

**BULGARIA**

<b>MAINSTREAM STRATEGY ON ACCESSIBILITY</b>	
<b>National Action Plan on Accessibility in place</b>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives contained in a broad action plan</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>Accessibility is part of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Republic of Bulgaria National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities – 2021-2022</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities – 2023-2024</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Action Plan for the Implementation of the Final Recommendations to the Republic of Bulgaria Addressed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2026)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Persons with Disabilities Act (PDA) - approved on 18 December 2018 and supplemented on 25 January 2023 (Section IV. Accessible environment and reasonable facilities, accessible information and ensuring personal mobility)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Spatial Development Act – amended on 23 December 2022</a></li> </ul>
<b>Authority monitoring accessibility initiatives in place</b>	<p><b>YES – accessibility initiatives led by a cross-group of authorities</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>Implementation and monitoring of accessibility initiatives are under the responsibility of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councils of Ministers.</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Policy and Labour, based on information received from other ministries, institutions, and organizations.</li> <li>• Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.</li> </ul>
<b>Adoption of target dates to achieve</b>	<p><b>YES – several target dates</b></p>

<p><b>accessibility initiatives</b></p>	<p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>The implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 is planned by two-year action plans for Implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities. Each two-year plan has certain components: measures/ activities, budget, target month/ year for implementation, expected results, indicators, responsible institutions (leader, partners).</p> <p>According to the approved <a href="#">Action Plan for the period 2023-2024 for the implementation of the National Strategy for People with Disabilities 2021-2030</a>, Bulgaria is in the process of harmonizing national regulations with the accessibility requirements of European regulations, directives and standards that have entered into force with a term of 2023-2024.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Action Plan for the Implementation of the Final Recommendations to the Republic of Bulgaria Addressed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2026)</a> contains information about timing to implement recommendations.</p> <p>According to the report <a href="#">“Key indicators for social inclusion and fundamental rights in Bulgaria - Applying data to the policy process”</a>, the indicators for monitoring at the action plans are not based on research, but either report a specific activity as completed or not completed (e.g. action plan developed, compliance table completed, etc.) or report specific numbers (participants in training, buildings renovated to ensure accessibility, etc.). The report is prepared by the National Statistical Institute (NSI) and the Agency of European Union for Fundamental Rights (FRA).</p>
<p><b>Infringement and sanction regime on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and accessibility for people with disabilities in place</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Act on Protection against Discrimination</a> regulates the complaints, proceedings to the Commission for Protection against Discrimination and legal proceedings to the relevant district court, sanction regime and measures in cases of violations of all laws, regulating equality of treatment.</p>

<p><b>Public Body that manages complaint about accessibility in place</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>The responsible institution is the <a href="#">Commission for Protection against Discrimination</a>.</p> <p>The Commission acts under the Act on Protection against Discrimination.</p>
<p><b>Umbrella organisation representing more than 50% of associations for persons with disabilities in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There is not an umbrella organization which represents 50% of associations for people with disabilities in Bulgaria.</p> <p>One relevant example of an “umbrella organization” is the Bulgarian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (<a href="#">BAPID</a>). BAPID acts as a national network of 35 organizations across the country, which defends the right to dignified and independent life for persons with intellectual and other disabilities and their families. BAPID is a member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the National Disability Integration Committee (with consultative functions to the Government) under the Council of Ministers;</li> <li>• the National Disability Council, (consisting of similar nationally represented disability organizations)</li> <li>• Inclusion Europe, Inclusion International and the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, there are 21 national represented organizations of people with different disabilities, among which the organizations with highest number of individual members are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union of Disabled People in Bulgaria (<a href="#">UDPB</a>)</li> <li>• Union of the Blind in Bulgaria (<a href="#">UBB</a>)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Union of the Deaf in Bulgaria</a></li> <li>• National Association of People with Acquired Disabilities (<a href="#">NAHPU</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>International accessibility standards incorporated into the national legislative framework</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There is information about such links between international and national standardization presented as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic information about the already started process of harmonizing national regulations with the accessibility requirements of European regulations, directives and standards that have entered into force (in the cited Action Plans for the implementation of the National Strategy for People with Disabilities 2021-2030)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Specific information about the process of harmonization in the field of web accessibility</a>: the monitoring and checks on web accessibility in Bulgaria are in accordance with the Methodology for monitoring and checking the accessibility of the content of the internet pages and mobile applications developed by SeGA, which is in accordance with the Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1524 of October 11, 2018 to establish the methodology of monitoring and reporting arrangements by Member States in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/2102.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Certification Body for accessible environments, products, or services in place</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>The Commission for Protection against Discrimination (<a href="#">CPD</a>) provides certificates for accessible urban environment under the National Campaign “Accessible Bulgaria”. The CPD works under the national legislation, namely under The Persons with Disabilities Act.</p>
<p><b>Mandatory requirement regarding</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p>

