



Equal access for all to polling stations

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF
ACCESSIBILITY CONDITIONS IN
PRECINCT ELECTORAL BUREAU FROM
THE SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCY
NO. 38, HINCESTI MUNICIPALITY
(June 2019 vs. March 2020)



Kingdom of the Netherlands



British Embassy
Chisinau



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This publication is part of the Project “Enhancing democracy in Moldova through inclusive and transparent elections,” implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the British Embassy in Chisinau through the Good Governance Fund and the Embassy of the Netherlands through the Matra Program.

The conclusions of the study belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Project or donors.



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCET	Center for Continuous Electoral Training
CEC	Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova
CNESP	National Extraordinary Public Health Commission
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
LPA	Local Public Administration
NPSIPD	National Program for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2022)
OSCE/ODIHR	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
PEB	Precinct Electoral Bureau
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme in Moldova
UNO	United Nations Organizations

BACKGROUND

During May – June 2019, the INFONET Alliance and its partners conducted the assessment of 612 polling stations, representing 30.32% of the Precinct Electoral Bureaus (PEB) opened on the territory of the Republic of Moldova for the Parliamentary Elections held on the 24th of February 2019. In total, 68 buildings were assessed in the district of Hincesti (attributed to SMC 37, 38 and 39). The assessment results have been published in the study *“Equal Access for All to Polling Stations”*. At least five public activities have been organized in Hincesti to present the assessment results. The Local Public Administration representatives showed openness and understanding towards the issue of accessibility.

The new Parliamentary Elections were organized on the 15th of March 2020 to fill in the vacant office of a member of the Parliament from the Single Member Constituency no. 38, Hincesti. In the context of these elections, it was important to assess the current situation, to make a comparison with previous year’s data, to assess the actions taken by LPAs and to make some recommendations.

The INFONET observation mission was commissioned by the CEC, with the financial support of the Project *“Enhancing Democracy in Moldova through Inclusive and Transparent Elections”*, implemented by UNDP Moldova, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), of the British Embassy in Chisinau through the Good Governance Fund and of the Embassy of the Netherlands through the Matra Program.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the study was to assess the accessibility conditions of the public buildings that hosted the PEBs that have been opened on the 15th of March 2020 for the new Parliamentary Elections for SMC no. 38, Hincesti, and to compare the current situation with the one documented by the 2019 national-level assessment.

The study has been conducted in order to:

- provide support to the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova in ensuring the accessibility of polling stations, electoral materials and voting procedures in line with the needs of persons with various types of disability²;

1 https://www.md.undp.org/content/moldova/ro/home/library/effective_governance/acces-egal-pentru-toi-in-seciile-de-votare.html

2 Action 5.1. of Objective 5. Increasing the participation of people with disabilities in political, public and cultural life in the Action Plan on the implementation of the National Program for Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities for 2017–2022, NPSIPD.

- facilitate the monitoring of the NPSIPD actions” implementation that aim at ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities;
- contribute to ensuring the right of people with disabilities to vote on equal terms;
- inform the first- and second level LPAs on the standards, good practices and infrastructural accessibility patterns;
- promote a pro-active behavior of people with disabilities in the social and political life by engaging them in the monitoring process;
- promote in the media and society the *human rights-based approach*, that calls for equal rights for people with disabilities.

It is important to analyze and understand what has happened in the last nine months since the 2019 assessment and what actions the public authorities have taken to ensure the accessibility of polling stations. This is important for the team that has carried out the assessments, for the donor community that funded the assessment, and especially for the community of people with disabilities who still face barriers to access the public buildings. And this happens in the context in which accessibility to public buildings is only a precondition for the realization of other fundamental rights, such as the right of access to information, culture, health services, etc. Therefore, the lack of accessibility causes different forms of discrimination.

The study encompasses a sample of 44 polling stations, which represent 64.7% of all PEBs in the territory of Hincesti district, which allows us to draw conclusions and make recommendations for the entire district, being also relevant for the whole country. The evaluation procedure involved a field visit and documentation of each assessed public building. The main research tool was a structured questionnaire. Other tools used were direct observation and photograph taking to study particular aspects. In addition, the presence of people with disabilities in the monitoring team offered the perspective of a “*user safari*” exercise, very relevant, especially for the representatives of the authorities who attended the assessment, with the emphasis put on complementarity and mutual validation of tools and data sources collected.

The research results can be used by both the Central Electoral Commission and the public authorities that are directly responsible for securing the accessibility conditions to people with disabilities, as well as for the benefit of people and the society as a whole.

METHODS, TECHNIQUES USED AND MONITORING STAGES

Updating the Guide for Assessing the Accessibility of Public Buildings and of the Accessibility Assessment Questionnaire

The Guide for Assessing the Accessibility of Public Buildings (Annex 4) and the Accessibility Assessment Questionnaire (Annex 3), previously developed, have been updated by an accessibility expert.

