



European funds without barriers

Improvements for
persons with disabilities

Available European funds

- One in six people in the European Union has some type of disability.
- Persons with disabilities should participate in and implement EU projects equally to other persons.
- This is guaranteed by the Common Strategic Framework - Annex I to the General Regulation 1303/2013.
- Everything financed from the European funds must be accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities.

In 2010, the European Union ratified the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The Convention obliges the Member States to prepare and implement, in all areas of life, the solutions which provide accessibility to persons with various degrees of physical ability.



Right of access

What are the rights of a person with disability as part of the European Funds?

1. Right to information

- **What does it mean?** Everyone has the right to obtain the full information about support opportunities in the EU projects, to learn how to implement a project or how to use it and what the given project is all about, to whom it is addressed, where and when is implemented.

- **Example:** Websites of projects and institutions involved in the implementation of the European funds must be accessible to people with various disabilities.

2. Right to participate

- **What does it mean?** Everyone, regardless of their disability, has the right to participate in information meetings, conferences, training courses, workshops and other projects implemented from the European funds.

- **Example:** Open meetings for which registration is not required should be organised in buildings accessible in architectural terms to persons with disabilities.

3. Right to use

- **What does it mean?** Everyone has the right to use the effects of the European funds, i.e. everything which has been built, modernised, purchase, created, produced, invented or designed using the European funds.

- **Example:** New trains, museums, built road, places of care in kindergartens, computer labs must be accessible to people with disabilities.

Project accessible to everyone

What should the project author provide?

- Everyone has the right to participate in EU projects.
- The guarantee of accessibility to people with disabilities in projects is **the mechanism of rational improvements**. It enables a flexible response to the needs of participants and provides them with the „tailor-made“ improvements.

What improvements may be expected?

Slower speed/longer time due to

e.g. a need to interpret into sign language



Adaptation of buildings

for example, installation of temporary ramps, platforms, lifts; marking the building with boards with the information in Braille

Acoustic adaptation

e.g. installation of an induction loop or FM systems



Adaptation of computers

e.g. renting or purchase of magnifying or speaking programmes, printers of materials in Braille



Providing specialised support

e.g. an assistant translating into simple language, assistant to a person with disability, sign language interpreter, guide for a person with sight issues



Transport

e.g. special transport to the place of implementing a project



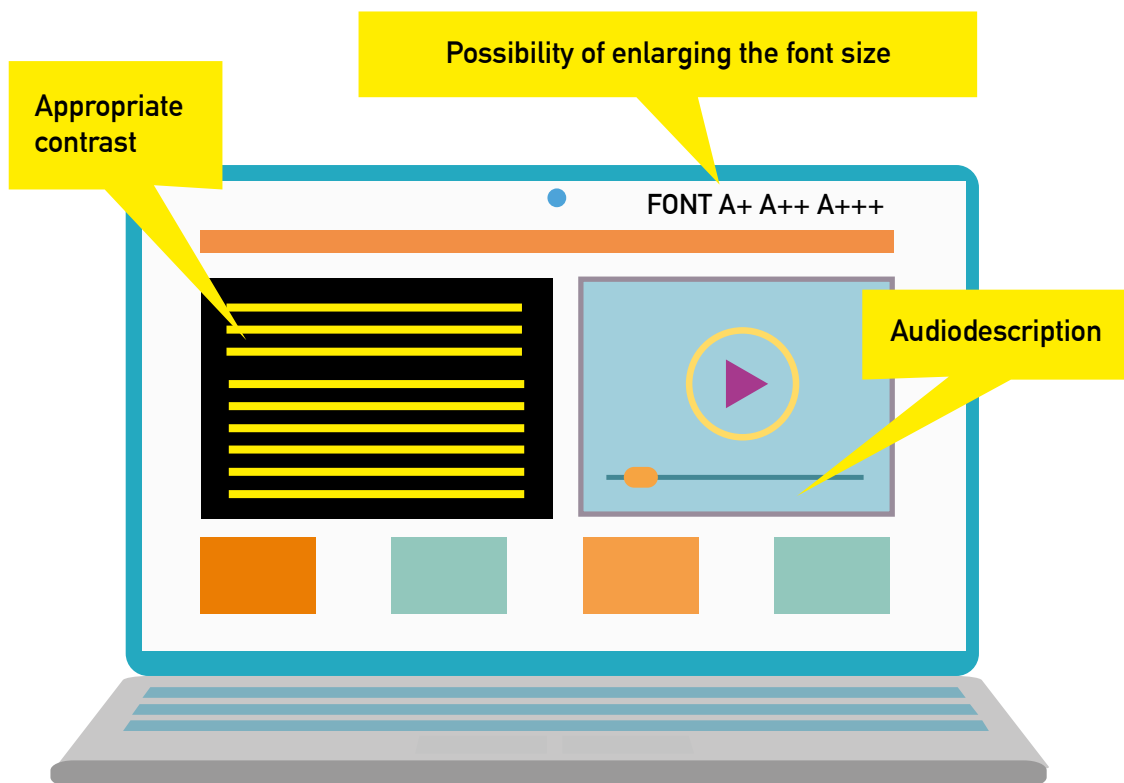
Adaptation of project/training materials

e.g. installation of magnifying or speaking programmes, printers of materials in Braille



