

“NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES”

**Instituto Nacional para a Reabilitação, I.P.
Ministério do Trabalho e da Solidariedade Social
Universidade de Évora, 9 de Julho 2009**

:: About INR

The Instituto Nacional para a Reabilitação - INR, IP (National Institute for Rehabilitation) is the public administration authority in charge of planning, promoting and coordinating Portugal's national policies for the promotion of rights and interests of disabled citizens.

:: About INR

INR aims to ensure that equal opportunities and non discrimination are guaranteed for persons with disabilities, through the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such policies.

:: About INR

INR plays an active role in developing those policies through:

- proposing new legislative initiatives
- checking that the law concerned with the different disability issues is properly obeyed
- promoting co-operation with the representative organizations that defend their interests.

INR centers its activity on three main domains:

- accessibility, assistive products and training/dissemination

::Reflections on Accessibility

The philosophy behind the design of an inclusive society is based on the recognition and acceptance of human diversity, which arises, moreover, on the diversity of life and the universe.

::Reflections on Accessibility

From a vision that considered disability as a result of a pathological problem of the individual, we came today to an understanding of disability as the result of a set of circumstances created by the interaction of the individual with his social and physical environment.

::Reflections on Accessibility

This approach had two consequences:

- The need to introduce changes into the environment as a way to reduce the consequences of disability;
- The need to deepen understanding of the human diversity as a condition to the effectiveness of such intervention in the environment.

::Reflections on Accessibility

Accessibility is a key concern when it comes to provide inclusion, equal opportunities and autonomy for persons with disabilities – who are about one tenth of the population, according to statistics – therefore, it is basically a matter of human rights.

An accessible, barrier free environment is the first step towards fulfilling the right of people with disabilities to participate in all areas of community life.

::Reflections on Accessibility

Accessibility is a very broad term covering all aspects of assuring that disabled people can participate and have the same choices as non-disabled community members.

::Reflections on Accessibility

This includes: access to transportation; election access; access to water supply and sanitation; technology access; appropriate sources of communication and media to ensure information; and a built and urban infrastructure that breaks down all physical barriers, promoting equal access for disabled persons as members of a community.

::Reflections on Accessibility

Access for people with disabilities is driven by some very specific standards embedded in multiple laws and implementing regulations.

Yet, much about providing access to programs for people with disabilities is rooted in common sense and a basic understanding of the various disabilities.

:: Reflections on Accessibility

:: Design for All Concept

Accessibility also means a simplified, friendlier and safer living environment for all, enhancing everyone's quality of life.

This can easily be obtained through the **Design for All** concept, also known as **Universal Design**. Of course, some disability situations will require special design, but most will benefit from this new approach.

:: Reflections on Accessibility

Seven UD Principles:

- 1. Equitable Use** - Provide the same means of use for all users: avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
- 2. Flexibility in Use** - The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities. Provide choice in methods of use.

:: Reflections on Accessibility

3. **Simple and Intuitive Use** – Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
4. **Perceptible Information** - Use different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information Provide adequate contrast between essential information and its surroundings

:: Reflections on Accessibility

5. **Tolerance for Error** - The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
6. **Low Physical Effort** - The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

:: Reflections on Accessibility

7. **Size and Space for Ease of Use** - Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

By following this **seven principles** when conceiving and planning, we make world around us easier to understand and to interact with, since use efficiency and flexibility greatly increase, and therefore adaptability maximizes.

:: International Policies

:: Council of Europe

- **Resolution ResAP(2001)1** on the introduction of the principles of Universal Design into the curricula of all occupations working on the built environment



“Adequate further training should be made available for active professionals, such as architects, engineers, designers and town planners. Their attendance should be strongly encouraged”

:: International Policies

:: Council of Europe

- **Resolution ResAP(2001)3**
Towards Full Citizenship of
Persons with Disabilities
Through Inclusive New
Technologies



“Accessibility and usability of products and services should be ensured at the design stage. Therefore, the Design for All strategy should be incorporated in the curricula of all designers and engineers”