<p><b>accessibility courses at post-secondary level in place</b></p>	<p>There is no mandatory requirement for courses on accessibility in the Bulgarian universities/schools of architecture/ engineering/ design.</p> <p>Two good examples of related initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG) there is an Elective discipline <a href="#">PHYSICAL AND SENSORY ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT</a>.</li> <li>• In the <a href="#">Masters' Programmes at the New Bulgarian University</a>, the teaching program in Architecture considers acquiring competences by the students in creating accessible environment for people with disabilities.</li> </ul>
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<p align="center"><b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b></p>	
<p><b>Legislation requiring public buildings to be accessible in place</b></p>	<p><b>YES – based on the European Standard – EN 17210:2010 Accessibility and usability of the built environment</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>Regulation No. RD-02-20-2 of 26.01.2021 determines the accessibility and universal design requirements of the elements of the accessible environment in the urbanization territory and the buildings and facilities. The Regulation is implemented and monitored by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.</p> <p>The <a href="#">collection of standards "Standards for accessibility and usability of the built environment"</a> was created in order to be used as a tool to support the implementation of Regulation No. RD-02-20-2.</p> <p>The collection includes the following standards and standardization documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• БДС EN 17210:2021 Accessibility and usability of the built environment. Functional Requirements - describes basic, minimum functional requirements and recommendations for an accessible and usable built environment, following the principles of "Design for All"/"Universal Design", which will</li> </ul>

	<p>facilitate fair and safe use by a wide range of users, including people with disabilities. The requirements and the recommendations in this document are applicable across the spectrum of the built environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD CEN/TR 17621:2021 Accessibility and usability of the built environment. Technical criteria and performance specifications - the document was developed in support of BDS EN 17210:2021. The technical criteria and specifications set out in this document are applicable to the whole spectrum of the built environment and can be used as procurement criteria (in support of public procurement directives).</li> <li>• SD CEN/TR 17622:2021 Accessibility and usability of the built environment. Assessment of compliance - provides the criteria for assessing the compliance of the built environment with the functional requirements and recommendations described in BDS EN 17210:2021. It is applicable whether self-declaration, customer attestation or third party certification is required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action plan on accessibility related to built environment in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives related to built environment are contained in a broad action plan</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There is no official data about a specific National Action Plan on Accessibility related to Build Environment.</p> <p>According to the <a href="#">Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities – 2023-2024</a>, Bulgaria is in the process of harmonizing national regulations with the accessibility requirements of European regulations, directives and standards related to Build Environment, that have entered into force with a term of 2023-2024.</p>
<p><b>Authority monitoring the action plan on accessibility related to built environment in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives related to built environment are contained in a broad action plan</b></p>

<p><b>Adoption of target dates to achieve accessibility initiatives related to built environment</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Official data on public buildings complying with EN17210:2010 available</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There is no official data about public buildings, which comply with the European Standard - EN 17210:2021, although there is such requirement, according to the Regulation No. RD-02-20-2 of 26.01.2021 determining the accessibility and universal design requirements of the elements of the accessible environment in the urbanization territory and the buildings and facilities.</p>

<p><b>TRANSPORT</b></p>	
<p><b>Action plan on accessibility related to public transport in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives related to public transport are contained in a broad action plan</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There is no available specific National Action Plan on Accessibility related to Public Transport.</p> <p>According to the <a href="#">Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities – 2023-2024</a>, Bulgaria is in the process of harmonizing national regulations with the accessibility requirements of European regulations, directives and standards that have entered into force with a term of 2023-2024.</p>

<p><b>Authority monitoring the action plan on accessibility related to public transport in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives related to public transport are contained in a broad action plan</b></p>
<p><b>Adoption of target dates to achieve accessibility initiatives related to public transport</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p><b>Legislation in place regulating built environment accessibility conditions in airport infrastructures</b></p>	<p><b>YES – unknown if based on the European Standard – EN 17210:2010 Accessibility and usability of the built environment</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p><a href="#">REGULATION No. 33 of 3.11.1999</a> on public transport of passengers and cargo regulates accessibility conditions of all kind of transport.</p> <p>All buildings and infrastructure related to transport of passengers have to be in compliance with REGULATION No. RD-02-20-2 to determine the requirements for accessibility and universal design of the elements of the accessible environment in the urbanized territory and the properties and facilities.</p>
<p><b>Legislation in place regulating built environment accessibility conditions in railway infrastructures</b></p>	<p><b>YES – unknown if based on the regulations established by PRM TSI NIP (TSI 1300/2014) and the European series of standards EN 16584, EN 16585, EN 16586 and EN 16587</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p><a href="#">REGULATION No. 33 of 3.11.1999</a> on public transport of passengers and cargo on the territory of the Republic Bulgaria regulates accessibility conditions of all kind of transport.</p>



