_ Mrs. Ana Vieitez**, TMB Head of accessibility Technical Office
- **Case of Success 2: Helsinki, Finland_ Mrs. Veera Laiterä**, Head of Unit_ Traffic environment HSL Helsinki Region Transport Municipal Corp.
- **Case of Success 3: Ireland_ Mrs. Sarah O'Donnell**, Assistant Chief Architect_ Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) / **Mrs. Claire Scott**, Senior Consultant. People & Change_ ARUP

50' Learning from operators and manufacturers

The correct implementation of accessibility in public transport requires the inclusion of a transversal approach in all transport and management policies and practices (physical environment, assistive technologies, mobility

programmes, etc). To this end, this panel will present inspirational experiences and projects related to accessibility management in the operation of transport fleets (both in rail transport and in bus transport) as well as in the field of rolling stock manufacturers.

Speakers

Conducted by **Mr. Jesús Hernández Galán**, Accessible EU Director

- **Mr. Santiago Fernandez Varea**, Director of Customer Experience and Accessibility_RENFE
- **Mrs. Olatz Ortiz Etxeberria**, director Assistant_ FGC Operadora
- **Mrs. Anne Bigand**, Passenger Experience Director_ ALSTOM
- **Mr. Francisco Magalhaes**, International Sales Advisor_ CAETANO BUS
- **Mr. Francisco Fontes**, Project Manager Consultant_ ALSA International Management and M&A