:: International Policies

:: Council of Europe

- **Resolution ResAP(2007)3**
Achieving full participation
through Universal Design



“Governments should set up a framework for the education sector to instil the principles of Universal Design. Education professionals should be involved in this process and contribute to the introduction of the principles of Universal Design into curricula”

:: International Policies

:: Council of Europe

- **Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015**



“...the application of Universal Design principles is of paramount importance for improving the accessibility of the environment and the usability of products”

:: International Policies

:: Council of Europe – Website

www.coe.int



COUNCIL
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL
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:: International Policies

:: European Union

The objective of the Commission's disability strategy since 2003 has been to make equal opportunities for disabled people a reality.

The EU Disability Action Plan (DAP) 2003-2010 provides the means to make this happen in practice. It is used to make sure that disability issues are integrated within all relevant EU policies.



:: International Policies

:: European Union

The DAP is developed in two-year phases with policy priorities that respond to the equality gaps disabled people face.

The **2008-2009 DAP focuses on accessibility**. The aim is to stimulate inclusive participation of people with disabilities and to work towards full enjoyment of fundamental rights. This is done through:

- fostering accessibility of the labour market (through flexicurity, supported employment and working with Public Employment Services);
- boosting accessibility of goods, services and infrastructures;
- consolidating the Commission's analytical capacity to support accessibility (through studies, etc.);
- facilitating the implementation of the UN Convention;
- complementing the Community legislative framework of protection against discrimination.

:: International Policies

:: European Union

Ensuring accessibility and non-discrimination of people with disabilities:

Publication of a Toolkit for using EU Structural and Cohesion Funds

The European Social Fund (ESF) is the main financial instrument to assist Member States to achieve goals established in the European employment strategy and the DAP.

:: International Policies

:: European Union – Website

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/disability/intro_en.html



:: International Policies

:: UN Convention

Accessibility: As a Principle and a New Human Right

The States must fight against barriers to participation of persons with disabilities in:

- The physical environment
- The information and communication



:: International Policies

:: UN Convention – Website

www.un.org/disabilities/



:: National Policies

The mainstreaming of disability issues into Portugal's general policies on social, legal and built environment issues has long been a fact – the 1976 Constitution of the Portuguese Republic recognized equal rights for disabled citizens, the first decree law on building and urban space accessibility standards was approved in 1997.

:: National Policies

However, it has greatly increased during the last decade:

- In 2004 a structural law covering general disability issues was published.
- In 2006 a decree law replaced the 1997 built environment accessibility one, establishing new and more demanding technical standards for building and urban accessibility and new rules for control of their application.

:: National Policies

- Also in 2006, an important law which forbids and punishes discrimination based upon impairment or health problems, indicating a number of discriminatory acts, among which the refusal or limitation of access to the built environment and public places.

:: National Policies

2006 – Plan for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities or Impairments (PAIPDI), defining measures and joint actions involving public administration, representative organizations of persons with disabilities and private stakeholders, was also approved.



:: National Policies

2007 - the Government approved the Action Plan for the Promotion of Accessibility (PNPA)



:: National Policies

PNPA contains a number of measures and actions to be implemented until 2015 in six areas:

- disseminating and training,
- promoting accessibility in public space and buildings;
- promoting accessibility in transports;
- supporting investigation and international co-operation;
- promoting participation;
- assuring implementation, monitoring and coordination

As in PAIPDI, public administration, representative organizations of persons with disabilities and private stakeholders are involved in its promotion.

:: National Policies

Examples of dissemination actions INR promotes, co-supports or takes part in:

- Publishing and disclosing of scientific or technical works on disability and accessibility issues.
- Conveying up-to-date information on disability issues and research on its webpage.
- “Maria Cândida da Cunha” Scientific Merit Prize (annual) - awarding university students for innovative investigation works on disability issues

:: National Policies

- “Praia Acessível, Praia para Todos!” Project – awarding banners to beaches which comply with specific accessibility standards (presently about 160 seaside and river beaches in Portugal, including the Azores and Madeira islands)




:: National Policies

“Escola Alerta – Acessibilidade para Todos!” Project – awarding students from primary and secondary schooling levels annual prizes for collective works on environment accessibility



:: National Policies

“Prémio Acessibilidade”
– awarding building entrepreneurs who promote innovative house building solutions.



