

International conference
"Public Transport Accessibility in Visegrad 4 countries"

25.11. 2014, Integrative Centre "Kosatec" Pardubice

Partners of the conference: Czech Blind United, Czech National Disability Council, Starmon Choceň, PTK – translations, interpreting, language courses.

Turnout: 33 academicians (from all partner workplaces), representatives from organizations of people with reduced mobility (hearing-impaired people, the blind people, wheelchair users), public administration and the University of Pardubice.

Papers of the project participants (University of Pardubice, Warsaw – two papers, Žilina, Budapest) as well as representatives of the Czech Blind United, ASNEP (Association of organizations joining deaf or hearing-impaired people and their friends), the East Bohemia Airport Pardubice, and Starmon, s.r.o. (partner of the conference, producer of public transport information systems for the blind) were presented. In total, there were 10 papers, among others about the state of accessibility and the assertion of the European Commission regulations in the sphere of passenger transport in Poland, possibilities of travelling and accessibility of railway, urban transport and line traffic in Slovakia, barriers in transport for hearing-impaired persons, public transport information systems for the blind or the accessibility of the Pardubice airport according to the Regulation 1107/2006. Interpreting into English and simultaneous transcription for hearing-impaired people were arranged.

In a discussion about particular papers the participants of the conference were interested in the state of accessibility and travelling conditions in V4 countries, and commented also on other topical problems, for example travelling by public transport, accessibility of relating environment (city, sights, cultural events, etc.). Foreign participants got specific information about the evaluation of the accessibility state, particularly in railway and bus transport in the Czech Republic including valid legislation for barrier-free environment creation.

Proclamation of the participants in the conference
Public Transport Accessibility in Visegrad 4 Countries

The conclusion arose from presented papers and participants' contributions to a discussion that responsible authorities of the Visegrad 4 countries as well as the other EU member countries (governments, responsible ministries, state administration bodies in the sphere of public transport, and also public administration bodies) should:

- pay more attention to making all kinds of public transport accessible to persons with reduced mobility and so prevent discrimination of these persons in the process of integration into society with taking advantage of the EU countries common area benefits,
- take advantage of all available means for gradual unification of terms for barrier-free environment as well as transport conditions in public transport, and
- ensure a co-ordinated procedure in making tourist attractions and sights accessible, in creating conditions for parking passenger cars used by persons with reduced mobility, and in other spheres related to transport.