Accreditation of National Observers

The INFONET Alliance submitted the package of documents for 15 people (out of which seven were people with disabilities, including 4 in wheelchairs) who were accredited by the Central Electoral Commission as national observers to monitor the new Parliamentary Elections on the 15th of March 2020 in the Single Member Constituency no. 38, Hincesti³.

Training of monitors in assessing accessibility

Most of the people involved in the monitoring and evaluation have election observation experience with at least 2–3 previous polls organized in the Republic of Moldova. The training was delivered in small groups by accessibility experts, using the face-to-face, phone and online methods.

Training of electoral officials in ensuring accessibility conditions

The Center for Continuous Electoral Training (CCET) organized the training of the electoral officials of SMC no. 38, Hincesti, on the 24th, 25th and 26th of February 2020. In total, 186 people were trained (including 29 men). During these sessions, an INFONET Alliance expert held an information session on accessibility conditions and briefed the officials on the PEB assessment on the 15th of March 2020.

Information campaign for the voters with disabilities

The INFONET Alliance, in partnership with the territorial organizations of the Association of the Deaf of the Republic of Moldova and the Association of the Blind of Moldova, organized two information sessions for people with hearing impairments (18th of February 2020) and with visual impairments (21st of February 2020), that were attended by 90 people (including 40 women). The training was delivered by a CCET expert, the message being accessible to the people with hearing impairments through a sign language interpreter. In this context, a TV show was also broadcasted on the regional station MEDIA TV Cimislia⁴.

Accessibility assessment of 44 Precinct Electoral Bureaus

The accessibility assessment was conducted on the 15th of March 2020, the day of the new Parliamentary Elections. The monitoring mission consisted of 3 mobile teams of 2 persons each who traveled on 3 distinct routes. Each mobile team monitored between 12 and 14 polling stations. The five polling stations in Hincesti municipality were monitored by a team of 6 people, three of whom were wheelchair users. The monitors had the synthesized data of the 2019 assessment with them and checked that

³ [https://a.cec.md/storage/ckfinder/files/LISTA%20siteu \(1\) .pdf](https://a.cec.md/storage/ckfinder/files/LISTA%20siteu%20(1).pdf)

⁴ <https://mediatv.md/pentru-alegeri-incluzive-si-transparente-la-hincesti-traducere-mimico-gestuala/>

information against the one in the field. Evaluation questionnaires were completed in the newly established polling station (PEB 38/19 Loganesti) and in the polling stations that had changed their locations (PEB 38/6 Balceana and PEB 38/37 Pereni). After the collection of information, the data were analyzed by an accessibility expert, delegated by the “MOTIVAȚIE” Association and included on the *Accessibility Map*. Eventual ambiguities were clarified based either on the photos attached or through direct communication with the monitors’ team leader. The findings of the mobile team observers, reported based on a thematic form, were the source for the development of this study.

Marking of data on the *Accessibility Map*

Following the assessment, the results were included on the *Accessibility Map*⁵. Some additional information was updated, including:

- in 8 polling stations the accessibility conditions have changed;
- 1 new polling station was opened;
- 2 polling stations have changed their locations.

The map is a product of the “MOTIVAȚIE” Association, which has been developed with the support of several development partners of Moldova. Currently, 1131 public and private buildings have been marked on the map (of which 777 are polling stations).

The *Accessibility Map* is a tool that contributes to reducing the phenomenon of discrimination against people with disabilities, especially of people belonging to the group with reduced mobility by facilitating/improving physical access to social infrastructure and presenting the level of accessibility to public buildings in Moldova. The marking of information on the *Accessibility Map* promotes the social actors that comply with the legislation and regulations in force, at the same time, identifying the buildings and the responsible persons who fail to meet the necessary accessibility requirements.

Awarding building accessibility ratings

Following the assessment of public building accessibility, according to the *Accessibility Assessment Guide*, each building received one of the following ratings: *accessible*, *partially accessible*, or *inaccessible*.

Before giving a rating to the institution being assessed, the following was considered:

- access to the building;
- access ramp, including support bars;
- front doors;
- interior space;
- adapted sanitary groups
- presence of elevator (if applicable);
- counter/cashier’s desk;
- office doors;
- parking organized in a special way.

The ratings *accessible*, *partially accessible*, *inaccessible* imply the following:

5 <http://motivatie.md/harta-accesibilitate/>

Accessible – we can say that an institution is accessible when people with disabilities (especially those with locomotor disabilities and/or people who are part of the group with reduced mobility) can arrive independently, without difficulties, inside the institution and can enjoy certain services.

Partially accessible – we can say that an institution is partially accessible for people with disabilities when such people, being accompanied by an assistant, can arrive inside the institution to enjoy certain services. The assistant could help the person with disabilities overcome certain obstacles, such as low curbs, going up or down a steeper ramp, crossing door thresholds, if the institution has several levels and no elevator, but at least there is free access to the first level.

