National Commission
Persons with Disability

For more information contact:
National Commission
Persons with Disability
Bugeia Institute
Braille Street
Sta Venera SVR 1619
Tel: 2278 8555
Fax: 2278 8490
SMS only: 7978 8555
Email: helpdesk@knpd.org
www.knpd.org

Access for All Design

Why is access for all important?
The Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act 2000 (EOA) (Cap. 413) makes it illegal to discriminate against disabled persons in the areas of education, employment, physical accessibility, access to goods, services and facilities, housing and insurance. For people with mobility impairments especially, absence of physical accessibility leads to lack of access to education, employment, housing, and goods, services and facilities.

Physical accessibility does not only benefit people with permanent physical or visual impairments. People may experience temporary mobility difficulties because of an accident or illness. Other people may have difficulties with carrying heavy loads or pushchairs. Lifts, ramps, level access, wide doorways and clear pathways which are made according to the Access for All Design Guidelines can be accessed by everyone, unlike steps, narrow doorways and spaces which are cluttered up or restricted.

After all, access for all is just that – having buildings and outside areas which can be used by everyone, regardless of their abilities. Therefore, in designing buildings and outdoor areas, it is important that everyone including persons with disability, access and use the internal and external facilities associated with the development.

How do I ensure that my development is accessible to all?
The Access for All Design Guidelines provides architects and developers with the technical and design specifications that should be followed to ensure that developments accessible for all. The document can be downloaded from **www.knpd.org.**

VETTING PROCESS

KNPD's vetting process is applicable on all buildings that are open to the public and as listed in MEPA Circular 03/10 (Revisions to Circular PA 3/99 (Part 2 - Access for All)), or any other document in force at the time. KNPD's accessibility audit team draws up an access audit based on the plans submitted to MEPA for each application referred to KNPD by MEPA. KNPD then gives its recommendation to MEPA based on the access audit.

PRE-SUBMISSION MEETINGS

Developers are given the opportunity to hold pre-submission meetings with KNPD prior to submitting development permission applications at MEPA. KNPD's representative is available to hold pre-submission meetings at MEPA offices on Tuesdays and Wednesdays mornings from 08:00 to 12:00. This service can also be used if the access audit shows that the plans are not in line with the Access for All Design Guidelines. The KNPD's representative's email address is **KNPD@mepa.org.mt.**

THE TEST OF REASONABLENESS BOARD

According to the EOA, a developer may request to be exempted from rendering part of the development accessible for all on the grounds of reasonableness. Such requests are considered by the Test of Reasonableness Board. As stated in the EOA, when requesting exemptions, developers are to justify their requests based upon technical and/or financial grounds as to why it would be an unreasonable hardship for them to render the development accessible for all. The application form to submit a request to this Board can be downloaded from **www.knpd.org.**

REQUESTS FOR KNPD COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE

Prior to issuing a compliance certificate, MEPA may request an applicant to obtain clearance from KNPD confirming that the development fully satisfies any conditions which were set by KNPD during the vetting stage of the application for development permission.

Requests for clearance from KNPD should be made in writing, providing details of the development in question and confirming that all finishing works have been carried out. This is followed by a site inspection by one of KNPD's accessibility audit team members. Clearance is granted depending on the findings of the site inspection.

FOR DIVERSITY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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Kummissjoni Nazzjonali
Persuni b'Diżabilità

Aċċess għal Kulħadd

Għaliex huwa importanti li jkun hemm aċċess għal kulħadd?

Il-Liġi Opportunitajiet Indaqs (Persuni b'Diżabilità) (LOI) (Kap. 413) tagħmilha illegali li tiddiskrimina kontra persuni b'diżabilità fl-oqsma tal-edukazzjoni, impjieg, aċċess fiżiku, aċċess għal oġġetti, servizzi u faċilitajiet, djar u assigurazzjoni. B'mod partikolari, għal persuni b'diffikultajiet fil-mobilità, nuqqas ta' aċċess fiżiku jwassal għal nuqqas ta' aċċess fl-oqsma l-oħra, jigifieri fl-edukazzjoni, impjieg, aċċess għal oġġetti, servizzi u faċilitajiet, u djar.

L-aċċess fiżiku ma jibbenefikawx minnu biss dawk il-persuni li għandhom nuqqas fiżiku jew ta' vista permanenti. Hemm persuni li jkollhom diffikultajiet temporanji ta' mobilità minħabba xi inċident jew mard. Oħrajn ikollhom diffikultajiet meta jkunu qed iġorru tagħbija kbira jew jimbuttaw pushchairs. Aċċess li jkun livell, rampi, lifts, bibien wiesgħa u passaġġi mingħajr ostakli fihom li huma magħmula skont l-Access for All Design Guidelines jista' jaċċessahom kulħadd, mhux bħal turġien, bibien dojoq u passaġġi dojoq jew li fihom ħafna ostakli.

