



MEDIA BRIEFING MATERIAL

Principles of “ Universal design “ in the creation of accessibility standards and guidelines for public buildings and services with the aim of non-discrimination of the persons with disabilities in Kosovo as one of the aims of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Architectural barriers of all kinds are the realities of today in Kosovo, and construction and renovation of the public objects in the state and private ownership should provide equal opportunities and basis of accessibility for their users, or else, traditional discrimination in the spatial design will be continued and that will create accessibility barriers to persons with limited abilities and deprive them of freedom of movement.

During the 70's , the Principles of “ Universal Design” or “Design for all” have started to apply in the USA and today the same ones are being applied in all countries. They need to ensure a minimal standards and guidelines in creation of the accessibility for all citizens including the people with disabilities, elderly people, mothers with children or pregnant women , buyers with heavy bags or persons with temporary disabilities.

Right to accessibility in the public buildings, transport and communications is one of the fundamental right and have direct impact on freedom of movement of people with disabilities and fight against discrimination and violence on this group of citizens.

Implementation of “Universal Design” principles in the accessibility of public buildings and services architecture should be developed and encouraged through the competent state structures, law and other administrative measures; in the same way it should be ensured that private persons and entrepreneurs who offer services and run public buildings must take into account all aspects of equal opportunities in the accessibility for persons with disabilities.

“Smart building” indicates the simplified building process with planned accessibility for persons with disabilities within spatial planning, by which future reconstruction and adaptation costs will be prevented and therefore money will be saved.

Combination of strengthening of law, rising of public awareness and spatial planning within implementation of “Universal Design” principle is a feasible concept of development of equal opportunities for accessibility in Kosovo.

Development and building of equal opportunities within accessibility have direct influence on protection of human rights, development of tourism capacity, increase of employment of persons with disabilities, reduce of poverty, access to education, increase of freedom of movement and decrease of violence against the disabled.

Through the multidisciplinary work of experts from architecture, urbanism, transport, design and legislation as well as the inclusion of different needs at the very beginning of planning process in order to create equal opportunities for access to the built facilities and services, we can build future cities with accessibility for EVERY Kosovo citizen, including persons with disabilities.

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