Annex 7 - Practical Examples Belgium

Accessibility Screening Tractebel

On behalf of Tractebel (an international engineering company), On Wheels (a Flemish accessibility organization) conducts annual screenings of several of Tractebel's office buildings. The accessibility check is part of Tractebel's commitment to diversity in the workplace. It is important that office infrastructure is accessible so that users (clients, staff, suppliers, visitors) do not have to overcome 'barriers' in order to use these facilities independently.

The On Wheels checklist contains a wide range of technical criteria, all of which are measured during the screening. This results in a well-substantiated outcome; however, there is little room for input from people with lived experience, who might identify barriers or solutions that are not included in the checklist.

This checklist is based on the B's. Below is an example from the report of one of the office buildings in Ghent. The full checklist can be found in the appendix.

AANGEPASTE TOILETTEN

Onderwerp	Norm	Opmeting	Score	Oplossing
Aantal aangepast	1 per sanitair blok	Voorzien	V	
Breedte deur	Min 90	91	V	
Ruimte naast deur	Min 45 (krukzijde)	40	/	Bruikbaar
Draairuimte voor deur	150	Voorzien	V	
Draairichting deur	Naar buiten	Goed	V	
Afmetingen ruimte	Min 165 x 220	165 x 220	V	
Ruimte naast toilet	Min 90	130	V	
Ruimte voor toilet	Min 120	123	V	
Tussen lavabo en toilet	Min 90	116	V	
Hoogte toilet	Tussen 50 en 53	49	/	Bruikbaar
Ruimte onder lavabo	90b x 60d	90b x 60d	V	
Hoogte lavabo	70 onder, 80 boven	76 onder, 92 boven	V	
Ruimte naast lavabo	25 van de muur	25	V	
Hoogte spiegel	onderkant < 90	110	X	Hang de spiegel lager, zodat de onderkant < 90 hoog is
Contrast toestellen	Met muur	Goed	V	
Alarmknop/touw	Op 50 hoogte	Niet voorzien	X	Voorzie een alarmknop/touw in de aangepaste toiletten
Steunbeugels op 90h	2	2	V	

Aandachtspunten: hoogte deurkruk is comfortabel voor rosltoelgebruikers en kinderen maar zeer moeilijk te gebruiken voor bv. gebruikers van andere hulpmiddelen (kruk, rollator, …). In niet alle toiletten is een kledinghaak voorzien op de goede hoogte. De vuilbakken en hulpmiddelen zijn goed opgesteld en mogen in geen geval veplaatst worden in de zone voor transfers.

Everyone Everywhere: Criteria for Restaurants and Cafés

The Flemish Accessibility Agency Inter developed a checklist (see separate appendix) to evaluate the accessibility of restaurants and cafés. This information is then added to the website www.iedereenoveral.be. Users can view, by city or municipality, which restaurants and cafés are accessible and to what degree. Establishments are awarded a medal:

- Gold: independently usable
- Silver: usable with assistance
- Bronze: attention paid to accessibility
- None: does not comply

The following elements are included in the checklist: entrance, accessibility of the dining area, table clearance, menu or drinks list, payment options, background noise/acoustics, lighting, terrace, toilet, Wi-Fi, contrasts, allergens, children, and special initiatives for people with disabilities.

Based on the checklist, one obtains a fairly complete picture of the accessibility of the restaurant or café in question. However, the checklist is rather technical in nature and leaves no room for free input from people with lived experience, as it is completed by the restaurant or café owner. As a result, valuable feedback may be lost.

Example from the checklist:

Accessibility of the dining area

Is at least part of the dining area barrier-free (less than 2 cm threshold) or accessible via a (portable) ramp or lift? *

☐ Yes
☐ No, access to the dining area is via a step or stairs.

What is the height of the (first) step? …… cm
What is the width of the narrowest passage along the route? * …… cm

Brochure City Without Barriers Gent

The focus group of the City of Ghent consists of a team of people with lived experience who advise the city on the accessibility of public buildings and public spaces. Together with the city's accessibility officer, they developed a brochure with accessibility tips and good practices (see separate appendix). The brochure also includes a list of criteria and photos showing what an accessible public building should look like. The list is complemented with concrete good and bad examples and photographs, making it a valuable inspiration for developing a checklist.

The following elements are included: entrance doors, entrance hall and reception desk, elevators, sanitary facilities, and signage. A concrete example is provided below.

An accessible entrance door opens automatically and provides both an audible and visible signal when opening. Apply marking strips on glass door panels so that people with visual impairments do not walk into them. The door must be wide enough to allow passage for both manual and electric wheelchair users. A sensor should prevent people from getting caught between the doors. Avoid heavy doors and/or make them automatic. Revolving doors are common but not accessible for wheelchair users, people with strollers, or blind individuals. A good alternative to a revolving door is a vestibule with two automatic doors.