Increasing accessibility for people with disabilities in Gdynia

Alicja Pawłowska – Head of Mobility Management Unit, City of Gdynia
Policy and services

Gdynia – City of equal opportunities & accessible to everyone.

- Barcelona Declaration (adopted in 2010) – first city in Poland
- Accessibility Standards (adopted in 2013) – elaborated with high stakeholder participation

Plenipotentiary of the Mayor for Persons with Disabilities since 1999 - Beata Wachowiak-Zwara
- coordinates activities related to the participation of people with disabilities in social life
- cooperates with Unit of People with Disabilities in the City Hall (information about rights and privileges of disable people, information in local media)

New Officer for Accessibility is employed by Road and Green Areas management for infrastructure design approval.
Public spaces

„All what is accessible to people with disabilities, is also available to others”

Sports Hall
• special audience for people with disabilities,
• audiodescription for the blind used during sport events.

Gdynia railway station
• fully accessible for people with disabilities,
• six elevators,
• ticket-desk on the lower height,
• ramp for wheelchairs at the main entrance,
• special paths on the floors - elements helping blind people follow their way.

Gdynia marina and city beach
• wooden ramp for wheelchairs,
• large playground available for children with disabilities.
**Transport**

- **Buses and trolleybuses** are low-floor with special ramps for wheelchairs.

- **Bus stops** modernized to be more friendly for elderly people and people with disabilities (since 2014).

- **Special transportation system** offer on-demand services - for people with disabilities who can not use public transport (1994).
City of Gdynia – active in the field of:
• awareness raising campaigns,
• workshops for disabled people,
• educational classes for schoolchildren

„Gdynia without barriers” - competition which eliminating stereotypes of thinking about disability.

Authors of interesting ideas and already implemented solutions for people with disabilities: individuals, organizations and institutions are honoured.

Yearly calendar raising awareness and acceptance is issued
• Mayor of Gdynia received the medal "Friend of Integration" for special interest in the problems and needs of people with disabilities (2000)

• European Council has granted its highest award Gdynia - "Prize of Europe", for a commitment of city in social issues (2002)

• Sports Hall "Gdynia" received the main prize in the competition "Poland without barriers" for best adapted to the needs of people with disabilities sports facility in the country (2009)

• City of Gdynia was honored in the „Access City Award” organized by the European Commission (2013)
LET’S FIX IT! – NAPRAWMY TO!

- IT tool used to map and describe the problems in public space
- In use since 2013 (but still rather in testing)
- More then 1400 alerts about obstacles in infrastructure reported by people.
HOW DO WE GET ALERTS?

- Barriers were identified by local society - based on walks organised in city districs.

- The walks were organized in group of about 6-10 people (walking in 2-3s) which consist of blind, elderly and on wheelchair.

- They were supported by volunteers and employees of City Hall responsible for maintenance of infrastructure.

- After a walk volunteers added all alert to “Let’s fix it!” application.

- The main receiver of alerts is city institution – Roads and Green Areas Management.
HOW DOES ALERT LOOK LIKE?
WHAT DO WE DO WITH REPORTED PROBLEMS?

ALERT #18189,
Stefana Okrzei 2 Street

ALERT #18190,
Grabowo 4 Street
LET’S FIX IT! IN GDYNIA - PLANS

• Make evaluation for the next districts of Gdynia
• Fix the problems reported by citizens and volunteers
• Make new investments which are accessible for disabled and elderly people
• Open platform for wider audience
• Organize the workshops for investors and administrators
Thank you!

Alicja Pawlowska

Contact Details
City of Gdynia – Roads and Green Areas Management
+48 58 764 40 02
a.pawlowska@zdiz.gdynia.pl

http://www.gdynia.pl
http://www.mobilnagdynia.pl