

EVALUATION ON ACCESSIBILITY TO COURT BUILDINGS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

65 Court buildings monitored throughout the country

PROCESS

▼ Working Group:

- ▶ International Expert
- ▶ Lawyers specialized in disability law
- ▶ Persons with disabilities



▼ Meetings held with the members of the High Council of Justice

▼ Questionnaire was developed for the field work



▼ Systematic audit conducted within 40 court facilities

Questionnaire delivered for the purpose of parallel fieldworks within 25 court facilities



▼ Qualitative and quantitative data analysis gathered during the field work



▼ Recommendations developed



FINDINGS

- ▶ A large number of court buildings can be modified to ensure the accessibility of judicial services to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Services for persons with physical disabilities are accessible in several court buildings; however, the buildings are not accessible for persons with sensory disabilities.
- ▶ The complete majority of court buildings do not connect to accessible public transport. Bus stops for accessible public transport are not located near the court buildings.
- ▶ Most of the court buildings do not have organised yard and parking facility ensuring safe and uninterrupted access to the buildings for persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Absence of information boards, information signs, guide marks and tactile maps is a challenge for all of the court facilities.
- ▶ The complete majority of the court buildings' ramps, also, indoor and outdoor stairs, do not meet the approved standard of accessibility.
- ▶ Alarm systems and safety norms for evacuation do not meet the needs of persons with disabilities. Information services located within the court buildings, including staff communication tools, complaint boxes, electronic boards, are not accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ In most of the court facilities, floors do not connect to accessible elevators or other accessible devices in order to ensure accessibility for persons with mobility disabilities.
- ▶ Within the majority of the court facilities, jury halls are not accessible for persons with disabilities, however, in some cases, other sitting halls are accessible or can meet accessibility standards in case of proper modifications.
- ▶ The absolute majority of sanitary facilities intended either for citizens or for employees is not accessible for persons with disabilities.
- ▶ In most cases, spaces for accused persons are not accessible for accused persons with disabilities. Podium stands for witnesses and experts do not meet standards of accessibility.
- ▶ The court halls and working rooms are not accessible for judges with disabilities.
- ▶ Rooms designed for getting acquainted with the cases and cafeterias, in case of their existence within the court facility, do not meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

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