Inaccessible – we can say that an institution is inaccessible to people with disabilities when such people, either alone or with the help of an assistant, cannot arrive inside the institution. Here we mean many stairs in the territory or at the entrance to the institution, lack of an access ramp or installation of metal rails, narrow doors, stairs inside the first level or stairs in the basement, lack of adapted or at least accessible toilet.

ASSESSMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY CONDITIONS IN THE SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCY NO. 38, HINCESTI MUNICIPALITY

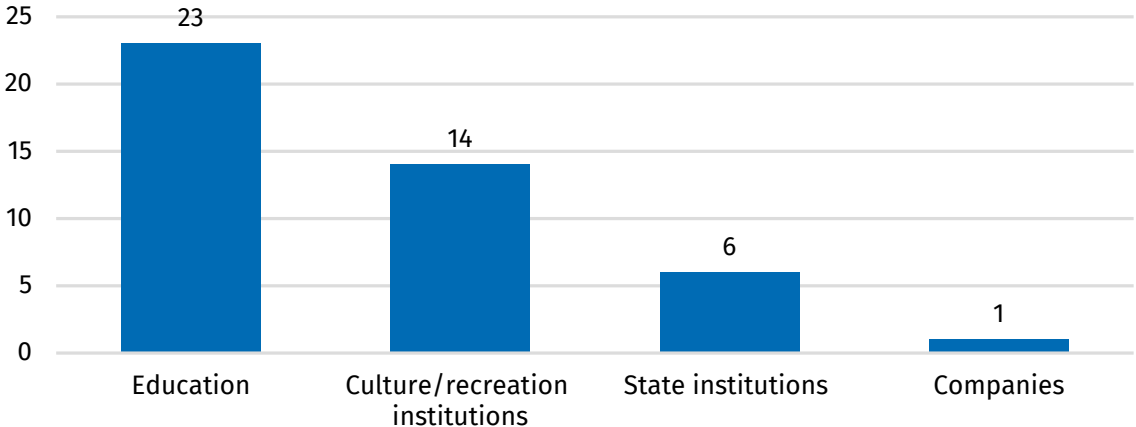
ASSESSED PRECINCT ELECTORAL BUREAUS

In total, 44 Precinct Electoral Bureaus were assessed, as follows:

Single member Constituency	Identification numbers of assessed PEBs
SMC no. 38, Hincesti Municipality	38/1 – 38/44

BUILDING PROFILES

Table 1. Profiles of public buildings where PEBs were opened during the new Parliamentary Elections, organized on the 15th of March 2020



ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Table 2. Accessibility ratings in 44 PEBs in the Single Member Constituency no. 38, Hincesti Municipality

A – accessible			
PA – partially accessible			
INA – inaccessible			
Locality	PEB	Address	General conclusion A / PA / INA*
Hincesti	38/1	Construction College, 10a Al. Marinescu Str.	
Hincesti	38/2	Mihai Viteazul Middle School, 16 Sleahul Meresenilor Str.	
Hincesti	38/3	House of Culture, 130 M. Hancu Str.	
Hincesti	38/4	Vocational School, 17 Chisinau Str.	
Hincesti	38/5	Mihai Eminescu Theoretical High School 4 Mihai Eminescu Str.	
Balceana	38/6	Middle School	
Bobeica	38/7	House of Culture	
Dahnovici	38/8	Former House of Culture	
Draguseni	38/9	Former Kindergarten	
Boghiceni	38/10	Middle School	
Bujor	38/11	House of Culture	
Cațeleni	38/12	Mayor's Office	
Ciuciuleni	38/13	Alexandru Donici Middle School, 2 Al. Donici Str.	
Ciuciuleni	38/14	Ethnography Museum	
Ciuciuleni	38/15	Kindergarten no. 2	
Ciuciuleni	38/16	Alexandru Donici Middle School, 2 Al. Donici Str.	
Cotul Morii	38/17	Middle School – Kindergarten	

Locality	PEB	Address	General conclusion A / PA / INA*
Crasnoarmeiscoe	38/18	Dimitrie Cantemir Theoretical High School, Central Str.	
Talaiesti	38/19	Middle School	
Dragusenii Noi	38/20	House of Culture	
Horodca	38/21	Community Center (kindergarten)	
Fundul Galbenei	38/22	Mayor's Office	
Ivanovca	38/23	Ksenia Evteeva Middle School	
Lapusna	38/24	House of Culture	
Lapusna	38/25	Lapusna Theoretical High School	
Anini	38/26	Winery premises	
Rusca	38/27	House of Culture of Rusca Prison	
Loganesti	38/28	Middle School (administrative building), 13 Constantin Stamati Str.	
Loganesti	38/29	Middle School (education building), 13 Constantin Stamati Str.	
Mereseni	38/30	Mayor's Office	
Sarata-Mereseni	38/31	House of Culture	
Miresti	38/32	Middle School	
Nemteni	38/33	House of Culture	
Obileni	38/34	Middle School	
Onesti	38/35	Mayor's Office	
Pascani	38/36	Middle School	
Pereni	38/37	House of Culture	
Pervomaiscoe	38/38	Middle School-Kindergarten Education Complex	
Secareni	38/39	House of Culture	

