Civic engagement of higher education students in the creation of a pan-European mapping app for socially inclusive higher education institutions and accessible European cities

What is Map4Accessibility?

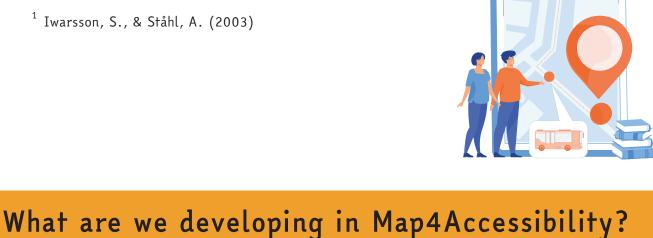
Map4Accessibility develops a European accessibility mapping app which provides information on the accessibility of public spaces. The project will engage higher education students by combining community engagement and academic coursework, preparation and reflection via service learning. In such a way the students will learn through active engagement and work on a community-identified concern.

## Map4accessiblity applies participatory approaches to evaluate

How do you define accessibility?

physical and digital accessibility in the city and propose possible solutions to enhance it. Accessibility can be analysed from multiple perspectives: urban planning and design, infrastructure safety, social inclusivity. A place, a route, a web content is accessible when it's easy-to-reach from all the citizens of the community regardless of disability, age, sex, ethnicity etc. Essentially accessibility is "an umbrella term for al aspects which influence a person's ability to function within an environment".

<sup>1</sup> Iwarsson, S., & Ståhl, A. (2003)



Our Map4A11y App

Our Progressive Web App (PWA) will be an accessibility map outlining the physical and web accessibility of various objects and provide precise information on accessible places at the city

level. Such an app has already been developed by Associação Salvador, a Portuquese NGO, and has been applied in Lisbon, Portugal. Map4Accessibility aims to improve it and apply it in 3 more locations - Berlin, Germany; Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria and Catania, Italy. It will cover accessibility standards, embed Universal Design Principles and add improvements to the existing app. It will be adapted, co-designed and co-developed through service-learning activities with higher education students.

## **Service-learning** is a pedagogical approach which combines

learning derives from the active engagement in the community and work on a real-world problem. The aim is to give students a sense of civic engagement and responsibility and work towards

community service or engagement into the curriculum. The

Exploratory and Urban Walks

How are we developing it?

We are using Service Learning,

positive social change in society. Exploratory walks are a community participatory tool to assess acessibility needs in public space (squares, streets, green space, public institutions or university campuses). The participants will

women, children, the elderly or local citizens.

walk within the city to (i) identify the issues that limit their possibility to access and enjoy it and (ii) collectively explore

on the issues, targeted participants can be disabled people,

solutions to make public space adapted to their needs. Depending

Urban walks involve mapping the urban environment via a questionnaire prepared based on exploratory walks. They aim to acquire quantitative data to respond to the needs of the participants. What do we aim to achieve?

The long-term aim of the mapping app will be to incentivise higher education institutions and cities to adopt accessibility

facilities, and services

accessibility standards

technologies

strategies on:

### Transport and related infrastructures

Information and communication,

Legally binding and non-binding

The built environment and public spaces,

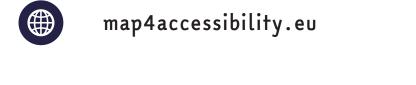
including information and communication

Who we are?

We are 7 partners from 5 different EU countries - Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Portugal and Belgium.

# Contact us

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EACEA can be held responsible for them.

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# 2 Salvador







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