

Good Practice case study

How can Disabled People's Organisations improve people with disabilities' accessibility by influencing legislations?

Relevant articles of the CRPD: 9, 19, 20

Country: Albania

Region: South East Europe

Languages available: English (full report available in Albanian)

Creating a National Disability Strategy and Establishing Priorities for a Barrier-free Environment

Description of the practice and the process involved

In 2000, the Albania Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) in Tirana supported the initiative of a group of associations and individuals to set up an **advocacy group as an active instrument involved in intensive campaigns for improving and implementing legislation and working for the inclusion of people with disabilities in social life**. The priority of the advocacy group was to **lobby to remove barriers in the built environment** as a pre-condition for full participation.

To begin this process, ADRF pushed for **changes in the legal framework related to free movement**. An **expert group was** established composed of representatives of Ministry of Territory Management and Tourism, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Urban Projections and Studies Institute, Construction Engineering Faculty, Albania Architects Association, Albania Constructors Association, and the ADRF expert. The group drafted an **amendment for the law on construction** to add a clause on **reducing barriers for people with disabilities**.

The group also drafted a **policy** called "Urban and Architectonic Rules and Norms for People with Disabilities" approved in June 2004 by the decree of Council of Ministers as a special chapter within the Urban Rules, making this the **most powerful document regarding legal obligations for all planning and implementation of public buildings**. In addition to this, the group made a draft guideline for the norms defined in this policy for all Territory Management Councils which are the responsible bodies for urban planning on

the local level. The Ministry of Territory Management **disseminated the guidelines to all entities.**

Finally, the group supported ADRF's **proposal for all schools being built or reconstructed to be made accessible.**

The effects / impact of the practice

In 2005, **the National Strategy on Disability** was approved by the Council of Ministers. This strategy was drafted with the **participation of DPOs** from throughout Albania and was based on the UN Standard Rules. As part of the drafting process, an inter-ministerial working group was set up with representatives of the Ministry of Territory Management and ADRF to **develop a proper legal framework for creating a barrier-free environment.**

To complement the drafting of the national strategy, ADRF strove to build a **constructive dialogue with civil society and central institutions about the importance of an unbreakable chain of movement.**

What are the main points that require attention? How could it be improved?

The clause on reducing barriers for people with disabilities for the law on construction is **still pending** to be approved.

According to ADRF, the reality of an unbreakable chain of movement demands the **extension of such a dialogue at local level.**

Background and context

Full project report: [Free Movement of People with Disabilities in South East Europe: An inaccessible right?](#) (DMI SEE, 2006)

Criteria for the good practices: see page 23 of the full report.



Recommendations from the good practices: see pages 91 – 93 of the full report

Links to further resources:

[Full text on article 9 – Accessibility](#)

[Full text on article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community](#)

[Full text on article 20 – Personal mobility](#)