

# Living independently in cities

Local approaches for persons with  
disabilities

16-17 October 2025, Vienna



Mutual Learning Event



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## Living independently in cities

Local approaches for persons with disabilities

**Dates:**

**16 – 17 October 2025**

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DAY 0: Wednesday 15 October</b>  <b>Venue: <u>Public Library Neues Landgut</u></b></p>	
<b>9:00 – 17:00</b>	<b>Eurocities Barrier-free City for All – Working Group meeting</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
<b>9:30 – 9:50</b>	<p><b>Welcome and introduction</b></p> <p><u>Welcome to Vienna</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephan Hartmann - Deputy Head of Municipal Department Technical Urban Renewal</li> <li>• Johanna Linsberger - Head of Competence Center Barrier-Free Planning, Building and Living</li> </ul> <p><u>Welcome to our Eurocities Working Group Meeting in Vienna:</u> Chair of Eurocities Working Group BCA</p>
<b>9:50 – 10:50</b>	<p><b>Accessibility in the City of Vienna</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Head of Competence Centre Barrier-Free Planning, Building and Living - More details TBA</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
<b>10:50 – 11:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:15 – 11:45</b>	<p><b>Accessibility of the built environment: the French regulatory framework and feedback from cities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by Sébastien Froment, Project Manager for Accessibility and Building Innovation at <u>Cerema</u></li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
<b>11:45 – 12:15</b>	<p><b>City presentation</b></p> <p>More details TBA</p>
<b>12:15 – 12:30</b>	<b>BCA WG Updates and plans for the future</b>
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Transfer to the site visit</b></p> <p>Wien Museum - Find the address <u>here</u></p>
<b>13:00 – 14:30</b>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p> <p>Trude &amp; Töchter, Karlsplatz 8, 1040 Vienna - <u>Address</u></p>
<b>14:30 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>Site Visit at Wien Museum</b></p> <p>Guided Tour with focus on the accessibility in the Wien Museum - <u>Address</u></p>

<b>16:00 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Walking tour of the First District</b>  Participants will explore measures implemented to enhance the accessibility of public spaces in an area of high historical value.</p>
<b>19:30</b>	<p><b>Official dinner</b>  <u>Vienna Rathauskeller</u>  Address: Rathauspl. 1, 1010 Wien, Austria  <i>Join fellow participants for the dinner, where we will enjoy local cuisine and pleasant conversations, hosted by the city of Vienna.</i></p>

## DAY 1: Thursday 16 October

**Venue: Fonds Soziales Wien - FSW Bildungszentrum, Erdbergstrasse 200**  
**Room: 00.22 and 00.23**

9:00 – 9:15	<i>Arrival and registration of participants</i>
9:15 – 09:45	<b>Opening session</b> <i>Welcoming words from Vienna</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Susanne Gabriele, Management disability &amp; inclusion of the Vienna Social Fund, City of Vienna</li></ul> <i>Opening words by Eurocities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sofia Martinsson, representative of the Eurocities' informal WG on the inclusion of persons with disabilities</li></ul>
9:45 – 10:30	<b>Participants' updates and expectations</b> Updates from participants on their work, current trends, local policies and projects on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. It will be an opportunity to reflect on the expectations for the two mutual learning days.
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b>Setting up the context – Ensuring independent living for persons with disabilities in Vienna</b> <i>Introduction to the city of Vienna, the VSF and services for persons with disabilities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ivana Veznikova &amp; Jutta Rozinski, Management disability &amp; inclusion of the Vienna Social Fund, City of Vienna</li></ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Transfer to the site visit</b> 45 Minutes – underground U3 Erdberg – U1 Keplerplatz) - <u><a href="#">Itinerary</a></u>
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Parallel site visits</b> Participants can choose to attend one site visit

	<p><b>Leben ohne Krankenhaus (LOK)/Grätzlkreis and Garconnierenverbund: supported housing and peer support activities</b></p> <p><u>LOK</u> – Leben ohne Krankenhaus offers community-based support services for people with disabilities/mental health issues. The Garconnierenverbund in the 10th district provides independent living in small apartments, combined with tailored psychosocial support on site. The Grätzlkreis complements this by offering group activities and opportunities for social participation in the neighbourhood. The focus is on empowering individuals to live self-determined lives within their community and to support each other through peer support.</p> <p><u>Address:</u> 1100 Wien, Sonnwendgasse 29/3/EG</p>	<p><b>Jugend am Werk, Integrationsfachdienst: labour market inclusion projects</b></p> <p><u>Jugend am Werk Wien</u> offers specialised vocational support through Jobwärts, an integration service for people with disabilities or mental health issues. The focus is on sustainable job placement and workplace integration in the general labour market. Jobwärts is a mobile service going to the sheltered workshops (supported by the Praktische Berufsorientierung), informing clients about work opportunities and their services. Individualised coaching, information to employers on relevant topics, mediation, and on-the-job support are key components. The service aims to strengthen professional inclusion and long-term employment opportunities.</p> <p><u>Address:</u> Im Werd 19, 1020 Wien, Austria</p>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<p><b><i>Transfer to the reflecting session/break</i></b></p> <p>Jugend am Werk, Integrationsfachdienst: labour market inclusion projects  - <u>Address:</u> Im Werd 19, 1020 Wien, Austria</p>	
<b>16:00 – 17:00</b>	<p><b>Reflecting on lessons learned from Vienna's approach to independent living for persons with disabilities</b></p> <p><i>Interactive workshop to identify the key learning points as well as elements that could be transferred into a different context.</i></p> <p>Jugend am Werk, Integrationsfachdienst: labour market inclusion projects  - <u>Address:</u> Im Werd 19, 1020 Wien, Austria</p>	
<b>19:30</b>	<p><b><i>Dinner (own costs)</i></b></p> <p><u>Magdas Hotel</u></p> <p>Address: 1030 Wien, Ungargasse 38 (U3 Rochusgasse)</p> <p><i>Join fellow participants for the dinner, where we will enjoy local cuisine and pleasant conversations.</i></p>	