Locality	PEB	Address	General conclusion A / PA / INA*
Secarenii Noi	38/40	Mayor's Office	
Cornesti	38/41	House of Culture	
Sofia	38/42	Mayor's Office, 116 Stefan cel Mare Str.	
Stolniceni	38/43	Metropolitan Bishop Antonie Plamadeala Middle School	
Sipoteni	38/44	House of Culture	

Table 3. 2020 assessment results, compared to 2019

Results	PEBs 2019	%	Quantitative progress	PEBs 2020	%
Accessible	0	0	0	0	0
Partially accessible	3	6.98	+2	5	11.37
Inaccessible	40	93.02	-1	39	88.63
Total	43	100%		44	100%

Table 4. Results of accessibility assessment, by category

Category	Accessible		Partially accessible		Inaccessible		Total	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Roads	13	18	18	14	12	12	43	44
Inclined surfaces and stairs	2	3	2	2	39	39	43	44
Doors	6	3	34	38	3	3	43	44
Sanitary unit	0	0	3	3	40	41	43	44
Corridors	11	19	26	15	4	6	41*	40**
Public services room	12	18	30	24	1	2	43	44

* 2 corridors missing in 2019

** 4 corridors missing in 2020

ESTIMATION OF ACCESSIBILITY COSTS. GENERAL ASPECTS

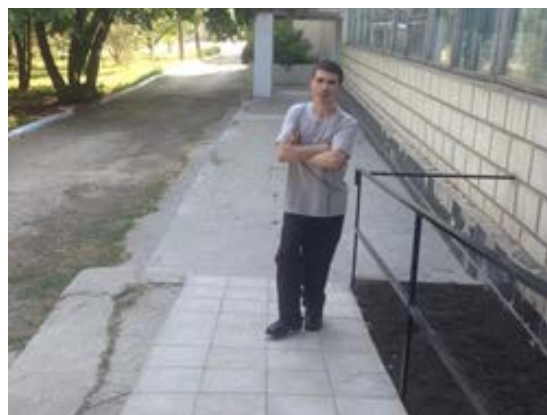
The estimation of accessibility costs is a rather difficult topic, as it depends on several specific issues:

- in each case, depending on the location of the building assessed, the level of the entry versus level of the access road must be considered;
- each category assessed within the PEBs (roads; inclined surfaces and stairs; entries; sanitary units; corridors; public service room) involves very different costs;
- materials used to ensure the accessibility conditions (*luxury* or *economy* versions);
- multitude of possible solutions in some situations and the technical project selected;
- available budget of each public institution or community;
- prices used by suppliers of materials and services;
- community engagement.

The access ramp is often considered the simplest means of support that does not require an excessive financial effort. In practice, we can mention that the price of a linear meter varies between MDL 1,100 – 1,200 for a ramp poured in concrete (without surface material) and MDL 3,500 – 4,500 for a ramp made of metal. These prices also include the support bars.

Here are some good practice examples.

1. Ramp at the House of Culture in Stefanesti, Floresti. Cost of materials (including community's input) and of labor – MDL 1,500 (<https://youtu.be/-95lhMEt1c>)



2. Ramp and sidewalk pavement at the Vocational School, Hincesti. Materials and labor cost – around MDL 50,000



3. Detachable metal ramp at the Summit Events Conference Center, Chisinau – MDL 8,500.



4. Metal ramp at the Family Doctors Center no. 11, Chisinau. Cost of materials and labor – MDL 45,500.



Sanitary units are considered to be the most expensive objectives for accessibility, because there are very many elements to be taken into account (toilet bowl, sink, bathtub or shower, floor, tiles, etc.). But there are several common, imperative elements needed for accessibility: **support bars (fixed and/or folding)**. We present below several models selected from the commercial offers available.



Stainless steel (small) folding support bar, Ø32 (commercial offer)
884 MDL

Stainless steel (big) folding support bar, Ø32 (commercial offer)
1,157 MDL



Safety bar with white support on the right for people with disabilities (size: 516 x 235 mm; 776 x 235 mm, galvanized steel pipe bar, Ø32, covered with special paint, warranting maximum hygiene. Due to the wall fixing system, it virtually cannot be pulled out, regardless of the person's weight; is water resistant; commercial offer)
1,015 MDL