Wara kollox, aċċess għal kulħadd ma tfisser xejn ħlief li l-bini u postijiet fuq barra jista' jaċċessahom kulħadd, huma x'inhuma l-abilitajiet tal-persuni.

Għaldaqstant huwa importanti li meta jkunu qed jiġu disinjat bini u postijiet fuq barra, kulħadd jista' juża l-faċilitajiet interni u esterni ta' dak l-iżvilupp, inkluż persuni b'diżabilità.

X'għandi nagħmel biex l-iżvilupp tiegħi jkun aċċessibbli għal kulħadd?

L-Access for All Design Guidelines jipprovdi speċifikazzjonijiet tekniċi u ta' disinn għal periti u żviluppaturi. Dawn għandhom jimxu ma' dawn l-ispeċifikazzjonijiet biex ikunu ċerti li l-iżvilupp huwa aċċessibbli għal kulħadd. Id-dokument jista' jitniżżel mis-sit elettroniku **www.knpd.org.**

IL-PROĊESS TA' VVETTJAR

Il-proċess ta' vvettjar tal-KNPD japplika għall-bini kollu li hu miftuħ għall-pubbliku u li qiegħed fil-lista taċ-Ċirkolari tal-MEPA 03/10 (Revisions to Circular PA 3/99 (Part 2 - Access for All)), jew kwalunkwe dokument ieħor li jkun validu. It-tim dwar l-aċċessibilità tal-KNPD jagħmel verifika bbażata fuq il-pjanti sottomessi lill-MEPA għal kull applikazzjoni li tiġi riferuta lill-KNPD mill-MEPA. Il-KNPD imbagħad tagħti r-rakkomandazzjoni tagħha lill-MEPA bbażata fuq din il-verifika.

LAQGĦAT QABEL JIĠU SOTTOMESSI L-PJANTI

L-iżviluppaturi għandhom l-opportunità li jagħmlu laqgħat mal-KNPD qabel jissottomettu l-applikazzjoni għall-permess tal-iżvilupp lill-MEPA. Ir-rappreżentant tal-KNPD jagħmel dawn il-laqgħat fl-uffiċini tal-MEPA it-Tlieta u l-Erbgħa mit-08:00am sa 12:00pm. Dan is-servizz jista' jintuża wkoll meta l-verifika tal-KNPD turi li l-pjanti m'humiex skont l-Access for All Design Guidelines. L-indirizz elettroniku tar-rappreżentant tal-KNPD hu **KNPD@mepa.org.mt.**

IL-BORD LI JITTESTJA R-RAĠONEVOLEZZA

Skont il-LOI, żviluppatur jista' jiġi eżentat milli jagħmel parti mill-iżvilupp aċċessibbli fuq bażi ta' raġonevolezza. Dawn it-talbiet jiġu kkunsidrati mit-Test of Reasonableness Board. Kif tgħid il-LOI, meta jsiru talbiet għal eżenzjonijiet, l-iżviluppaturi għandhom jiġġustifikaw it-talbiet tagħhom fuq bażi ta' raġunijiet tekniċi u/jew finanzjarji u jispjegaw għaliex ma jkunx raġonevoli għalihom li jagħmlu l-iżvilupp tagħhom aċċessibbli għal kulħadd. Il-formola tal-applikazzjoni li tiġi sottomessa lill-Bord tista' titniżżel mis-sit elettroniku **www.knpd.org.**

TALBIET GĦALL-COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE TAL-KNPD

Qabel jinħareġ il-Compliance Certificate tal-MEPA, din l-entità tista' titlob li l-iżviluppatur għandu jġib ċertifikat mill-KNPD li juri li l-iżvilupp jissodisfa l-kundizzjonijiet li tkun tat il-KNPD fl-ivvettjar tal-pjanti waqt il-proċess tal-applikazzjoni għall-permess tal-iżvilupp.

Talbiet għal dan iċ-ċertifikat tal-KNPD għandhom isiru bil-miktub, u jkunu jinkludu dettalji dwar l-iżvilupp rispettiv kif ukoll konferma li x-xogħoljiet kollha saru. Imbagħad issir spezzjoni fuq is-sit minn membru tat-tim dwar l-aċċessibilità tal-KNPD. L-eżitu ta' dan iċ-ċertifikat jiddependi minn dak li jinstab waqt l-ispezzjoni fuq is-sit.

Għal iżjed informazzjoni:
Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Diżabilità
Bugeia Institute
Triq Braille
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Tel: 2278 8555
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NGĦOŻŻU D-DIVERSITÀ DISKRIMINAZZJONI QATT

Din l-attività hi ffinanzjata parzjalment mill-Fondi tal-Programm Progress tal-Unjoni Ewropea. L-informazzjoni f'din il-pubblikazzjoni mhux neċessarjament tirrifleti l-opinjoni u l-pożizzjoni tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea.