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A descriptive analysis of the Croatian, Hungarian, Polish and Romanian legislation in the areas of accessibility, disability and equal treatment, with special reference to tourism/mobility

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1. Introduction

According to the WHO's latest estimate 1.3 billion people on Earth, 16% of the total global population, have a disability, and this number is growing (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>). The question of whether people with disabilities will have access to a supportive environment that takes their specific needs into account throughout their lives, or whether they will have to suffer some form of disability, is therefore a very important one.

Accessibility itself, as a complex term, naturally covers a number of areas, the main themes of which can be outlined as follows:

- Built environment: accessibility of the built environment includes the appropriate design and construction of buildings, public spaces and infrastructure to ensure that they are easily accessible to people with disabilities. This may include: barrier-free entrances, ramps, lifts or stairs instead of stairs, doors and corridors of appropriate width, etc.
- Transport: accessible transport means that transport infrastructure is accessible and adapted to the needs of people with disabilities. This can include appropriate vehicles, accessible stops, flat access, and easy access to information for people with disabilities.
- Digital accessibility: information, websites and applications on the internet and electronic devices must be made accessible for people with different disabilities. This includes the appropriate design of websites and applications to allow, for example, the use of screen readers, easy navigation and other assistive devices.
- Communication and information: in this area of accessibility, it is important that information and communication are easy to understand and accessible for people with disabilities. This includes the use of easy-to-read fonts or, for example, the appropriate preparation of texts and documents for reading aloud.
- Services and administration: in this area of accessibility, public and private services and administration should be designed to be accessible and usable by people with disabilities. This means, for example, providing appropriate means of communication and accessible customer services.
- Education and employment: accessibility is a priority in education and in the workplace. Educational institutions must comply with accessibility standards and ensure equal access to education for people with disabilities. In addition, accessibility in the workplace must be a priority to ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to work and develop their careers.

These are therefore the most important areas where the development of a legislative environment is essential in the field of complex accessibility regulation, with the main aim of promoting equal opportunities and ensuring equal participation for all, regardless of their disability status (Gonda, T. – Raffay, Z. 2021, Farkas, J. – Petykó, Cs. 2019, 2020, Farkas, J. – Raffay, Z. - Petykó, Cs. 2022)

Legal regulation has a huge role to play in creating good and ethical practice (Farkas, J. – Csillag, S. – Fekete-Frojimovics, Zs. 2022). In our opinion, the legal regulation of disability and accessible tourism in Hungary is basically adequate; the basic legislation on this issue has been adopted over the last 3 decades and the harmonisation of legislation in this field has been achieved during the accession process to the European Union. The problem is rather the practical implementation of the legal provisions. In our short summary study we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the most important relevant Hungarian legislation.

2. Presentation of the global context of the relevant related legislation

Among the legal regulations concerning this issue, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations in 2006 and also promulgated in Hungary, is worth highlighting, which obliges the States Parties to ensure access for persons with disabilities to sports, recreational and tourist facilities and services (Act XCII of 2007).

This issue can of course affect any member of society, just think of our ageing population, which is why the image of ageing societies gives the problem a special weight today. Special needs in old age are common to practically everyone, but there are also many other life situations which may give rise to special needs: e.g. people undergoing rehabilitation after an accident, families with young children, etc.

In addition to the above, the UNWTO, the United Nations World Tourism Organization, is committed to promoting accessible tourism, and has dedicated the 2016 World Tourism Day to this theme. The organisation has made a number of recommendations and published a handbook on the issue (UNWTO 2016).

As a further milestone in this field, the European Parliament resolution of 29 October 2015 on new challenges and visions for the promotion of tourism in Europe stresses the importance of developing sustainable, responsible and accessible tourism; the principle of "tourism for all"; and that full accessibility and affordability of tourism is a key element for the sustainability of the sector. The resolution recommends that Member States develop a Europe-wide, uniform and transparent labelling scheme for accessible offers and make accessibility a criterion for support in the context of economic support programmes for the tourism sector (European Parliament resolution of 29 October 2015 on new challenges and ideas for promoting European tourism https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2015-0391_HU.html).

3. The legislative perspectives of accessible tourism in Croatia

In the Republic of Croatia, the rights of persons with disabilities are regulated by several laws, which are listed and briefly described below.

a. Law on the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in New York on 13 December 2006, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in New York on 13 December 2006, are reaffirmed in the original Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages. and which the Republic of Croatia signed in New York on 30 March 2007.

The aim of this Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities are those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

b. Law on Social Welfare

This Law regulates the activity of social welfare, principles of social welfare, financing of social welfare, rights and social services in the social welfare system and procedures for their realization, beneficiaries, content and method of performing social welfare activities, professional workers in social welfare, collections data, inspection and administrative supervision and other issues important for the activity of social welfare.

This Law defines person with disability as (ch. 4, No. 9):

a person who has long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various obstacles, may prevent their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with persons without disabilities;

while a child with difficulties is described as (ch. 4, No. 10):

a child who, due to physical, sensory, communication, speech-language or intellectual difficulties, needs additional support for learning and development, in order to achieve the best possible developmental outcome and social inclusion.

c. Law on Croatian Sign Language and Other Systems of Communication for Deaf and Deaf-Blind Persons in the Republic of Croatia

This Law stipulates the right of deaf and deaf-blind persons and other persons with communication difficulties to use, be informed and educated in Croatian sign language and other communication systems that meet their individual needs, with the aim of equal access to the social, economic and cultural environment and the equal realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. This Law also determines the beneficiaries of the right to use, information and education in Croatian sign language and other communication systems for deaf and deaf-blind people.

This Law determines the rights of deaf, deaf-blind and other persons with communication difficulties in whom speech communication is difficult or non-existent due to functional impairments (ch. 14, No. 2):

they have the right to use all forms of communication systems for deaf and deaf-blind persons, i.e. all forms of support in the form of a communication intermediary in all life situations and in front of state administration bodies, bodies of local and regional (regional) self-government units and legal entities with public powers when deafness and deaf-blindness was an obstacle to equalizing access to the social, economic and cultural environment and enabling the equal exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

d. Law on movement of a blind person with the help of a guide dog

This Act regulates the right of a blind person with a guide dog to use means of transport and their free access to public places. Terms used in this Law have the following meaning:

a blind person in the sense of this Law is a person whose blindness has been determined on the basis of special regulations and who is trained to move with a guide dog (ch. 2, No. 1),

a guide dog is a trained dog that has passed an exam before the expert committee established by the Croatian Association for Guide Dog Training and Mobility (ch. 2, No. 2),

public transport in the sense of this Law means public transport by road, rail, sea, air and city transport (ch. 2, No. 3).

A blind person with a guide dog has the right of access to public places such as: offices, hotels, restaurants, banks, post offices, theatres, concert halls, sports facilities, markets, shops, schools, universities, etc. (ch. 6, No. 1).

e. Declaration on the rights of persons with disabilities

1. A person with a disability is a person who, because of a physical and/or mental impairment, whether temporary or permanent, past, present or future, congenital or acquired under the influence of any cause, has lost or deviated from the expected physical or physiological structure and whose abilities are limited or insufficient to perform a particular

activity in a manner and to the extent that is considered normal for people in a particular environment.

2. A person with a disability shall enjoy all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Constitution, the law and this Declaration, irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or any other characteristic, without discrimination of any kind.

3. Discrimination against persons with disabilities is any segregation, exclusion or restriction based on a person's disability, the consequences of the past existence of a disability or the perception of a disability, whether past or present, which jeopardises or violates the recognition, enjoyment and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities.

4. Discrimination against persons with disabilities manifests itself in the failure to take measures to remove barriers in the environment and in the general attitude of society or in the creation of new barriers that hinder the availability of services and the full participation of persons with disabilities in the activities of civil, cultural, economic, political and social life.

Accessibility is a measure or condition that enables all persons, including persons with disabilities, to utilise various resources (on a physical, visual, auditory and/or cognitive level). It should be achieved, where necessary, through design and adaptation that takes into account all forms of disability. Accessibility includes access to physical facilities, buildings and public transport, as well as access to information and communication, including information and communication technology and assistive devices.

5. Direct, indirect, intentional, unintentional, covert, occasional or systematic discrimination against persons with disabilities is prohibited. Discrimination against a person on the basis of disability constitutes a threat to the right to equality and respect for human dignity.

6. A person with a disability has the right to adequate social protection, social security, employment, free choice of occupation, fair working conditions and equal pay for equal work, insurance against unemployment, sickness, disability, old age and lack of means of subsistence in situations beyond his or her control.

7. A person with a disability has the right to equal participation in cultural, scientific, educational, political and other forms of social life.

8. A person with a disability has the right to an existence worthy of human dignity and to a standard of living adequate for the well-being of the person and his or her family, supplemented, if necessary, by means of social protection.

9. A person with a disability has the right to live with his or her family or foster parents and to participate fully in social, creative and recreational activities.

10. A person with a disability living in a specialised institution has the right to an environment and living conditions that are as similar as possible to life in the natural environment.

11. The Republic of Croatia will take the necessary measures to promote human rights and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and to remove psychological, educational, family, cultural, social, professional, financial and architectural barriers to the full integration and participation of persons with disabilities in social, economic, cultural and political life under equal conditions.

12. The Republic of Croatia will strengthen existing measures to prevent the creation of new inaccessible buildings and spaces and support the adaptation of existing buildings and spaces to make them accessible to persons with disabilities.

13. The Republic of Croatia will establish mechanisms for assessing non-discrimination and integration of persons with disabilities based on indicators of social cohesion, labour remuneration levels, social exclusion and health status of the population.

14. The Republic of Croatia will, within its means, take the necessary measures to eliminate the social, economic and political causes of disabilities, such as poverty, lack of health care in terms of prevention and rehabilitation, violence within and outside the family, accidents, alcohol and drug abuse, inadequate medical treatment, systematic violation of human rights, lack of care during the ageing process and the consequences of war, regardless of whether they occurred during or after the war.

15. In an effort to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and exercise their rights, the Republic of Croatia will promote the employment of persons with disabilities in regular labour relations, create the necessary fiscal measures, credit policies and incentive policies, develop employment strategies for persons with disabilities and ensure the establishment of professional orientation, training, rehabilitation and employment services.

16. In order to ensure adequate education, the Republic of Croatia will adapt its education system to the needs of persons with disabilities. In doing so, it will insist that existing regular programmes and education systems (pre-school, primary, secondary, university and adult education systems) be adapted and the use of new technologies, distance learning and e-education be promoted.

17. Since new technologies can be used to strengthen the autonomy and development of persons with disabilities, the Republic of Croatia will ensure the availability of new technologies, means of communication and adequate training for their use, paying special attention to the specific problems of persons with disabilities in rural areas.

18. The Republic of Croatia will support and promote specific adaptations of information and communication systems to enable effective access to resources for persons with disabilities.

19. The Republic of Croatia will promote health, prevention of harm and disability and equal access to quality health care for all persons with disabilities and develop special health programmes to improve living conditions and enable them to live in dignity.

20. The Republic of Croatia will standardise the assessment of disabilities in a way that prevents any discrimination and promote the development of a system of protection in the

event of disabilities due to accidents at work, occupational diseases or other occupational risks.

21. The Republic of Croatia will promote and develop scientific research, especially with regard to social programmes and the evaluation of state measures for persons with disabilities, in order to develop high-quality policies for persons with disabilities.

22. The Republic of Croatia recognises the right of persons with disabilities to participate adequately in political life and decision-making on issues affecting the position of persons with disabilities at local, regional and national levels.

23. The Republic of Croatia will support and promote the activities and development of non-profit sector organisations (non-governmental associations, institutions, hospitals) whose aim is to provide care, support and other activities and issues related to persons with disabilities.

24. In developing and implementing all measures defined in this Declaration, the Republic of Croatia will pay special attention to the fact that persons with disabilities in rural areas have a different position than in urban areas.

25. The Republic of Croatia will adequately inform the entire public, especially persons with disabilities, about this Declaration, its implementation and the development and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

f. National strategy for Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities 2017 – 2020

National Strategy for Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities from 2017 to 2020 (Narodne novine, No. 42/2017, hereinafter: National Strategy) was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia at a meeting on 20 April 2017. The National Strategy aims to ensure the most successful implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with the aim of making progress and further promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and children with developmental disabilities.

The creation of a comprehensive national legal framework requires continuous monitoring of the development of international standards in order to guarantee persons with disabilities the highest level of modern protection, access to all rights and their realisation without discrimination. The task of the National Strategy is to harmonise all policies in the field of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities with the standards achieved at global level, but also with all developments aimed at making all areas of life and activity open and accessible to persons with disabilities, while respecting the principles of universal design and reasonable adaptation. The National Strategy is an overarching document for the development of policy towards persons with disabilities in the Republic of Croatia, which defines equal opportunities in 16 areas of action with 78 measures related to various dimensions of the quality of life and the service system for citizens.

g. National Social Tourism Development Program – Tourism for all

In view of the fact that social tourism is becoming increasingly important in modern tourism trends, the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Institute for Tourism, has prepared this document that provides a strategic development framework for the activities and implementation of the activities of various relevant stakeholders in the field of social tourism. In addition, the document represents the operationalisation of part of the tourism policy measures planned in the Strategy for the Development of Tourism in the Republic of Croatia until 2020.

The document defines the main guidelines for the development of social tourism in the Republic of Croatia until 2020 in close cooperation with all interested stakeholders and in accordance with the modern principles of participatory planning. This includes the definition of guidelines for: the vision of the development of social tourism, the goals of social tourism development, the main actors that are important in the context of social tourism development, key projects in the development of the social tourism offer and ways of promoting and financing models of social tourism development, with special attention to the possibility of financing projects in the field of social tourism from EU funds. Finally, the importance of the document also arises from the fact that it represents the operationalisation of the previously adopted Strategy for the Development of Croatian Tourism until 2020, in which social tourism is listed as one of the important tourism products that need to be further developed.

4. The legislative perspectives of accessible tourism in Hungary

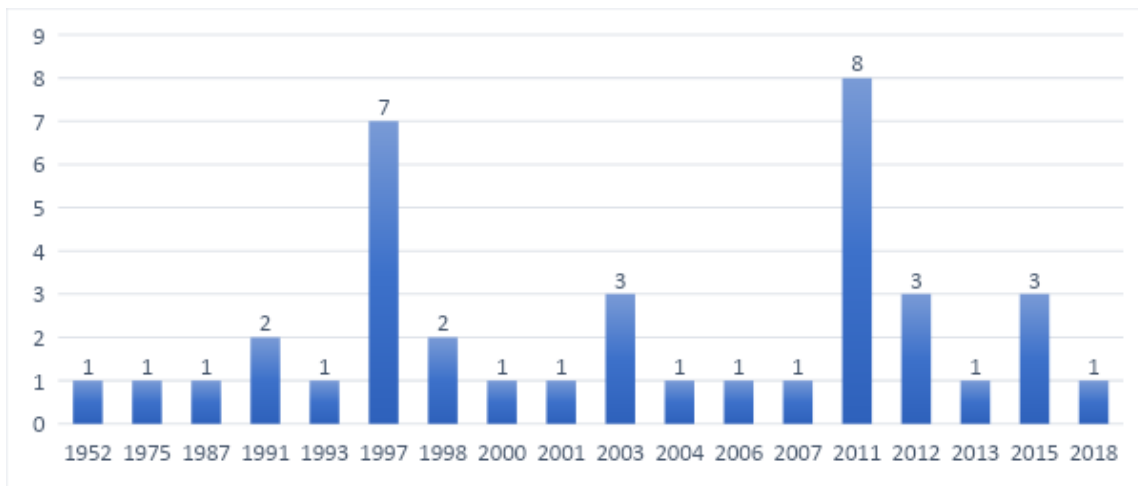
For a descriptive analysis of Hungarian legislation in the areas of accessibility, disability and equal treatment, we can rely heavily on the comprehensive collection of legislation of the National Association of Disabled People's Association (MEOSZ), Hungary's most important professional organisation in this field. An examination of the legislation shows that a paradigm shift has taken place since the 1990s, thanks (also) to the focus on human rights. This shift in approach is based on the idea that people with disabilities should not be hidden or excluded from others, but should be given the same opportunities as able-bodied people, thus promoting social inclusion. In this context, their social care has been transformed, with personalised services and better living conditions available to them.

In summary, 256 pieces of legislation currently in force in Hungary contain some level of accessibility-related subject matter, of which 39 can be considered relevant to the issue. The following list of legislation, in whole or in part, affects the lives of people with disabilities and promotes equal access:

- Fundamental Law (Accessibility is not specifically mentioned, but equal opportunities and social inclusion are)
- Act CLI of 2011 on the Constitutional Court
- Act CXI of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
- Act CXXV of 2003 on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities
- Act XXVI of 1998 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Ensuring their Equal Opportunities (FOT.)
- Government Decree 141/2000 (VIII. 9.) on the rules for the classification and review of severe disability and the payment of disability allowance
- Parliamentary Decision 15/2015 (IV. 7.) on the National Disability Programme (2015-2025)
- 1653/2015 (IX. 14.) Government Decision on the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Disability Programme for the years 2015-2018
- Act CXCI of 2011 on benefits for persons with reduced capacity for work and amending certain Acts
- Government Decree 327/2011 (XII. 29.) on the procedural rules concerning benefits for persons with reduced capacity for work
- NEFMI (Minsutry of National Resources) Decree No 7/2012 (II. 14.) on the detailed rules for complex certification
- Government Decree 74/2015 (III. 30.) on the National Rehabilitation and Social Office
- Act LXXX of 1997 on persons entitled to social security benefits and private pensions and on the coverage of these services
- Act LXXXI of 1997 on Social Insurance Pension Benefits
- Act LXXXIII of 1997 on Compulsory Health Insurance Benefits
- MT Decree No 83/1987 (XII. 27.) on invalidity benefits
- Act III of 1993 on Social Administration and Social Benefits
- Act LXXXIV of 1998 on Family Support

- Decree No 5/2003 (II. 19.) of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the Republic of Finland on illnesses and disabilities entitling to higher family allowances
- Act CLIV of 1997 on Health Care
- Act XCVIII of 2006 on the General Rules for the Safe and Economical Supply of Medicinal Products and Medical Devices and the Marketing of Medicinal Products
- Decree No 14/2007 (III. 14.) of the Ministry of Health on the inclusion of medical aids in social security benefits, ordering, distribution, repair and loan of medical aids with benefits
- Government Decree 12/2001 (I. 31.) on State aid for housing
- Act LXXXII of 1991 on Motor Vehicle Tax
- Government Decree No 102/2011 (VI. 29.) on transport benefits for persons with severe reduced mobility
- Government Decree 218/2003 (XII. 11.) on the parking card of persons with reduced mobility
- Joint Decree No 1/1975 (II. 5.) of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of 5 May 1975 on the rules of the road (Kresz)
- Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education
- EMMI (Ministry for Human Resources) Decree No 15/2013 (II. 26.) on the operation of pedagogical institutions
- Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Shaping and Protection of the Built Environment
- Government Decree 253/1997 (XII. 20.) on national settlement planning and building requirements (OTÉK)
- Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code
- Act CLXXV of 2011 on the right of association, the status of public benefit and the operation and support of non-governmental organisations
- Act CLXXXI of 2011 on the Court Register of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Procedural Rules Related thereto
- Act CXL of 2004 on the General Rules of Administrative Procedure and Services
- Act III of 1952 on the Code of Civil Procedure
- Act CLV of 1997 on Consumer Protection
- Act I of 2012 on the Labour Code
- Act IV of 1991 on the promotion of employment and unemployment benefits
- Act LXXV of 2018 on Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications of Public Sector Organisations

Figure 1. Number and year of adoption of legislation addressing accessibility issues



Source: own collection

With the help of the MEOSZ's professional analysis, it can be stated that one of the most important starting points and the basis for many relevant areas is **Act XCII of 2007 on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto** and **Act XXVI of 1998 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Ensuring their Equal Opportunities**.

Accessibility, as an ever-widening concept, can be clearly seen in the regulations originally adopted in the context of *accessibility of the built environment, which, according to the definition of Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Shaping and Protection of the Built Environment* (hereinafter: the Act), "*the built environment is accessible if its comfortable, safe and independent use is ensured for all people, including individuals or groups of people with health impairments who require special equipment or technical solutions. The built environment is defined as that part of the built environment which is the result of a conscious construction work and which is primarily intended to create the conditions for individual and community existence.*"

In line with MEOSZ's analysis, this means that, contrary to the everyday terminology that accessibility is nothing more than the modification or conversion of existing buildings and facilities, which make them accessible to people with disabilities - **the definition of the above-mentioned law covers much more complex areas, so that accessibility, in addition to serving the interests of people with disabilities, also benefits other users in society with special needs, such as the elderly, children, mothers or people who use temporary assistive devices**

(<https://www.meosz.hu/mozgaskorlatozott-vagyok/akadalymentesites-egyetem-es-tervezes/>)

This broader approach is also reflected in the recommendation of the so-called CRPD Committee (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – the EU framework for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to Article 9, which is presented later in this paper:

"The focus is no longer on legal personality, and not on whether buildings, transport, infrastructure, vehicles, information and communication and services are in private or public ownership. As long as goods, products and services are available to the public or are intended to be available to the public, they should be accessible to all, whether owned by a public authority or a private individual. People with disabilities should have equal access to all goods, products and services intended for the general public in a way that ensures effective and equal access for them and respects their dignity."
(<https://www.meosz.hu/mozgaskorlatozott-vagyok/akadalymentesites-egyetem-es-tervezes/>).

A very important area for the study and analysis of the legal regulation **based on the link between accessibility and tourism** is the **Act XCII of 2007 on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, Articles 9 and 20**, which regulate, among others, accessibility/accessibility and personal mobility:

Article 9

Accessibility

1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia:

(a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces;

(b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures to:

(a) Develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public;

(b) Ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

(c) Provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities;

(d) Provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms;

(e) Provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public;

(f) Promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;

(g) Promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet;

(h) Promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost.

Article 20

Personal mobility

States Parties shall, while ensuring to the maximum extent possible the independence of persons with disabilities, take effective measures to ensure personal mobility, including:

a) enabling the personal mobility of persons with disabilities at a time and in a manner determined by them and at an affordable price;

(b) facilitating access for persons with disabilities to quality mobility supports, equipment, assistive technologies and various forms of personal assistance and mediators, including their provision at affordable prices;

(c) provide training on mobility for people with disabilities and their experts;

(d) encouraging entities producing mobility supports, devices and assistive technologies to take into account the mobility aspects of persons with disabilities.

In terms of legislation, these two articles and the activities they regulate therefore underpin and reinforce the key conditions for personal mobility for people with disabilities.

In the context of the discussion of this topic, it should also be pointed out that the new National Disability Programme (2015-2025) adopted in 2015 states that domestic service providers have not yet sufficiently recognised the tourism opportunities for people with disabilities. Therefore, it is important to update and disseminate existing tourism demand surveys within the tourism profession, as well as to train and sensitise service providers and staff, emphasising the principle of universal design. The aim is, of course, to encourage the operation of tourism packages for people with disabilities, which target accessibility in a complex way and which serve not only equal opportunities but also economic interests.

Summary

For a modern society, creating a barrier-free environment is crucial, as it helps, among other things, to promote equal opportunities and respect for human dignity for all. Accessibility is a priority for the following reasons:

- *Equal opportunities:* ensuring an accessible environment allows people with disabilities to have equal opportunities in education, employment, transport and other areas of society. This helps reduce inequalities and discrimination and enables everyone to contribute to society according to their abilities.

- *Full participation in society*: an accessible environment enables people with disabilities to participate fully in social and economic life. If infrastructure, services and communication are not barrier-free, many people feel excluded and cannot fully participate in society.
- *Human dignity and self-determination*: an accessible environment helps to preserve and respect human dignity. Every person has the right to live independently and to be in control of their own life. Accessibility contributes to empowering people with disabilities to make their own decisions about matters that affect their lives.
- *Economic benefits*: accessibility can also bring long-term economic benefits. Accessible infrastructure and environments enable the participation of people with disabilities in the labour market and contribute to economic growth. It is also an important factor in tourism, as accessible cities and attractions become attractive destinations for tourists.
- *Older and disabled people*: accessibility is not only important for people with disabilities, but also for older and disabled people. An accessible environment helps make their lives easier and contributes to maintaining an independent and dignified life.
- *Legal requirements and international expectations*: in many countries and at international level, laws and directives are required to promote accessibility. In many countries and internationally, accessibility is a legal requirement that must be respected.

Creating a barrier-free environment is therefore not only in the direct interest of – a great percentage and ratio of – people concerned, but also contributes to the development and economic prosperity of society as a whole. It is an investment that has long-term positive effects for all, which is why it is essential to continue to learn about, research and advocate in this field, while at the same time creating a barrier-free legislative environment is of paramount importance for social justice, the protection of human rights and the promotion of equal opportunities in both the international and domestic context.

In summary, creating a barrier-free legislative environment is a top priority in terms of ensuring equal opportunities, protecting human rights, preventing exclusion, designing infrastructure and services appropriately, and delivering economic benefits and meeting international expectations.

5. The legislative perspectives of accessible tourism in Poland

In Poland, the **Charter of the Rights of Disabled Persons**¹ was adopted by the Resolution of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of August 1, 1997. **The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, drawn up in New York on December 13, 2006, was ratified in 2012 (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 1169)².

The concept of disability is defined in Art. 2 point 11 of the Act of 27 August 1997 **on vocational and social rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons** (Journal of Laws of 2020, items 426, 568 and 875)³, chapter 1., art. 2, point 10: "disability - this means permanent or periodic inability to fulfill social roles due to permanent or long-term impairment of the body's fitness, in particular resulting in inability to work". The Act also includes rights for people with disabilities. For example, in ch. 4, "Art. 20a.

1. A disabled person with an assistance dog has the right to enter:

- 1) for public utility facilities, in particular: buildings and their surroundings intended for the needs of public administration, justice, culture, education, higher education, science, health care, social and social welfare, banking services, trade, gastronomy, services, tourism, sports, passenger service in rail, road, air, sea or inland waterway transport, provision of postal or telecommunications services and other publicly accessible buildings intended to perform similar functions, including office and social buildings;
- 2) to national parks and nature reserves;
- 3) to beaches and swimming areas.

2. The right referred to in section 1, is also available in means of rail, road, air and water transport and in other means of public transport.

3. The right referred to in section 1 and 2, does not release a disabled person from liability for damage caused by an assistance dog.

4. The condition for exercising the right referred to in section 1 and 2, is to equip the assistance dog with a harness and for the disabled person to have a certificate confirming the status of the assistance dog and a certificate of completion of the required veterinary vaccinations.

Basic concepts such as accessibility and person with special needs have been defined in art. 2 of the Act of July 19, 2019 **on ensuring accessibility for people with special needs** (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1696)⁴:

- "Accessibility - architectural, digital and information and communication accessibility, at least to the extent specified by the minimum requirements referred to in Art. 6, resulting from the consideration of universal design or rational application improvements."

¹ <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WMP19970500475/O/M19970475.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

² <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20120001169/O/D20121169.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

³ <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU19971230776/U/D19970776Lj.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

⁴ <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190001696/U/D20191696Lj.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

- “Person with special needs – a person who, due to his or her external features or internal, or due to the circumstances in which he finds himself, he must take additional steps activities or take additional measures to overcome the barrier to participation in various spheres of life on the basis of equality with other people.”

In art. 6 defines "minimum requirements to ensure accessibility for persons with special needs that include:

- 1) in terms of architectural accessibility:
 - a) ensuring barrier-free horizontal and vertical communication spaces buildings,
 - b) installation of devices or use of technical measures and architectural solutions in the building that allow access to all rooms, excluding technical rooms,
 - c) providing information on the layout of rooms in the building, at least in a visual and touch or voice way,
 - d) providing access to the building to the person using the abovementioned assistance dog.”

In terms of digital accessibility - requirements are specified in the Act of April 4, 2019. **on the digital accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public entities** (Journal of Laws of 2019, item 848)⁵. The Act specifies:

- 1) digital accessibility requirements for websites and mobile applications of public entities;
- 2) requirements regarding the content, review and update of accessibility declarations of websites and mobile applications of public entities and their publication;
- 3) competences of the authority responsible for monitoring ensuring digital accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public entities and supervising the application of the provisions of the Act;
- 4) rules for monitoring the digital accessibility of websites or mobile applications and reporting on digital accessibility;
- 5) proceedings to ensure digital accessibility of the website, mobile application or their elements.

In Poland, sign language has been recognized as a separate language of the Deaf community. The legal act refers to this - **Act of 19 August 2011 on sign language and other means of communication** (Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1824)⁶. The Act sets out the rules:

- 1) authorized persons using the assistance of an adopted person in contacts with public administration bodies, system units and entities medical facilities, police units, the State Fire Service and municipal guards and voluntary units operating in these areas;
- 2) servicing authorized persons in contacts with public administration bodies;

⁵ <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190000848/U/D20190848Lj.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

⁶ <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20112091243/U/D20111243Lj.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

- 3) co-financing the costs of education of eligible persons and their family members and other people who have permanent or direct contact with people authorized in the field of Polish sign language, the linguistic and - sign and methods of communication for deafblind people different levels;
- 4) monitoring solutions supporting communication and access to them. According to the act, "Polish Sign Language (PJM) is a natural visual and spatial language of communication for authorized persons."

Announcement of the Minister of Sport and Tourism of October 26, 2017 on **the announcement of the uniform text of the regulation of the Minister of Economy and Labor on hotel facilities and other facilities in which hotel services are provided**, Annex No. 8 - Minimum requirements for adapting hotel facilities to the needs of people disabled (Journal of Laws of November 24, 2017, item 2166)⁷. The regulation specifies:

- 1) requirements for individual types and categories of hotel facilities regarding equipment and the scope of services provided, including catering services;
- 2) minimum requirements for the equipment of other facilities where hotel services are provided;
- 3) conditions for allowing derogations from the requirements referred to in point 1;
- 4) method of documenting compliance with construction, fire and sanitary requirements;
- 5) detailed rules and procedure for classifying hotel facilities into particular types and categories;
- 6) the procedure for exercising control over compliance with the requirements in individual facilities regarding equipment and the provision of services corresponding to the type and category of the facility;
- 7) method of keeping records of hotel facilities and other facilities where hotel services are provided.

The above-mentioned legal acts are among the basic rights of people with disabilities regarding architectural, digital, information and communication accessibility in Poland. They are supplemented by more detailed regulations in the field of tourism and recreation for older people and people with disabilities. Recommendations are also being made for the tourism services sector regarding their accessibility.

List of basic documents related to the development of accessible tourism

Act of July 19, 2019 on ensuring accessibility for people with special needs. Journal Laws of 2019, item 1696,
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190001696/U/D20191696Lj.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

⁷ <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20170002166/O/D20172166.pdf> (access: 11.10.2023)

Act of August 27, 1997 on vocational and social rehabilitation and employment of disabled people. Journal Laws of 1997 No. 123 item 776
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU19971230776/U/D19970776Lj.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

Act of April 4, 2019 on the digital accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public entities. Journal Laws of 2019, item 848,
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190000848/U/D20190848Lj.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

Act of August 19, 2011 on sign language and other means of communication. OJ 2011 No. 209 item 1243.
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20112091243/U/D20111243Lj.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

Announcement of the Minister of Sport and Tourism of October 26, 2017 on the announcement of the uniform text of the regulation of the Minister of Economy and Labor on hotel facilities and other facilities in which hotel services are provided, Annex No. 8 - Minimum requirements for adapting hotel facilities to the needs of people disabled (Journal of Laws of November 24, 2017, item 2166)
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20170002166/O/D20172166.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, drawn up in New York on December 13, 2006 (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 1169)
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20120001169/O/D20121169.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

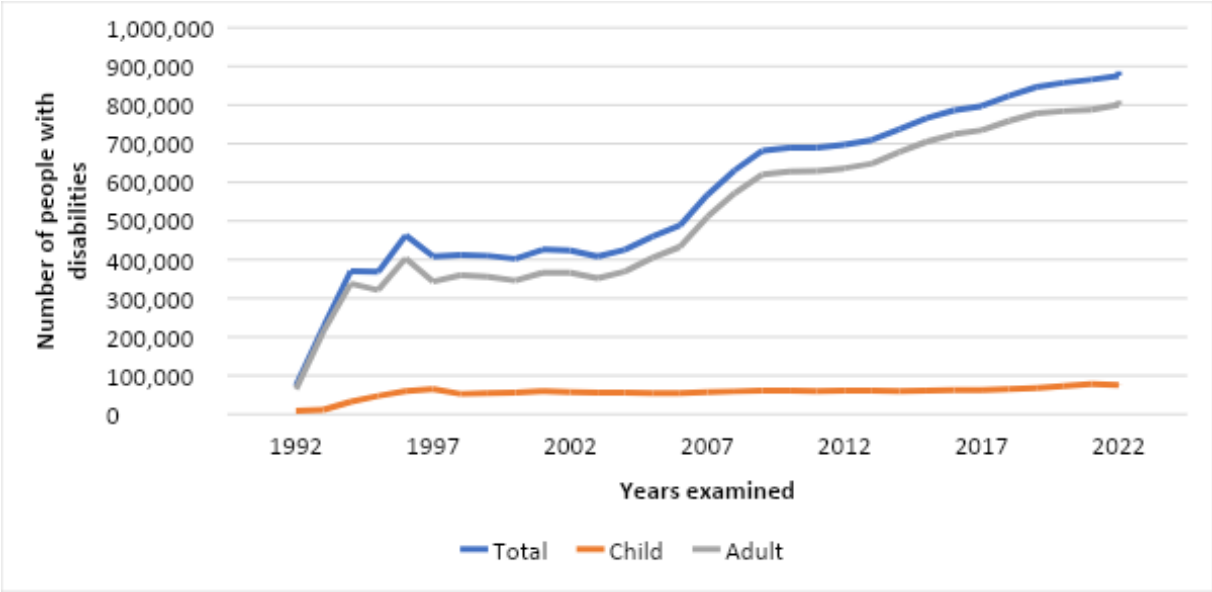
Resolution of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of August 1, 1997, Charter of the Rights of Disabled Persons.
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WMP19970500475/O/M19970475.pdf>
(access: 11.10.2023)

6. The legislative perspectives of accessible tourism in Romania

The number of people living in Romania who are registered as having a disability has gradually increased over the last thirty years. In 1992, only 74,000 people in the country were recorded as having some form of disability (Figure 1.). The majority of these persons, 88%, were adults and the remaining 12% were children with some type of disability. The number of persons with various disabilities showed a gradually increasing trend until 2022, when the number of person affected in the country reached almost 886,950 (Figure 1.).

This corresponds to 4.46% of population. Of this number of persons, 91.4% were adults and, consequently, children with some type of disability registered in the health register accounted for the remaining 8.6%. From the above figures, it can be concluded that the number of persons with a disability as a proportion of the Romanian population is moving in the opposite direction to the decreasing trend of the country’s population. In the thirty years review, the country’s population has decreased by 16.41%, while at the same time, in the same period, the number of persons with disabilities has increased from 74,053 to 886,950 in 2022, which is approximately a twelvefold increase over the last thirty years, so that, on average, the number of persons with disabilities in the country has increased by 27,096 per year (Figure 2.).

Figure 2. Changes in the number of disabled persons in Romania between 1992 and 2022

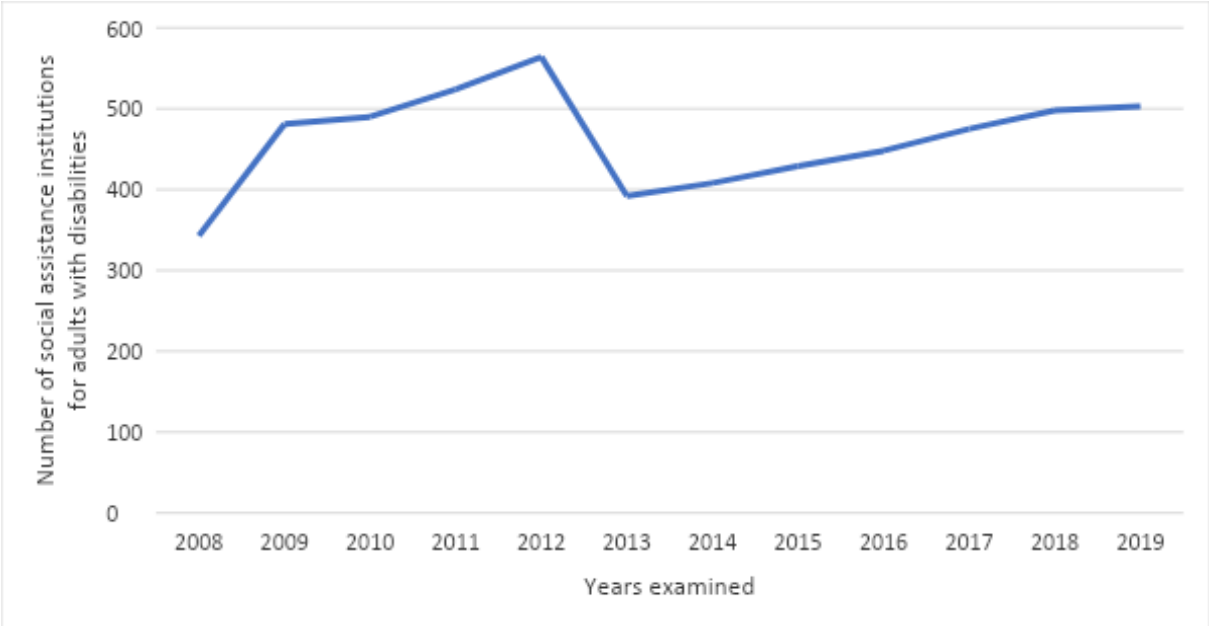


Source: Own editing based on ANPDPD data

Between 2008 and 2019, there has been a significant increase in the number of institutions responsible for the care of adults with disabilities in Romania, as shown by data from the Romanian National Institute of Statistics. At the beginning of the period under study, in 2008, there were only 343 institutions specialised in the care of adults with disabilities (Figure 2.). The number of these institutions increased until 2012, when it reached 564. This has a significant correlation with the number of persons in need of care, as the same trend change

between the two variables can be observed between 2008 and 2012 (Figure 2.). In the year 2013, the number of adult care facilities mentioned above experienced a large decrease, as there was a 30.5% decrease in the number of facilities. Following that year, a gradual upward trend was observed between 2014 and 2019, resulting in 503 facilities responsible for the wellbeing of adults with disabilities by the end of the period under review in 2019 (Figure 2.).

Figure 3. Changes in the number of social assistance institutions for adult with disabilities in Romania between 2008 and 2019



Source: Own editing based on INS data

The main official body dealing with disabled people rights and facilitations is the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - <https://anpd.gov.ro>

Romania has committed to take all necessary measures to ensure the integration of all persons with disabilities into the community, including those living in long-term residential institutions, by providing places of residence freely chosen by persons with disabilities, as well as access to a wide range of health services. The main topic in Romanian legislation is de-institutionalisation.

From 2023 onwards, local authorities will monitor the status of achievement of key performance indicators (KPI) on an annual basis. The nationally planned targets linked to the KPIs are:

1. By 30 June 2026, at least 32% of institutionalised adults with disabilities will be supported to deinstitutionalise and implement the independent living pathway;
2. by 30 June 2026, the percentage of institutionalised adults with disabilities is reduced to 32% of the total number of people supported in the residential system at the end of 2020;

3. between 1 July 2026 and 31 December 2030, the percentage of adults with disabilities in institutions will be reduced by 10% of the total number of people supported in the residential system on 30 June 2026.

Legislation

- I. Law no. 221 of 2010 the "National Anti-Discrimination Council Act," is a significant piece of legislation in Romania aimed at combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunities. The law was enacted on May 19, 2010, and it plays a crucial role in safeguarding the rights of various marginalized and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.
- II. Law no. 7 of January 2023 - de-institutionalisation
- III. Law no. 448 of February 2006 - Fundamental Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities (Methodology of Application DECISION no. 268 of 14 March 2007)
- IV. Decree no. 189/2013 - Approval of the Technical Regulation Standard on the Adaptation of Civil Buildings and Urban Space to the Individual Needs of People with Disabilities, Indicative NP 051-2012 - Revision NP 051/2000
- V. Law 232/2022 on the accessibility requirements for products and services

Key points about Law No. 221/2010:

Purpose: The primary purpose of Law No. 221/2010 is to establish the legal framework for preventing and combating discrimination in Romania, including discrimination based on disability.

- Scope: The law covers a wide range of areas, including employment, education, healthcare, social protection, access to goods and services, and participation in public life.
- Prohibition of Discrimination: The law explicitly prohibits discrimination on various grounds, including disability. It mandates that individuals and institutions must treat others equally and without discrimination.
- National Anti-Discrimination Council: The law establishes the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD), which is an independent public authority responsible for enforcing the provisions of the law and addressing discrimination complaints.
- Sanctions: The law provides for sanctions and penalties for acts of discrimination. These may include fines, injunctions, and other measures intended to rectify the situation.
- Complaint Procedures: Law No. 221/2010 outlines the procedures for filing discrimination complaints with the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

- Positive Measures: The law allows for positive measures to be taken to promote equal opportunities and combat discrimination, including measures to support persons with disabilities.
- Awareness and Education: The law encourages educational and awareness-raising activities to promote tolerance, diversity, and equal treatment.

Key points about Law no. 448 of February 2006 - Fundamental Rights of Persons Living with Disabilities (Methodology of Application DECISION no. 268 of 14 March 2007)

According to Article 6, persons with disabilities are entitled to:

- (a) health care - prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
- (b) education and vocational training;
- (c) employment and job adaptation, vocational guidance and retraining;
- (d) social assistance, i.e. social services and social benefits;
- (e) housing, personal living environment, transport, access to the physical, information and communication environment;
- (f) leisure, access to culture, sport, tourism;**
- (g) legal assistance;
- (h) tax relief;
- (i) assessment and reassessment through home visits by members of the Assessment Committee to non-removable persons every two years.

Article 7.

(1) The promotion and enforcement of the rights of persons with disabilities shall be the primary responsibility of the authorities of the local public administration where the person with a disability resides or is domiciled and, subsidiarily or complementarily, of the authorities of the central public administration, civil society and the family or the legal representative of the person with a disability.

Article 21. - Culture, sport, tourism

(1) The competent authorities of the public administration are obliged to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities to cultural values, heritage, tourism, sports and leisure objectives.

(2) In order to ensure the access of persons with disabilities to culture, sport and tourism, public administration authorities are obliged to take the following specific measures;

- (a) promote the participation of persons with disabilities and their families in cultural, sporting and tourist events;

- (b) organise cultural, sporting and leisure events and activities in cooperation or partnership with public or private legal entities;
- (c) ensuring conditions for the practice of sports by persons with disabilities;
- (d) to support the activities of sports organisations of persons with disabilities;
- (e) provide, both inside the buildings and in the outdoor areas of cultural, tourist, sports and leisure facilities, specific adaptations for the following types of disability, without this list being exhaustive
 - (i) for persons with locomotor disabilities and reduced mobility: ramps and/or, where appropriate, electronic or automated access systems, lifts or elevators
 - (iii) for the hearing impaired: visual warning systems and electronic amplifiers for hearing aids
 - (iv) for the mentally handicapped and people with learning disabilities: sign language guidance systems;
- (f) To provide at least one toilet accessible to people with disabilities inside the buildings related to cultural, tourist, sports and leisure objectives or, where appropriate, in the outdoor areas related to them.

(on 18-05-2023, Paragraph 2 of Article 21, Section 4, Chapter II was supplemented by Paragraph 3, Article I of LAW No. 96 of 12 April 2023, published in the OFFICIAL MONITOR No. 322 of 18 April 2023)

(3) The disabled child and the accompanying person have the right to free admission to shows, museums, artistic and sports events.

(4) Adults with disabilities shall be entitled to free admission to shows, museums, artistic and sporting events as follows:

- (a) the adult with a severe or acute disability and the accompanying person shall be admitted free of charge;
- (b) adults with moderate and slight disabilities shall be entitled to tickets under the same conditions as pupils and students.

(5) The amounts of the entitlements referred to in paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) shall be borne by the State budget, through the budget of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, the National Agency for Sport*), local budgets or, where appropriate, the budget of public or private organisers.

Key points of Decree no. 189/2013 in Romania pertains to the approval of a Technical Regulation Standard that addresses the adaptation of civil buildings and urban spaces to the

individual needs of people with disabilities. Specifically, it approves the Indicative NP 051-2012, which is a revision of NP 051/2000.

Here's a breakdown of the key components:

- **Technical Regulation Standard:** The Technical Regulation Standard is a set of specific technical guidelines and requirements established by the government to ensure that civil buildings and urban spaces are accessible and adapted to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- **Adaptation of Civil Buildings:** This refers to making physical adjustments to buildings to accommodate individuals with disabilities. This can include the installation of ramps, elevators, wider doorways, accessible bathrooms, and other modifications to improve accessibility.
- **Adaptation of Urban Space:** This focuses on making public areas and spaces within a city or town more accessible. It involves considerations like constructing wheelchair-friendly sidewalks, installing ramps at pedestrian crossings, and creating accessible parking spaces.
- **NP 051-2012:** This is the specific set of technical regulations that outline the requirements for adapting civil buildings and urban spaces for people with disabilities. It is a revised version of the NP 051/2000 standard.
- **NP 051/2000:** This is the previous version of the technical regulation standard for adapting civil buildings and urban spaces. The revision in 2012 likely involved updates, improvements, or clarifications to better address the needs of individuals with disabilities.

The aim of this decree and the associated technical standards is to ensure that buildings and urban environments in Romania are designed and constructed in a way that promotes accessibility and inclusivity for all citizens, including those with disabilities.

Other related acts:

1. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and opened for signature on 30 March 2007. Romania signed it on 26 September 2007 and ratified it through Law no. 221 of 2010.

2. The National Strategy for the prevention of institutionalization of adults with disabilities and acceleration of the deinstitutionalization process for the period 2022-2030 has been approved by the Government through Decision no. 1543/2022.

Approves the National Strategy for the prevention of adults with disabilities being institutionalised and for the acceleration of the deinstitutionalisation process between 2022-2030, as described in Annex*, which is an integral part of this Decision.

3. In addition, Government Decision No 1.444/2022 approves the Data Collection and Monitoring Mechanism for implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and amending some normative acts. Draft Order No.

1914/29/09/2022 aims to amend and supplement the Annex to Order No. 762/1992/2007, which approves the criteria for determining the degree of disability 5 from a medical-psycho-social perspective. The document adheres to conventional academic formatting, including regular author and institution formatting, and uses a formal register to avoid colloquialism, contractions, or informal expressions. Additionally, the text ensures objectivity by excluding subjective evaluations, bias, figurative or ornamental language, and filler words. Finally, precision in vocabulary and grammatical correctness are ensured, with specific technical terms used when conveying precise meaning and free from grammatical and spelling mistakes.

4. Draft Order No. 1914/29/09/2022 aims to amend and supplement the Annex to Order No. 762/1992/2007, which approves the criteria for determining the degree of disability 5 from a medical-psycho-social perspective. The objective and logical structure of the document is maintained through clear and concise language, with technical term abbreviations explained upon first use.

5. Order No. 847/2021, approved on 23 September 2021, outlines the procedure for the authorisation of protected establishments.

6. Pursuant to Law 448/2006, an authorized sheltered enterprise is a legal entity, either public or private, that possesses its own management, **in which no less than three disabled individuals must be employed, representing at least 30% of the total number of employees**, and their combined worked hours account for no less than 50% of all worked hours of the entirety of the employees, and any configuration of conducting an economic operation by an individual possessing a disability

7. certification. 6. DECISION No 268 of 14 March 2007 (*updated*) for the approval of Methodological Rules for the application of provisions of Law no. 448/2006 on protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (updated until 29 November 2012*) Article 8a.

Free spa treatment tickets for disabled adults will be granted in accordance with the State Social Insurance Budget Act for the current year, subject to an annual agreement between the National Authority for Individuals with Disabilities and the National House for Pensions and Other Social Insurance Rights. It should be noted that on 15-02-2010, Art. 8 was amended by paragraph 2 of Art., thereby establishing a definite limit on the total number of tickets available. I of DECISION No. 89 from 5 February 2010, which was published in OFFICIAL MONITOR No. 103 from 15 February 2010.

Transportation and other tourism related discounts for disabled persons

Severely disabled adults may receive social assistance based on supporting documents or by application. This assistance comes in the form of **free interurban transport via any train** type up to the cost of an interregio IR train with a 2nd class reservation, or by bus or river

transport vessel for a total of 24 journeys per calendar year. Alternatively, a fuel discount of 1500 lei is available.

For adults with accentuated disabilities: 12 free interurban journeys per year are available by train, bus, or river transport, limited to the cost of a second-class inter-regional (IR) train ticket with a reservation. A fuel discount of 750 lei is also available. In addition, all urban public transport lines offer free surface transportation, and a monthly metro pass with an unlimited number of journeys is provided.

Access to public service buildings, such as cultural institutions, should be facilitated for people with disabilities. This can be achieved through the implementation of Braille signs and clearly visible shapes.

Accommodation facilities should also be designed with accessibility in mind. Additionally, free bathing passes should be provided to individuals with disabilities and their companions.

Funding may be provided from the local and central budget for disabled individuals and their companions to participate in educational, cultural, and sporting activities as well as competitions and seminars. This includes transportation and accommodation within the budget staff limitations, participation fees, and entry fees to museums and auditoriums abroad. Please note that this information pertains to disabled individuals and their accompanying persons only.

Additional amenities for tourism activities in Romania, as per the local regulations:

- **Complimentary spa vouchers**

- Reserved parking spaces in public areas for individuals with disabilities or their authorized representatives

- **Exemption from toll fees when using the national road network with a valid vignette**

- **Discount on fuel expenditure when travelling by car**

- Unrestricted access to educational programs, regardless of age, disability type, and educational requirements.

- The standard retirement age for employed individuals is being reduced.

- free or partially subsidised access to cultural, sporting and leisure events at national and European level in Slovenia, Cyprus, Belgium, Italy, Estonia, Finland, Malta on the basis of the European Disability Card

The law grants rights and facilities, but it remains to be seen whether such rights are upheld by public institutions and private entities. Adequate infrastructure and equipment are in place to ensure accessibility and enable events. In conclusion, Romania offers a number of discounts and services for people with disabilities. The problem is that most of them are not transparent and in many cases only temporary. The system of support for leisure and travel for people with special needs still needs to be developed.

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