CONCLUSIONS

- Progress has been made in creating accessibility conditions in the Hincesti district but they are insignificant and made more in the urban area. In particular, the lack of decent hygiene and accessibility of sanitary units, so necessary to all users, not just people with disabilities, should be mentioned.
- The human and financial resources at LPA level are limited. The issue of accessibility requires district, regional, and national level approaches.
- The access ramp is often seen as a means of support not only by people with disabilities but also by the elderly, pregnant women, parents with children in strollers or to the transportation of goods. The construction of an access ramp is not an exaggerated financial effort. Nonetheless, there are many buildings that have not yet been equipped with such a simple mechanism to facilitate access; the public authorities are rather careless, ignoring the legal framework or not knowing it.
- In some cases, the authorities do not follow the principle of accessibility not because of bad will or lack of funds, but simply because they do not understand the *special needs* concept and the advantages of long-term accessibility conditions.
- People with disabilities in rural areas, compared to those in urban areas, exercise their human rights to a different extent. This existing imbalance needs to be addressed through effective policies at national level.
- The Moldovan legal framework on accessibility is quite extensive but, unfortunately, the fulfillment of obligations by public institutions is precarious. This is because the following is missing:
 - a clear perception of the accessibility concept;
 - a sanctions enforcement mechanism and the authorities are slow to make the infrastructure environment more accessible.
- The accessibility of public infrastructure is a condition for the society's economic, social and cultural development. People with disabilities can engage in public and social life, can lead an independent way of life, can find a job, can have a livelihood of their own, so as not to depend on social benefits from the state, only if the public space is adapted to allow them free movement and exercise of their constitutional rights.
- Accessibility as a human right must be perceived as follows:
 - a *standalone human right* that enables one to participate, communicate and have access to information, act independently and safely;
 - an *indispensable human right* that enforces other human rights, hence, a basic condition and a catalyst for deepening human rights, hence, this subject must be put on the political agenda.

- The social inclusion of people with disabilities can be achieved by developing partnerships and collective actions of all interested community actors.
- The increasing pressure from the civil society, as well as the understanding by representatives of public institutions of the benefits of adapting the physical and information environment to the needs of people with disabilities could significantly contribute to making the much-needed changes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CENTRAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Set up an independent institution (e.g. the “National Disability Authority”) that would develop and implement government policies for the social inclusion of people with disabilities.
- The issue of accessibility must be addressed in a crosscutting and complex manner, not only in terms of access to the physical infrastructure. This is a fundamental element for the social, economic, cultural, etc. areas.
- Accessibility is a human right and the state must not invoke the crisis and the austerity measures taken as an excuse to undermine its observance.
- It is necessary to develop a clear mechanism of enforcement of sanctions for all institutions that do not comply with the obligations of space accessibility for the people with disabilities.
- It is necessary to enforce a mandatory rule that technical projects, urban planning permits and construction permits contain clauses on accessibility conditions and evaluation mechanisms in order to facilitate the field verification process.
- Strengthen efforts to implement the National Program for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities for 2017–2022.
- Establish legal deadlines for making public institution buildings accessible and allocating sufficient resources to eliminate existing barriers.
- Engage people with disabilities at all standard development stages.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Declare a public commitment and develop a district plan with the generics “*Hincesti Without Barriers.*”
- Enforce the principle of “*disproportionate or undue burden*” to ensure reasonable adaptation through alternative means (funds, public procurement, etc.) and assess the impact, so that the citizen’s right prevails over the supplier’s needs.
- Keep the obligations to ensure the accessibility conditions, anticipating the potential needs, from the design phase, even before they in fact appear.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MEDIA

- Enhance the level of information of the general public on the major importance of accessibility, for a real social inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as the economic benefits it brings to the community.
- Flag the access ramps, the accessibility conditions that are not aligned to the national standards, in the media and social networks.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND SELF-REPRESENTATION GROUPS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- There is a need to have civil society organizations put pressure, so that the general public, especially the representatives of public institutions, understand the benefits of adapting physical infrastructure to the needs of people with disabilities.
- It is necessary to reconsider the major role of civil society in monitoring and enforcement of the legal framework, relaunching the social dialogue and implementation of the accessibility standards.
- Awareness-raising campaigns are needed for the general public as well as for people with disabilities about their accessibility rights.
- It is necessary that the *forms for verifying the accessibility conditions* be completed and not be just a fact-finding document but rather contain possible recommendations and solutions for each location assessed.
- Implement demonstration accessibility projects at the level of regions/districts, with low budgets, including using *crowdsourcing* resources.
- It is necessary for advocacy approaches and campaigns on accessibility to include the component of monitoring local public procurement and public finances.
- It is necessary to make efforts to strengthen citizen structures so that they get involved in local governance actions and promote the good governance principles.
- It is necessary to raise public awareness about the *special needs* and the *respect for the diversity*, in order to inculcate the general perception that accessibility affects other groups of people as well: pregnant women, parents with children, the elderly, etc.
- It is necessary to continue the efforts of monitoring the accessibility conditions in the country and to publicize the results in events with mixed participation: LPA, economic agents, civil society, media, people with disabilities, citizens with initiative, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DONOR COMMUNITY

- Apply accessibility criteria in the sources allocated for funding.
- Support efforts to develop accessibility conditions in the Republic of Moldova, especially in rural areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

- Engage political actors and demonstrate political will in achieving accessibility conditions in premises of parties and in internal procedures at central and regional levels, as a precondition for respecting political rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, ensuring equal opportunities for participation and respect for human dignity.
- *Accessibility as a human right* must be turned into a political and operational concept that would become valid for the entire society and not only for the people with disabilities.

ANNEX 1. RESULTS OF MONITORING PEBs' ACCESSIBILITY IN THE SINGLE MEMBER CONSTITUENCY NO. 38, HINCESTI (SYNTHESIZED TABLE)

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Hincesti	38/1	Construction College, 10a Alexandru Marinescu Str.	Open gates, accessible parking spots, concrete plates; part of road to the building – of concrete, with curb of cca 15 cm	Lack of ramp, 16 steps, metal rails on outside stairs; contrasting and tactile elements missing	Narrow double doors, both must be opened; threshold by front door; contrasting signs missing	Inside, on 2nd floor – narrow doors; outside – inaccessible	Accessible, contrasting elements in some places	Accessible, contrasting elements in some places	
Hincesti	38/2	Mihai Viteazul Middle School 16 Sleahul Meresenilor Str	Accessible, road and sidewalk – asphalted; regular parking	Lacks of stairs outside and inside the building. Entry at ground level	Narrow double doors, both must be opened, threshold – 3 cm; some contrasting signs in place	Missing, just regular in place but inaccessible inside and outside the building	Accessible, contrasting elements in some places	Accessible, contrasting elements in some places	
Hincesti	38/3	House of Culture, 130 Mihalcea Hincu Str.	Accessible, pavement; regular parking	Partially accessible ramp L – 10.3 m, H – 1.1 m, inclination angle – 6.12 °; rest deck missing; larger distance between handrails; slip-resistant material not on all ramp surface	Double front doors, both open; inside – sliding doors, opening automatically, threshold – 4 cm	2 inaccessible sanitary units inside, with stairs, and one inaccessible outside	Accessible, contrasting elements in place	Accessible, contrasting elements in place	
Hincesti	38/4	Vocational School, 17 Chisinaului Str	Accessible, asphalt and pavement on road and sidewalk; regular parking	Accessible ramp in two levels, with handrails on both sides; contrasting colors in place, tactile pavement missing	Double front doors, both must be opened, threshold at entry – 4 cm, contrasting signs missing	Sanitary unit inside on second floor and one outside, both inaccessible	Accessible, contrasting elements in some places	Accessible, contrasting elements in some places	
Hincesti	38/5	Mihai Eminescu Theoretical High School, 4 M. Eminescu Str	Accessible, asphalt, accessible sidewalks	Accessible ramp in three levels, with handrails (levels 1 and 2 only on one side, level 3 – on both sides); contrasting colors missing	Average, double front doors; accessible inside doors; contrasting signs missing	Only regular, partially accessible; spacious, but support bars missing	Accessible, contrasting elements missing	Accessible, contrasting elements missing	
Balceana	38/6	Middle School	Gravel road, asphalted sidewalk, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 8 steps (H – 1,3 m)	Double (65+35 cm); both must be opened, threshold – 6 cm	Regular, in the yard only, steps	Corridor missing, direct entry into the room	Accessible surface, contrasting colors	

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Bobeica	38/7	House of Culture	Asphalted road, asphalted sloped sidewalks	Lack of ramp, 23 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, in the yard only	Corridor missing, direct entry into the room	Accessible surface, contrasting colors missing	
Dahnovici	38/8	Former House of Culture	Country road, ground, grass	Lack of ramp, 4 steps	Double, 113 cm, both must be opened, threshold 7 cm	Missing	Accessible surface, contrasting colors missing	Double of 120 cm, both must be opened; Accessible surface, threshold of 7 cm in the room	
Draguseni	38/9	Former Kindergarten	Inaccessible, gravel, grass	Lack of ramp, 5 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, in the yard only	Partially accessible	Partially accessible	
Boghiceni	38/10	Middle School	Asphalted road, holes, gravel sidewalk, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 1 step	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, inaccessible	Accessible surface, contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface, contrasting colors missing	
Bujor	38/11	House of Culture	Asphalted road and sidewalk, concrete plates in the yard; regular parking; access by minibus	Lack of ramp, metal rails, 7 steps	Double, 75+75cm, both must be opened, threshold of 2 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	Double door, 70+30cm, both must be opened, threshold of 4 cm; Accessible surface, contrasting colors	
Cateleni	38/12	Mayor's Office	Asphalted road and sidewalk, deteriorated in some places	Lack of ramp, 7 steps	Door of 85 cm, threshold of 5 cm	Missing	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	PEB on 2nd floor; Lack of elevator; double door 60+60 cm, threshold of 9 cm	
Ciuciuleni	38/13	Alexandru Donici Middle School, 2 AL. Donici Str.	Asphalted road and sidewalk, holes in some spots	Lack of ramp, 6 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, in the yard only	4 steps, contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface, contrasting colors missing	
Ciuciuleni	38/14	Ethnography Museum	Country road, asphalted sidewalk, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 1 step	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, in the yard only	1 step, contrasting colors in some places	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Ciuciuleni	38/15	Kindergarten no. 2	Country road, paved sidewalk, curb of 14 cm; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 6 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular inside, average size door, spacious, accessible surface, Contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface, threshold of 10 cm, contrasting colors in some places	Front door of 70 cm, Accessible surface, thresholds, contrasting colors in some places	
Ciuciuleni	38/16	Alexandru Donici Middle School, 2 Al. Donici Str.	Asphalted road and sidewalk, curbs of 5 cm	Lack of ramp, 7 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Inside, regular, with steps	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	
Cotul Morii	38/17	Middle School – Kindergarten	Gravel road, paved sidewalk, curbs of 20 cm, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 4 steps	Double, 60+60 cm, both must be opened, threshold of 3 cm	Regular, inside, doors of 60 cm, inside threshold of 5 cm, inaccessible	Accessible surface, Missing contrasting colors	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	
Crasnoarmeiscoe	38/18	Dimitrie Cantemir Theoretical High School, Central Str.	Broken asphalt, paved sidewalk, curbs, many steps in the yard, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 2 steps (H – 35 cm)	Two double doors, 90 and 91 cm, threshold 3 and 6 cm	Regular, inside (step of 20 cm), door – 63 cm, cabin door – 57 cm	Accessible surface, terracotta tiles, thresholds, steps, contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface, contrasting colors in some places	
Talaesti	38/19	Middle School	Asphalted road and sidewalk, curbs	Lack of ramp, 6 steps (H – 102 cm)	Double, 64+61 cm both must be opened, threshold – 6 cm	Regular, inside (cabins) and in the yard	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Double doors, 55 + 55 cm both must be opened, threshold 4 cm and slope, accessible room	
Dragusenii Noi	38/20	House of Culture	Gravel	Lack of ramp, 7 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold of 6 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Double doors, both must be opened, contrasting colors	