Accessible Internet

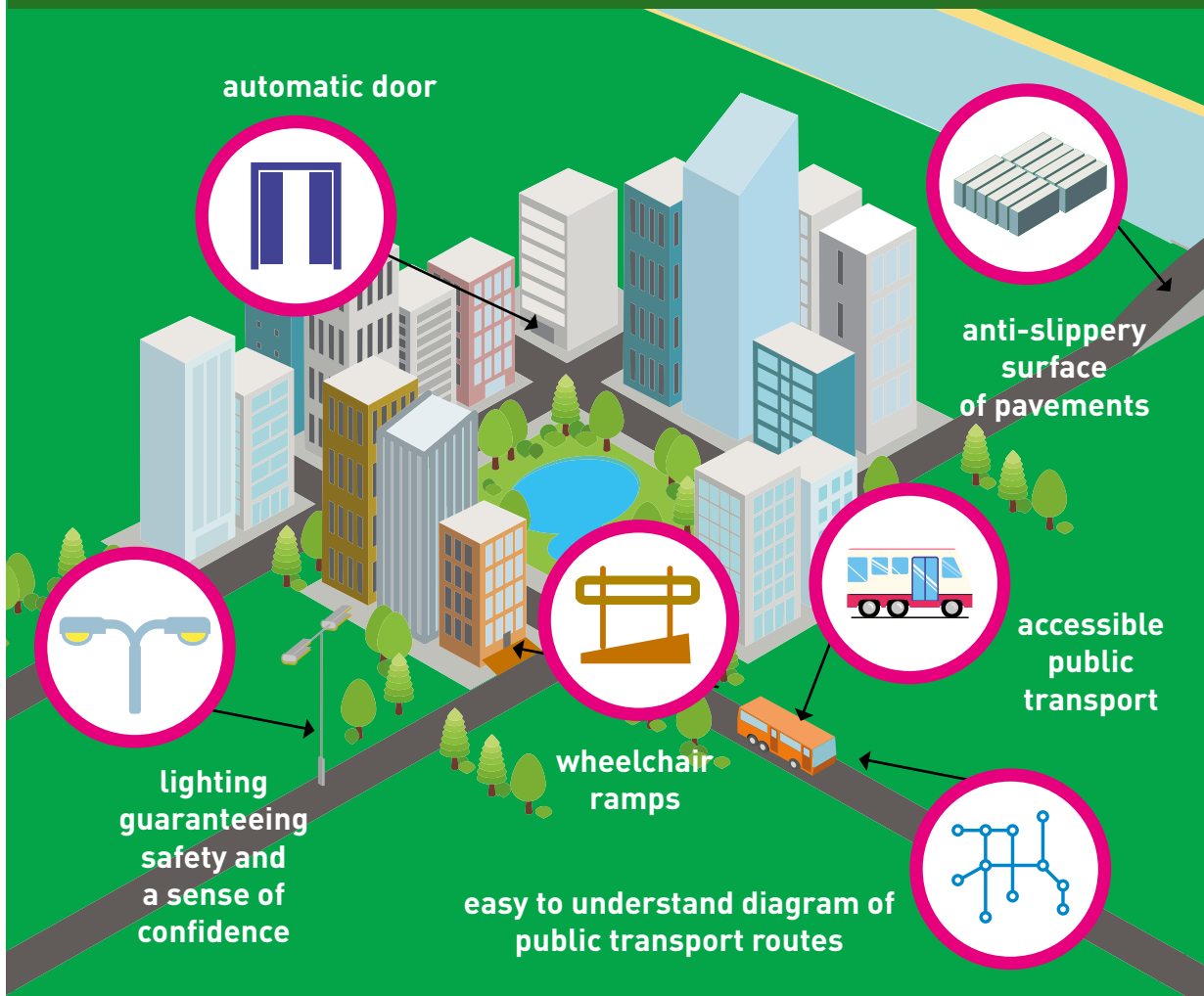
- People with various disabilities have a problem with the accessibility to resources. That is why it is so important to prepare digital information in accordance with the principles of accessibility.
- Web pages created within the framework of EU projects should include accessibility to people with disabilities. Their authors must follow the WCAG 2.0 standard, which contains the rules for creating accessible websites.
- An example of such accessibility is a possibility to enlarge the font size, proper selection of colours and their contrast, content which is easy to understand.
- Similarly, multimedia (animations, presentations, videos, sound recordings and other) should comply with the principles of accessibility and, e.g. include text transcripts, audiodescription or translation into sign language.



Space accessible to all

- **Universal design**, or design for all is the way of designing products, environments, programmes and services to serve the greatest possible number of people, including seniors, mothers and fathers with prams and all those who have various functional needs, resulting, e.g. from obesity, ski injury, pregnancy or impressive height.
- Each new building, service or other products, whose creation is financed by the European funds should be accessible to all.

Examples of universally designed solutions:



New opportunities are available

Use the European Funds without any barriers.

1

Visit the Contact Point in your area.

2

Find a project that will develop your potential or will provide you with the services you need.

3

Choose from among all available projects, not necessarily just those addressed to persons with disabilities.

4

When submitting your application, inform the Project Author about the needs arising from the type and degree of your disability.

5

Feel free to express your needs, even if they are not typical. Each application must be individually considered.



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