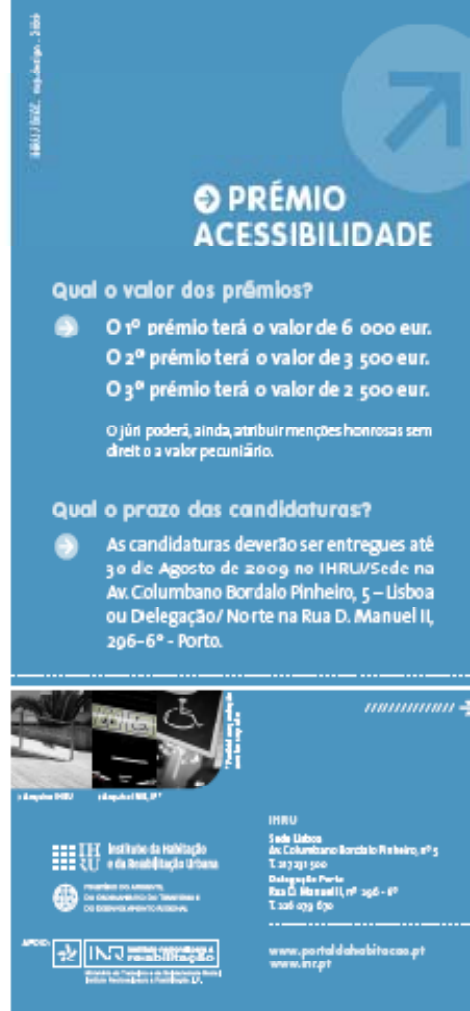
➔ PRÉMIO ACESSIBILIDADE

O que é o Prémio Acessibilidade?

- ➔ É um prémio de natureza pecuniária instituído pelo IHRU no âmbito de um protocolo estabelecido com o Instituto Nacional para a Reabilitação, I.P., que tem por objectivo distinguir soluções inovadoras que contribuam para garantir a plena acessibilidade do cidadão com mobilidade condicionada ao espaço edificado habitacional.

Quem se pode candidatar?

- ➔ O Prémio Acessibilidade dirige-se aos promotores de edifícios novos, ou reabilitados, que cumpram as condições definidas no Regulamento (consultável nos “sites” do IHRU e do INR, I.P.) devendo as candidaturas referir-se a obras concluídas até ao final de 2008, ou que, encontrando-se em obra, tenham data de conclusão prevista até ao final de 2009.



➔ PRÉMIO ACESSIBILIDADE

Qual o valor dos prémios?

- ➔ O 1º prémio terá o valor de 6 000 eur.
- ➔ O 2º prémio terá o valor de 3 500 eur.
- ➔ O 3º prémio terá o valor de 2 500 eur.

O júri poderá, ainda, atribuir menções honoríficas sem direito a valor pecuniário.

Qual o prazo das candidaturas?

- ➔ As candidaturas deverão ser entregues até 30 de Agosto de 2009 no IHRU/Sede na Av. Columbano Bordalo Pinheiro, 5 – Usboa ou Delegação/Norte na Rua D. Manuel II, 206-6º - Porto.

IHRU
Instituto da Habitação e da Reabilitação Urbana
MEMBRO DO GRUPO DE INSTITUIÇÕES DO SISTEMA DE HABITAÇÃO SOCIAL

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www.portaldahabitacao.pt
www.inr.pt

:: CONCLUSION

Accessibility depends mainly from an individual reflection about the importance of diversity, from which should result a profound conviction of the benefit that it represents for the whole community, that is possible to achieve the firmness required for a walk more safely and decisively towards a more just and inclusive society.

:: CONCLUSION

A more inclusive, more accessible built and urban environment is a goal we all can and must commit to reach.



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