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Horodca	38/21	Community Center (kindergarten)	Asphalted road, gravel sidewalk, ground; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 7 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold of 5 cm	Regular, inside, average size door, with threshold, spacious	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Large doors with threshold of 5 cm, Accessible corridor, Accessible surface, Contrasting colors in some places	
Fundul Galbenei	38/22	Mayor's Office	Asphalted road and sidewalk	Lack of ramp, 29 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold of 7 cm	Regular, inside, door – 60 cm, narrow space – 1.3 m, sink at 0.85 m	Accessible corridor, Contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface; big double doors, both must be opened, Contrasting colors missing	
Ivanovca	38/23	Ksenia Evteeva Middle School	Asphalted road, gravel	Lack of ramp, 7 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold of 6 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Accessible surface; double doors, both must be opened, contrasting colors missing	
Lapusna	38/24	House of Culture	Asphalted road, paved sidewalk; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 5 steps	Double (67+41 cm), both must be opened; threshold of 6 cm	Regular, in the yard only, stairs	Inaccessible surface, Contrasting colors missing	Accessible room; Contrasting colors missing	
Lapusna	38/25	Lapusna Theoretical High School	Asphalted road, access by minibus or car; gate – 103 cm; paved sidewalk and courtyard, curb of 12 cm	Steep ramp, 8,9° L – 6 m, H – 93 cm, support bars on one side only	Double (72+48 cm), both must be opened, threshold	Regular, inside, cabins; entry – 78 cm, threshold – 4 cm, cabin door – 60 cm	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Double doors, 110 cm, threshold – 6 cm, both must be opened; Accessible room, contrasting colors	
Anini	38/26	Winery Premises	Paved road and courtyard; access by car	Lack of ramp, 3 steps	Double, 83+37cm, both must be opened when needed	Regular, in the yard. Water missing inside	Inaccessible, 3 steps at the entry, of 60 cm	Accessible surface, door – 80 cm, contrasting colors in some places	

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Rusca	38/27	House of Culture of Rusca Prison	Asphalted road, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 15 steps	Large, threshold of 14 cm	Corridor with 5 steps towards inside WC, Regular; door – 60 cm	Inaccessible, 5 steps, contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface, contrasting colors missing	
Loganesti	38/28	Middle School (administrative building), 13 Constantin Stamati Str.	Asphalted road and sidewalk, curbs; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 12 steps	Two rows of double doors, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, inside and in the yard	Accessible hall, contrasting colors in some places	Double doors inside, both must be opened, Accessible room, some contrasting colors in place	
Loganesti	38/29	Middle School (education bloc), 13 Constantin Stamati Str.	Broken ground, non-uniform concrete plates	Lack of ramp, Stairs by entry and exit doors, H – 30 cm	Door 90 cm, threshold inside –13 cm	On 2nd floor, 2 access doors of 70 cm and 60 cm, threshold – 5 cm, inside hall width – 1,05 cm	Accessible surface, threshold – 3 cm, some contrasting colors missing	Accessible surface, some contrasting colors in place	
Mereseni	38/30	Mayor's Office	Asphalt, access by car	Lack of ramp, 3 steps	Double, 60 cm x 60 cm, both must be opened, threshold – 4 cm	Regular, in the yard	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Large doors with threshold, Accessible surface, Contrasting colors missing	
Sarata-Mereseni	38/31	House of Culture	Asphalted road and sidewalk, broken in some places, curb of 20 cm; stairs and curb at entry into the yard, broken asphalt	Lack of ramp, 10 steps	Double, 60x70cm, both must be opened, if needed; two inside doors of 135 cm, threshold of 10 cm	Missing	Accessible surface, large door, contrasting colors	Accessible surface, large door, contrasting colors	
Miresti	38/32	Middle School	Asphalted door and sidewalk, paved courtyard; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 8 steps	Double, both must be opened	Regular, in the yard only, one step	Accessible hall, contrasting colors in some places	Large doors, 1 step de 15 cm, threshold – 7 cm; some contrasting colors in place	