	<p>All buildings and infrastructure related to transport of passengers have to comply with REGULATION No. RD-02-20-2 of 26.01.2021 to determine the requirements for accessibility and universal design of the elements of the accessible environment in the urbanized territory and the properties and facilities.</p>
<p><b>Legislation in place regulating accessibility conditions of sea and inland waterway ports</b></p>	<p><b>YES – unknown if based on the European Standard – EN 17210:2010 Accessibility and usability of the built environment</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p><a href="#">REGULATION No. 33 of 3.11.1999</a> on public transport of passengers and cargo on the territory of the Republic Bulgaria regulates accessibility conditions of all kind of transport.</p> <p>All buildings and infrastructure related to transport of passengers have comply with REGULATION No. RD-02-20-2 of 26.01.2021 to determine the requirements for accessibility and universal design of the elements of the accessible environment in the urbanized territory and the properties and facilities.</p>
<p><b>Legislation in place regulating accessibility conditions of bus and coach transport infrastructure</b></p>	<p><b>YES – unknown if based on the European Standard – EN 17210:2010 Accessibility and usability of the built environment</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p><a href="#">REGULATION No. 33 of 3.11.1999</a> on public transport of passengers and cargo on the territory of the Republic Bulgaria regulates accessibility conditions of all kind of transport.</p> <p>All buildings and infrastructure related to transport of passengers have comply with REGULATION No. RD-02-20-2 of 26.01.2021 to determine the requirements for accessibility and universal design of the elements of the accessible environment in the urbanized territory and the properties and facilities.</p>

<p><b>National Enforcement Bodies in place to monitor and enforce compliance with Passenger Rights Regulations</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air passengers rights are published on the website of Ministry of Transport and Communications, Directorate General “<a href="#">Civil Aviation Administration</a>”</li> <li>• The rights of passengers travelling by rail are published on website of <a href="#">Executive Agency Rail Administration</a></li> </ul> <p>Additional link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Enforcement Bodies for Passenger Rights</a></li> </ul>
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ICT	
<p><b>Entity responsible for accessibility compliance of public websites and applications in place</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>State e-Government Agency (<a href="#">SeGA</a>) carries out monitoring and checks of samples from the websites and mobile applications of public sector organizations.</p> <p>The monitoring and checks are in accordance with the Methodology for monitoring and checking the accessibility of the content of the internet pages and mobile applications developed by SeGA, which is in accordance with the Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1524 of October 11, 2018 to establish the methodology of monitoring and reporting arrangements by Member States in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/2102.</p> <p>Additional link:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Member States' bodies in charge of monitoring the Web Accessibility Directive</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Results of accessibility compliance test son public websites and applications published</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Report on the monitoring of the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies carried out during the first monitoring period (2021)</a> in the Republic of Bulgaria is published on the web site of SeGA and the website of Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications</p> <p>Additional link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Web Accessibility Directive - Monitoring reports</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Action plan on accessibility related to ICT in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives related to ICT are contained in a broad action plan</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There is no available specific National Action Plan on Accessibility related to Public Transport.</p> <p>According to the <a href="#">Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities – 2023-2024</a>, Bulgaria is in the process of harmonizing national regulations with the accessibility requirements of European regulations, directives and standards that have entered into force with a term of 2023-2024.</p>
<p><b>Authority monitoring the action plan on accessibility related to ICT in place</b></p>	<p><b>NO – accessibility initiatives related to ICT are contained in a broad action plan</b></p>

<p><b>Adoption of target dates to achieve accessibility initiatives related to ICT</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
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<p><b>Public Policies / Data Availability</b></p>	
<p><b>The inclusion of people with disabilities, particularly Universal Accessibility and Design for All, is promoted in the transposed laws of Directives 2014/24 and 2014/25</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Public Procurement Act</a> (PPA) contains information about the responsibilities of the public bodies to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities through technical requirements for accessibility.</p> <p>According to Section II. Technical Specifications. Marking. Protocols from Testing, Art. 48:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (5) Where the result of the procurement will be used by natural persons, the technical specifications, which define the characteristics of the procurement subject, must be considered with the criteria for access for disabled people or to provide possibilities for disabled people to use this result.</li> <li>• (6) Where by an EU act obligatory requirements, related criteria for access to disabled people, or conditions for use of such people have been determined, the technical specifications shall include reference to these requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Online Accessibility Information Schemes in place at national or regional level to inform the public</b></p>	<p><b>NO</b></p> <p><b>Additional information:</b></p> <p>There are not Accessibility Information Schemes in Bulgaria.</p>

<p><b>about the accessibility of public-use buildings, ICT products or services</b></p>	<p>No systematic information is published on the websites of state and local authorities to inform the citizens about accessibility of public-use buildings.</p> <p>There is random information on accessibility on the websites of ministries, municipalities, universities, etc.</p>
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