

Gothenburg

Disability Ombudsman

Mr Ola Hendar

Accessibility in Gothenburg (Sweden), Mr. Ola Hendar, Ombudsman for Disability

The transformation that the city has undergone to make it more accessible to people with functional diversity, as well as different city's services addressed to them

1) Dear Board and members of International Association of Educational Cities,

On behalf of Gothenburg City I would like to thank you for the opportunity for us to present our work and efforts of strengthening the accessibility in the city for persons with disability

This presentation will not focus on the award of accessibility we received in 2014 or outcome on local, regional, national or international projects. Instead focus in this presentation is based on three decisions taken in 2020 and particular on our new program and the City Disability Ombudsman

2) Welcome to a sustainable city. Gothenburg is on it's way to develop into an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable city. Efforts that we share with many other cities around the world

This year, this moment, we celebrate 400 year as a city. We were built with help from abroad and we still build it together with knowledge and experiences from all the world.

Within the concept of sustainable we count participation and accessibility

3) A short update from us to all of you

Gothenburg is the second largest city in Sweden and we have 583 000 inhabitants

There is 3900 people receiving care at retirement homes

7800 people receive home help and 4400 people with disability receive support and service

And we are members in the association since 1990

4) Three decisions in 2020 to strengthening the accessibility

During 2020 Gothenburg decided to change their management of social welfare support based on geography in favour of a manage model based on area experty.

Together with administrations, companies and disability organisations the city developed a new stronger program in effort to build a city for all.

In effort to ensure an implementation and to strengthening the field the city established a Disability Ombudsman

Further on I will focus on the program and Ombudsman

5) The City of Gothenburg's program for full participation for people with disabilities constitutes support for the city in other programs and plans to take care of the rights of people with disabilities.

Applies to all committees (administrations) and boards (companies)

Connected to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Connected to national disability policy goals

Priority strategies in the program to achieve the goals

More focus on collaboration between 60 administrations and companies

The program is followed up on the development of goal fulfillment based on 42 indicators at the societal and operational level.

The city management office makes a baseline measurement in 2020 and then follows up the results of the indicators every other year starting in 2022. For certain goals, supplementary measurements may need to be made.

6) The program consist of 10 areas of rights.

These areas are well connected to the Convention of rights for persons with disability.

Each area consist of a short presentation of the area, a text of city shortcomings the last years, a list of strategies that administrations and companies are expected to implement and finally a list of administrations and companies that have responsibilities in the area

For each area there is also a goal and articles from the convention that applies to the area.

Two areas are bold in green. No 3 Democratic participation and No 9 Be able to move around and use indoor and outdoor environments. They will be presented in the next two slides

7) No 3, The right to democratic participation

The percentage of people with a disability that participate in democratic activities are lower than for others

The goal for the area is:

People with disabilities can exercise their democratic rights, are involved and have influence on equal terms with others.

The strategies for governing are:

- The city's activities shall ensure that people with disability can vote and continuously influence the city development on equal terms with others.

- The city's activities shall enable people with Disability to participate in associations and other social life on equal terms with others.

8) No 9, Be able to move around and use indoor and outdoor environments

The principle of universal design is not yet fully implemented and people with disabilities are for example still forced to refrain from traveling due to shortcomings in public transportation

Goals to achieve

People with disabilities can move and use all of the city's indoor and outdoor environments on equal terms with others. The right to be able to move in and use Gothenburg's indoor and outdoor environments

Strategies

-The city's activities shall apply and set requirements for universal design, urban planning and developments of the city's indoor and outdoor environments.

-The city's operations must remedy easily remedied obstacles in indoor and outdoor environments.

-The city's operations must ensure access to flexible and available transport so that people with disabilities can move on equal terms with others.

9) The position and assignment as disability ombudsman was established in 2020

The Disability Ombudsman works on behalf of the City Council

Disability Ombudsman is placed in between City council and all administration and companies

The assignment is to:

-Increase knowledge of accessibility and participation in the city's administration and companies

-Ensure that the program for full participation will be implemented

-Perform external monitoring

-Report shortcomings and / or suggest measures

-Report annually to City Council

-Does not handle individual cases,

The City believes that this will strengthening the work with accessibility and participation

10) Thank you