

MOBILEMENSCHEN.DE

An internet platform for barrier-free facilities



What poses no problem for many people often turns out to be an invincible obstacle for people with physical disabilities – be it steps at the entrance of a shop, elevators too small for wheel chairs, missing announcements or the absence of toilets accessible for disabled people. On the other hand, many public facilities, bus stops, shops and restaurants have already been subject to modifications and are now barrier-free. In response to this, the ivm has developed the web based platform www.mobilemenschen.de.

Since numerous facilities offer no or limited accessibility for disabled people, detailed information on the barriers is indispensable. “MobileMenschen.de” is a map-based information platform for the Frankfurt RhineMain region developed in cooperation with the Rhine/Main Regional Transport Association (RMV) and Hesse’s Road and Traffic Management Administration (Hessen Mobil – Straßen- und Verkehrsmanagement). It describes various facilities (“points of interest”) in terms of the existence and types of barriers.

Not all offers rated “barrier-free” or “disabled-friendly” fulfil the needs of all users – nature and degree of disabilities vary largely – so do the assistive devices used. While wheel chair or wheeled walker users prefer very low steps and road kerbs, blind people must be able to clearly distinguish between footpaths and streets. Besides the basic requirements of barrier-free infrastructure design the individual abilities and the technical assistances used determine particular demands.

Since the possible degree of individuality in terms of mobility restrictions, abilities and aids is limited, the platform first provides an overview showing whether a facility is considered “barrier-free” or not. When users zoom in on a smaller map section, the available details on points of interest are provided, such as door widths, set up areas for wheel chairs and heights of stairs. Given that these fit the individually required information, users can assess whether the facility is accessible for them or not.

The ivm – serving the Frankfurt RhineMain region for an integrated traffic and mobility management

Our task is the development of measures which lead towards an integrated traffic and mobility management. In cooperation with our stakeholders, namely the cities and districts within the Frankfurt RhineMain region, as well as the states of Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate, we jointly put these measures into practice.

Who can take part?

“MobileMenschen.de” uses the open data platform “OpenStreetMap” (OSM) which intentionally involves little key criteria that is easy to survey. The success of this worldwide platform is due to many private and public facilities already being added into it. Everybody can take part, and – the more contributors there are, the more information is available.

In the public section of “MobileMenschen.de” every interested user can implement or change points of interest and add relevant characteristics. Then this information is complemented with more than 100 individual criteria for a better description of accessibility, provided by a professional users circle from local authorities, disabled people associations and transport organisations.. Additional resources which raise information quality are barrier-free city maps provided by many municipalities.

Not all municipalities have the technical or financial capacity to update these plans. “MobileMenschen.de” offers the possibility to manage, update and publish the available data. The medium term goal for the platform is to grow and become a region-wide and high-quality service and be extended to also include visually and hearing impaired people.

“MobileMenschen.de” combines the advantages of printed city maps with an open data platform. •

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