

## How to improve accessibility of the physical environment for people with disabilities?

**Relevant articles of the CRPD:** 9, 19, 20, 26

**Country:** Serbia

**Region:** South East Europe

**Languages available:** English (full report available in Albanian)

Removing Architectural Barriers in the Outdoors through Consultation in Serbia

### Description of the practice and the process involved

In 2002, the Association of Students with Disabilities of Serbia worked with the city of Belgrade and their construction partners to **respect accessibility standards when reconstructing streets and sidewalks in the city centre** in a project called “Removing Architectural Barriers in Belgrade”.

The project began by **mapping strategically important spots** in the city that are currently inaccessible paying particular attention to the **areas around public institutions, places of culture and educational facilities**. They looked primarily at **cross-walks, parking lots, sidewalks and access ways to public buildings**.

The mapping of the city coincided with the city’s efforts to **reconstruct the streets** financed by the City Council. ADS **made a sketch of the streets** the city planned to renovate pointing out the **how to make them accessible** in order to ensure accessibility standards are **respected and implemented correctly**.

The sketch **was submitted** to the City Secretariat for Transport and the “Beograd Put” company who was contracted to do the reconstruction work. When the reconstruction began, **ADS was asked to be a consultant for the project**.

### The factors that made this practice possible

**Excellent cooperation** was established between ADS and the chief urban planner and three of her associates on the project.

What is important to note is that **the price of these tiles is exactly the same as the price of asphalt for ordinary sidewalks.**

## The effects / impact of the practice

At the end of the project, the actors working in consultation with **ADS properly implemented accessibility standards** so all of the kerbs are dropped appropriately and the textured pathways are well placed. In total, **twenty pedestrian crossings** were completed, which includes **40 adapted sidewalks**. The relief tiles for the textured pathways (30 cm x 30 cm) were set **along the entire length of all the sidewalks.**

The chief urban planner, who is also a professor at the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade, agreed that she and **ADS members who are familiar with this field will give regular lectures** on the significance of removing architectural barriers for wheelchair users and persons with impaired vision.

## 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](#)

[Full text on article 26 – Habilitation and rehabilitation](#)