

AccessibleEU European Event - Smart Cities: Enhancing Urban Design and Mobility for All

Venue: Fundacion ONCE. Calle Sebastián Herrera, 15. Madrid (Spain)

Date: July 2nd, 2024. 9.30 – 18.00 h CET

Format: Hybrid

Language: English

Number of participants: 200 participants

Registration form: [Website of the European Commission](#)

Consortium composed by:



1. Context and Background

The European Commission's AccessibleEU Resource Centre, which is part of the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, strives to enhance accessibility coherence through strategic tools including training, awareness, and sharing best practices. This effort includes promoting accessibility standards and engaging public, private, and civil society DPOs, to foster a united EU approach.

AccessibleEU adopts a Design for All approach, boosting accessibility for greater inclusivity, social integration, and improved quality of life for European citizens throughout their lives. As a European one-stop shop, AccessibleEU provides stakeholders with cutting-edge expertise, benefiting policymakers, legislators, accessibility advocates, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

AccessibleEU, relying on the in-depth knowledge of its network of National Experts, aims to strengthen contacts and connections between key players and main entities, both public, private, and non-profit, to foster common interests.

It is also imperative to assist all parties to ensure that the dedication of resources responds adequately to the new accessibility regulations and to offer better services and products to the growing customer demand. In this regard, networking events on a European scale are crucial to connect stakeholders in accessibility in a changing context that increasingly demands effective solutions.

2. Objectives

The main objective of this networking event is to Connect is to connect stakeholders and raise awareness about the importance of accessibility in urban design across Europe. It aims to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities navigating urban environments and to promote inclusive practices in urban planning and mobility. By bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, the event would catalise positive change to enhance urban design and mobility for all.

Recognising the importance of urban tourism to the visitor economy, the event will also examine ways in which cities are working to ensure equal access for all to urban streets, heritage buildings and monuments, for the benefit of local communities and visitors, making use of participatory design approaches and smart data.

3. Target Audience

- Policymakers and public officials in charge of the development and execution of strategies that facilitate the connection between all parties

involved in the development of actions focused on the achievement of accessibility and integration of all citizens and visitors.

- Organizations and professionals linked to the world of urban design, urban mobility, urban planning, architects, and the broad spectrum of construction.
- City managers, Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) and cultural institutions responsible for the management and promotion of the cultural heritage of cities and towns.
- Representatives of members of civil society, especially those representing people with disabilities and older people; Persons with disabilities and older people on a personal basis.
- Professional associations, societies, and organisations representing professionals and experts in charge of developing accessible infrastructures in urban environments, and those especially linked to design, mobility, engineering and architecture.
- Universities and academics working in accessible urban design and mobility; Trainers of future accessibility professionals in Europe.

4. Benefits and take aways

- Increased awareness: participants will gain a better understanding of the importance of accessibility in urban design and its impact on the lives of people with disabilities
- Knowledge Sharing: Exchange of best practices, strategies, and resources among professionals and stakeholders to promote urban design and mobility for all.
- Capacity Building: City managers and decision makers, urban planners, architects, designers and professionals in cultural heritage will acquire new skills and insights to incorporate accessibility principles into their projects effectively.
- Collaboration: Foster collaboration and partnerships between government agencies, advocacy groups, academia and the private sector to advance accessibility initiatives at local, national and European levels.
- Commitment to Action: Inspire participants to take concrete actions to promote accessibility in their respective roles and communities, contributing to the creation of more accessible and sustainable cities across Europe.

5. Format and duration

The networking event will last from 9.30 to 18.00 CET and be held in a hybrid format.

6. Programme

9.00 – 9.30: Registration

9.30 –10.00: Opening Session

- Alberto Durán, Vice President, ONCE Social Group.
- Nora Bednarski, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner for Equality.
- Luis Cayo, President, CERMI.
- Marko Vešligaj, Member of European Committee of the Regions.
- Francisco David Lucas Parrón, State Secretary for Housing and Urban Agenda, Government of Spain.

