

AccessibleEU – Accessibility Indicators

Highlights 2024

Slovakia

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 Slovakia

Percentage of people with disabilities ([Eurostat, 2024](#)): 30,50%

AccessibleEU National Expert: Dr. Zuzana Ceresnova

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

[Annual Country Report 2024 for Slovakia](#)

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:** Legal frameworks including accessibility requirements are in across sectors. In all cases, the right to equal access of persons with disabilities is explicitly stated. Legislation also acknowledges a diversity of needs that must be addressed in each case. Enforcement mechanisms are also foreseen in legislation across sectors.

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

- **Findings:** Relevant legislation does not make reference to specific accessibility standards, across the sectors of the Built Environment, Transport, and public policies. However, methodological guidelines are in place for monitoring the accessibility of public sector websites and applications by the relevant authority according to the Directive (EU) 2016/2102. EU Directives 2014/24 and 2014/25 are transposed into the Act 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement.

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

- **Findings:** A [National Program for the Development of the Living Conditions of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#) is in place and includes actions for improving accessibility across key sectors. The Program is reviewed on annual basis. In addition, accessibility is mainstreamed in separate national strategies on [ICT](#) and [Transport](#).

Process indicators

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

- **Findings:** At the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Universal Design forms part of the curriculum (as standalone course, and compulsory modules) in studies related to architecture, urban design, public and residential buildings, ergonomics and interdisciplinary design work. ICT related accessibility issues may also be touched upon in engineering (Technical University in Košice). Also, the Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union (UNSS) provides (non-formal) training on accessibility / Universal Design of websites and mobile applications to ICT staff, upon request of both public and private organisations. Accessibility related training was made available in the field of transport

in 2023, a collaboration of public authorities (Bratislava Municipality), the local Transport Company and the National Council of Citizens with Disabilities in the Slovak Republic. Finally, the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights provides educational activities on access to goods and services under the UNCRPD for employees of various institutions.

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 audits are performed by various stakeholders in the sectors of the Built Environment, Transport and ICT. Notably, the [Centre of Design for All \(CEDA\)](#) at the Faculty of Architecture and Design, Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, has created the Access audit system for the Built Environment. Also, accessibility of the built environment as well as transport is regularly monitored at municipal level. The [Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization](#) of the Slovak Republic is responsible for assessing the accessibility of public sector websites and applications according to EU provisions (Directive 2016 /2102). Notably, the Union of Blind and Visually Impaired Slovakia ([UNSS](#)) are involved in the respective testing processes.

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:** A number of awareness raising campaigns have taken place in the past few years by various stakeholders (academia, public authorities and organisations of persons with disabilities). Main themes have included the principles of universal design, inclusive built environments, innovative transport services for persons with disabilities, as well as the rights of persons with disabilities more widely. Examples include the campaign: ["Life is more beautiful without barriers"](#) by the Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Slovakia (UNSS).

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

- **Findings:** A number of funding schemes are being implemented and planned that directly aim to improve accessibility in the sectors of the Built Environment, Transport, and ICT. Notable examples include: interventions to improve accessibility of 182 secondary schools under the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP); improving accessibility of long-term care services (RRP); upgrading of public transport under the

Integrated Regional Program/ European structural and investment funds (ESIF); and improving digital skills of persons with disabilities (ESIF).

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:** There is not sufficient information available to date regarding the active participation of persons with disabilities in policy making, such as the planning and monitoring the National Disability Strategy.

Outcome indicators

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

- **Findings:** Data by the [MIRRI SR \(2021\)](#) is available on the accessibility of 195 websites monitored by the simplified method, showing moderate results across criteria. Some data on the accessibility of the built environment was made available in 2023 through a survey (117 individuals with disabilities participated across the country), assessing [accessibility of polling stations](#). Results show an improved situation for almost half of the participants in most cases (47% secured parking, 47% found venue accessible, although entrance was accessible only for 38% of participants). Respectively, barriers were reported by a significant proportion of participants in accessing polling stations, showing there is more room for improvement.