

AccessibleEU – Accessibility Indicators

Highlights 2024

Finland

Background

AccessibleEU intends to monitor action and progress of member states to implement accessibility legislation and standards by using a framework largely based on the [United Nations \(2020\) Article 9: Illustrative Indicators, Human Rights Indicators on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

This monitoring framework is composed of structural indicators, process indicators, and outcome indicators:

- **Structural indicators** aim to capture the institutional aspects of national commitments.
- **Progress indicators** focus on efforts of member states to transform commitments into results.
- **Outcome indicators** relate to the impact of commitments and efforts onto individuals.

AccessibleEU uses a total of 30 indicators covering the areas of Built Environment, Transport, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Public Policies.

Overview for Finland

Percentage of people with disabilities ([Eurostat, 2024](#)): 34.80%

AccessibleEU National Expert: [Terhi Tamminen](#)

National Council of Persons with Disabilities (member of the European Disability Forum): [Finnish Disability Forum](#)

[Annual Country Report 2024 for Finland](#)

Structural indicators

Topic: Legislation enacted ensuring the right to access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, services, information and communications, including ICTs, and other facilities and services open or provided to the public, in both urban and rural areas.

- **Findings:** Accessibility-related legislation in built environment include the [Government Degree on Accessibility of building](#). In the area of public policies, there is accessibility provision within the [Procurement Act for Special Fields](#). No information has been identified regarding enforcement mechanisms.

Topic: Incorporation of EU accessibility standards and/or transposition of EU Directives in national legal frameworks

- **Findings:** No specific information has been identified on this topic.

Topic: Accessibility related Strategic and action planning is up to date on national level and aligned with EU relevant strategies.

- **Findings:** The National Action Plan on the UNCRPD identifies the measures that will be taken to promote the implementation of the Convention in different administrative branches during the third action plan period 2023–2027. The Advisory Board for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also draws up an action programme for its term of office that includes built environment as well. In autumn 2023 The Ministry of Transport and Communications also published a vision for an accessible transport system. The vision defines the aims for the development of the accessibility of the transport system throughout Finland.

Process indicators

Topic: Training on universal design and accessibility standards is part of higher education courses/ professional accreditation.

- **Findings:** Trainings and courses have been identified in the areas of built environment, transport and ICT. Notable examples include the [accessibility auditing course](#) co-organized by the Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities and the Metropolia University of Applied Sciences. [HAMK Häme University of Applied Sciences](#) also include one day seminars about accessibility in transport.

Topic: Implementation of accessibility audits on government facilities, services and programmes that require the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including with respect to emergency protocols, procedures, services and facilities.

- **Findings:** Accessibility mapping is a tool for finding out the current state of accessibility in the built environment and transport areas. The accessibility mapping method (ESKEH) was developed in 2007–2009 as a national cooperation project and the method was updated by the Disabled Persons' Association in 2018. There are some companies who offer services for auditing accessibility in Digital environments by following the WCAG 2.1. standard.

Topic: Awareness raising campaigns and activities to promote accessibility across all services open to the public and promote knowledge of universal design and accessibility standards by relevant professionals, manufacturers and service providers, as well as informing individuals of their rights and responsibilities as they relate to accessibility.

- **Findings:** Awareness raising campaigns have been identified in all areas. Notable include “[Accessibility campaign 2024 - For a more independent life](#)” organized by The Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities, and the campaign “[Public transport is for everyone](#)” from Helsinki City Transport.

Topic: Incentives and support provision to improve accessibility in the provision of goods and services and/or information about accessibility to potential users.

- **Findings:** No incentive programs for accessibility have been identified in Finland.

Topic: Consultation processes undertaken to ensure the active involvement of persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, regulations, policies and programs, related to accessibility of the built environment, transportation, information and communication.

- **Findings:** The ministry of Transport and Communication establishes an Accessibility working group’s which is the group of people from disability organizations. All legislative drafts are open for comments before decision making. Representative organisations of people with disabilities are particularly asked to comment whenever the draft is relevant for the accessibility of the built environment.

Outcome indicators

Topic: Reported access to public transport, public buildings/spaces and websites and compliance with legal requirements.

- **Findings:** There was no sufficient evidence identified in Finland, apart from [Evaluation](#) of the Government Decree on Accessibility of Buildings’ functionality.