## DAY 2: Friday 17 October

**Venue: Fonds Soziales Wien (FSW) - Vienna Social Fund (VSF) Guglgasse 7-9**  
**Room: Third Floor, Seestadt/Donauinsel**

8:15	<b>Meeting point &amp; transfer to the site visit</b> Volkstheater, at the subway platform U2, Direction Seestadt	
09:15 – 10:40	<b>Parallel site visits</b> Participants can choose to attend one site visit	
	<b>Organisation Wiener Sozialdienste, Garconnierenverbund Seestadt: supported housing for persons with psychiatric support needs</b>  <u>Wiener Sozialdienste</u> provides professional support for persons with mental health challenges, promoting independent living and social inclusion. The Garconnierenverbund Seestadt offers assisted living in individual apartments, tailored to the needs of each resident. On-site support provides regular psychosocial assistance, focusing on recovery-oriented approaches, collaborating with the community-based psychiatric care. The aim is to enable clients to lead autonomous and stable lives. <u>Address:</u> Simone-de-Beauvoir-Platz 7, 1220 Wien, Austria	<b>Organisation HABIT, Garconnierenverbund Seestadt: network apartments, supported housing for persons with high support needs</b>  <u>HABIT</u> – Haus der Barmherzigkeit Integrationsteam provides individualised support for people with complex needs/high support needs and intellectual disabilities. The Garconnierenverbund Seestadt offers barrier-free, self-contained apartments with on-site person-centred assistance. Support focuses on daily living, social participation, and fostering independence. The goal is to enable clients to live a self-determined life. <u>Address:</u> Ilse-Buck-Straße 20, 1220 Wien, Austria
10:40 – 11:30	<b>Transfer to the venue</b> Vienna Social Fund, Guglgasse 7-9, 1030 Wien, Austria - <a href="#">Itinerary</a>	
11:30 – 11:45	<b>Coffee break</b>	

11:45 – 12:30	<p><b>Good practices from cities on how to promote independent living for persons with disabilities</b></p> <p><i>As an alternative to a traditional debate, the fishbowl technique aims to generate meaningful one-on-one discussions on the pros and cons of a given subject. A pair of cities sits opposite each other and are isolated to discuss, while the rest of the participants sit around the outside and observe without interrupting. The facilitator is focused on the core group discussion.</i></p> <p><b>Helsinki, Katowice, Milan, and Vienna</b></p>		
12:30 – 12:35	<p><b>Family photo</b></p>		
12:35 – 13:30	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>		
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Transfer session on urban challenges</b></p> <p>Two presenting cities will focus on the challenges local authorities face when addressing independent living for persons with disabilities. <i>Participants will choose one parallel session to attend</i></p>		
	<table border="1" data-bbox="377 1028 886 1623"> <tr> <td data-bbox="377 1028 886 1140"> <p><b>Personal assistance programs</b></p> <p><i>Barcelona Personal Assistance Service for an Independent Living (BCN-PAS) is a programme currently supporting around 55 individuals each year. While the service has made significant progress, ongoing challenges remain. In this session, Barcelona will explore and exchange ideas regarding the different and innovative models for managing personal assistance services and approaches to participation and intermediation of partner organisations.</i></p> <p><b>Barcelona</b></p> </td><td data-bbox="886 1028 1411 1140"> <p><b>Accessible housing solutions</b></p> <p><i>So far, accessible housing has not been a priority on the different policy levels. With a significant rise in the elderly population, priorities might be bound to change in the near future. Because of that, there is already growing interest in lifelong living. In this session, Ghent will be looking for insights on how to bring in and convince the council and all relevant actors to take action on their recent study and recommendations.</i></p> <p><b>Ghent</b></p> </td></tr> </table>	<p><b>Personal assistance programs</b></p> <p><i>Barcelona Personal Assistance Service for an Independent Living (BCN-PAS) is a programme currently supporting around 55 individuals each year. While the service has made significant progress, ongoing challenges remain. In this session, Barcelona will explore and exchange ideas regarding the different and innovative models for managing personal assistance services and approaches to participation and intermediation of partner organisations.</i></p> <p><b>Barcelona</b></p>	<p><b>Accessible housing solutions</b></p> <p><i>So far, accessible housing has not been a priority on the different policy levels. With a significant rise in the elderly population, priorities might be bound to change in the near future. Because of that, there is already growing interest in lifelong living. In this session, Ghent will be looking for insights on how to bring in and convince the council and all relevant actors to take action on their recent study and recommendations.</i></p> <p><b>Ghent</b></p>
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15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <ul data-bbox="377 1702 1411 1837" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapporteurs from the parallel sessions sharing the conclusions</li> <li>• Sofia Martinsson, representative of the Eurocities' informal WG on the inclusion of persons with disabilities</li> <li>• Andres Ferrer and Marta Rodrigues, Eurocities</li> </ul>		