



## **Making the environment accessible**

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Konference

«Eiropas Savienības Pamattiesību harta un pilsoniskās  
sabiedrības loma pamattiesību veicināšanā»

2012. gada 27.-28. novembris

Rīga, Latvija

## **What is Universal Design?**

- **Universal Design is accessible environment, services, products and information for all people.**

Liepājas Neredzīgo biedrība

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with  
Disabilities. Article 2

## ***7 PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN***

- 1. Comfortable use for anyone**
- 2. Flexibility in use**
- 3. Easy-to-understand application**
- 4. Easy perceivable information**
- 5. Reduced opportunity for mistakes**
- 6. Minimal physical effort**
- 7. Appropriate size and space for movement and use**

## **Cooperation with Liepaja City Council in the area of implementation of Universal Design**

- Cooperation with the Liepaja City Council started in 2001 with installation of the first traffic lights with sounds on the crossroads of Ganību and Ķempes Street
- The Programme of Action «Providing environment accessibility in Liepaja (Universal Design)» was adopted on 2009



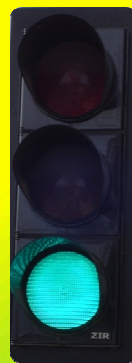
## Cooperation with Liepaja City Council

- Currently, all renovated streets in Liepaja, whose sidewalk width exceeds 1,5 m are purposely installed with guidelines for people with sight disabilities
- All pillars located on the sidewalks are marked with yellow marks



## Cooperation with Liepaja City Council

- Traffic lights on all renovated crossroads are installed with sound and tactile direction indicator



## **Cooperation with Liepaja City Council**

- City Council co-finances public disability expert in the field of universal design implementation
- We believe that we have good and successful cooperation with all city council departments - development department, construction department, health department, communal administration, social service and others

## **Implementation of Universal Design in Latvia**

- In cooperation with the “Norwegian Association of the Blind” and Universal Design expert Bjorn Fagerheim, there was a three day seminar for a group of 20 people about the “Universal Design”, so that the trained people could continue in contributing to introduce the “Universal Design” in Latvia
- There has been 5 seminars in the municipalities of Kurzeme region to introduce the meaning of “Universal Design” and to talk about it’s importance, where the target audience was mainly the representatives of the local authorities - those who are directly connected with modeling the environment – Communal administration, Construction board, Social service, City Council etc.

## Implementation of Universal Design in Latvia

- A short documentary film has been made about the “Universal Design” and the principles of creating accessible environment for visually impaired people.
- The introduction and popularization of the “Universal Design” is still continuing in our country. With a support of several sponsors, such as, the Ministry of Welfare and Philip Morris Latvia, there has been seminars and consultations, in more than ten municipalities all over Latvia and three ministries (Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Economics and Ministry of Science)

## Implementation of Universal Design in Latvia

- During this time it was achieved, that term “Universal Design” was included in several laws on the national level, e.g. Regulations of Cabinet of Ministers Nr.861 and Latvian Construction Standard LBN 209-09 “Low-rise residential buildings”
- Many environment accessibility principles are integrated in the Latvian Construction Standard LBN 208-08 “Public Buildings and Structures”
- Liepaja Society of the Blind in cooperation with the Ministry of Welfare and other partners, has developed “Guidelines for the application of construction standards for environment accessibility of persons with disabilities” (For persons with visual, hearing, mobility and mental disorders)  
At the moment this is the most practical material in Latvia regarding the Universal Design.



## Project «Garden of Soul Relieve»

- A countryside house in Ziemupe village
- Our intention is to develop countryside social rehabilitation center for people with all kinds of disabilities and pensioners
- This could be among the first of such kind of rehabilitation centers in Latvia
- Already at this stage of the project many members of the society of the blind are very interested in spending some time outside the town and we are already organizing activities for our members



“Laivenieki”, Ziemupe, Vērgale,  
LV-3462, Latvija  
Google Maps:  
<http://g.co/maps/k2rm3>

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## Project «Garden of Soul Relieve»

- Aims of the project:
  - rehabilitation in rural environment
  - active recreation – walking in forest, climbing the trees, fishing
  - horticulture, fruit-growing
  - variety of handicrafts
  - carrying out small rural chores



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## Project «Garden of Soul Relieve»

- We want to adjust this center according to the principles of Universal Design, available for all people with disabilities, so that nobody could be discriminated
- At the moment we are investing our own funds and looking for the other funds to implement intentions of this project
- We are welcoming different partners to take part and support this project!



[www.redzigaismu.lv](http://www.redzigaismu.lv) – Projects –  
Project "Garden of Soul Relieve" in  
Ziemeupe

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Thank you for your attention!



And we are looking forward  
to our further successful  
cooperation!

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