10.00 – 10.30: Keynote speech

- Alfonso Vergara, President, [Fundación Metropoli](#)

10.30 – 11.30: Panel 1 - Smart human cities: technology at the service of urban design and mobility for all

This panel will address the benefits that the implementation of the Smart City concept can have for the understanding and usability of built environments , as well as the presentation of some success stories in the incorporation of various solutions of this model in public spaces and in the transportation network.

Moderated by:

- Gonzalo Lacurcia, [UN Habitat](#)

Speakers:

- Daniel González-Botello, [Smart City Cluster](#)
- Laura Trujillo, [Eurocities](#)
- Martín de los Heros, [Morph Estudio](#)
- Igor Stefanovic, [UN Tourism](#)

11.30 – 12.00: Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.00: Panel 2 (1) - Users of the urban environment: needs, problems and good practices for the use and enjoyment of public spaces

This panel seeks to understand the needs of the most vulnerable people as users of the urban environment, to locate the main problems that the public spaces of our towns and cities currently present and to learn about success stories that have managed to maintain the character of urban spaces, responding effectively to the needs of all people.

Moderated by:

- Elena Stylianou, [European Cyprus University](#) & [Nicosia Municipal Arts Center](#)

Speakers:

- Agnes Kojc, [Cerebral Palsy - European Communities Association](#)
- Paloma Contreras, [Autism Europe](#)
- Antonella Candiago, [European Network on Independent Living](#)
- Mercedes Mayoral, [European Dyslexia Association](#)
- Alexandre Bloxs, [European Union of the Deaf](#)

13.00 – 14.00: Panel 3 - Lessons learned from the award-winning cities in the EC Access City Award

This session will showcase participants of previous editions of the EC Access City Award, highlighting innovative approaches and lessons learned.

Moderated by:

- Inmaculada Placencia, EC Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Speakers:

- Maike Pischke, Berlin (Germany)
- Pilar Herrero / Noemi Delgado, San Cristóbal de La Laguna (Spain)
- Laurence Colleran, South Dublin County Council (Ireland)
- Kristine Andreassen, Jönköping (Sweden)

14.00– 15.30: Lunch & networking

15.30– 16.00: Keynote speech

- Shamoy Hajare, [UN Habitat](#) Focal point on Disability Inclusion and Coordinator of the Safer Cities Programme

16.00 – 17.00: Panel 4 - New urban developments: strategies and challenges for the effective incorporation of accessibility in urban design processes

This panel seeks to identify the challenges faced by urban planning in the 21st century, in which factors such as sustainability and accessibility are defined as keys, not only to inclusion, but also to quality, and knowing the strategies that are being used, for the design and construction of sustainable and inclusive environments from all points of view.

Moderated by:

- Sigbjørn Råsberg, [CEN Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility \(SAGA\)](#)

Speakers:

- Teresa Taboas, [International Union of Architects \(UIA\)](#)
- Manuel Blanco, [EUROPAN](#)
- René van Bavel, [New European Bauhaus](#)
- Hannes Juhlin Lagrelius, [World Blind Union](#)

17:00 – 18:00: Panel 2 (2) - Users of the urban environment: needs, problems and good practices for the use and enjoyment of public spaces

This panel seeks to understand the needs of the most vulnerable people as users of the urban environment, to locate the main problems that the public spaces of our towns and cities currently present and to learn about success stories that have managed to maintain the character of urban spaces, responding effectively to the needs of all people.

Moderated by:

- Tally Hatzakis, [TRIPS \(TRansport Innovation for Persons with disabilities needs Satisfaction\)](#)

Speakers:

- Julia Wadoux, [AGE Platform Europe](#)
- Kevin Kelly, [European Blind Union](#)
- Alf Lindberg, [European Federation of Hard of Hearing](#)
- Juanjo Muñoz Ros, [Inclusion Europe](#)

18.00: Closing remarks