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Nemteni	38/33	House of Culture	Asphalt, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 2 steps	Double, 90 + 25 cm, threshold of 6 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Corridor missing, Direct entry into the room	Accessible room	
Obileni	38/34	Middle School	Asphalt, pavement, accessible curbs	Steep ramp, 3 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold of 5 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors missing	Large doors, with threshold, Accessible room, steps, contrasting colors missing	
Onesti	38/35	Mayor's Office	Asphalted road and sidewalk; access by minibus or car	Steep ramp, no support bars, 4 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, inside and in the yard	Accessible hall, contrasting colors missing	Accessible room; some contrasting colors in place	
Pascani	38/36	Middle School	Gravel road, asphalted sidewalk; access by minibus or car	Steep ramp, 34° H-90 cm, L-1,50 m, paved, with support bar - 90 cm on one side	Double (67 cm + 70 cm), both must be opened, threshold of 2 cm	Regular, inside, door of 60 cm, thresholds of 8 cm, narrow space (2.6 m x 0.7m)	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Large doors (75 cm + 40 cm), with threshold of 3 cm, Accessible room; some contrasting colors in place	
Pereni	38/37	House of Culture	Asphalted road; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 20 steps	Double door, 75 cm + 75 cm, both must be opened, threshold of 7 cm	Regular, in the yard only, 2 steps	Corridor missing, Direct entry into the room	Accessible room, contrasting colors missing	
Pervomaiscoe	38/38	Middle School - Kindergarten Education Complex	Asphalted road, 17 steps in the yard; access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 3 steps, H - 49 cm	Average size doors, 73 cm, threshold of 7 cm	Regular, inside, on 2nd door and in the yard	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in place	Accessible surface, double doors, Accessible room, contrasting colors	
Secareni	38/39	House of Culture	Asphalted road, paved courtyard, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 5 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in place	Accessible surface, double doors, Accessible room, contrasting colors	

Locality	PEB	Address	Roads	Inclined surfaces and stairs	Front doors	Sanitary units	Corridors	Public service rooms	General conclusion A / PA / INA
Secarenii Noi	38/40	Mayor's Office	Asphalted road and courtyard, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, 6 steps	Double, both must be opened, threshold	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in some places	Large doors, some have thresholds; accessible surface, some contrasting colors in place	
Cornesti	38/41	House of Culture	Asphalted road, gravel and ground and grass in the yard, access by minibus	Lack of ramp, 8 steps	Double, 70*70 cm, both must be opened, 2 steps follow, threshold of 7 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors in place	Accessible surface, double doors, both must be opened, contrasting colors	
Sofia	38/42	Mayor's Office, 116 Stefan cel Mare Str.	Asphalted road, paved yard, access by minibus or car	Lack of ramp, metal rails, 2 steps	Two rows of double doors (75*75 cm, threshold of 7 cm) both must be opened	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible corridor, contrasting colors missing	Double, both must be opened, threshold, contrasting colors missing	
Stolniceni	38/43	Metropolitan Bishop Antonie Plamadeala Middle School	Gravel on the road, 2 steps at the entry gate, asphalt and pavement	Lack of ramp, One high step	Double, both must be opened	2 access steps (1 – 22 cm; 2 – 15 cm), door of 90 cm, threshold – 15 cm, door – 60 cm	Inaccessible corridor, 4 steps to the room, contrasting colors in place	Accessible room, some contrasting colors in place	
Sipoteni	38/44	House of Culture	Gravel and country road, curb; pavement and stairs in the yard	Lack of ramp, 15 steps	Double, 126 cm, both must be opened; Double doors inside, 80 + 50 cm	Regular, in the yard only	Accessible hall, contrasting colors in place	Accessible wooden surface, contrasting colors in place	

Legend: H – height, L – length

 Accessible
  Partially accessible
  Inaccessible
  Corridor missing

ANNEX 2. COMPARATIVE STUDY IN IMAGES (CHANGES MADE, CHANGE OF LOCATIONS, NEWLY ESTABLISHED PEB)

PEB 38/1, Construction College, Hincesti (2019)



Access roads to the Construction College

PEB 38/1, Construction College, Hincesti (2020)



Concrete surface, curb of about 15 cm



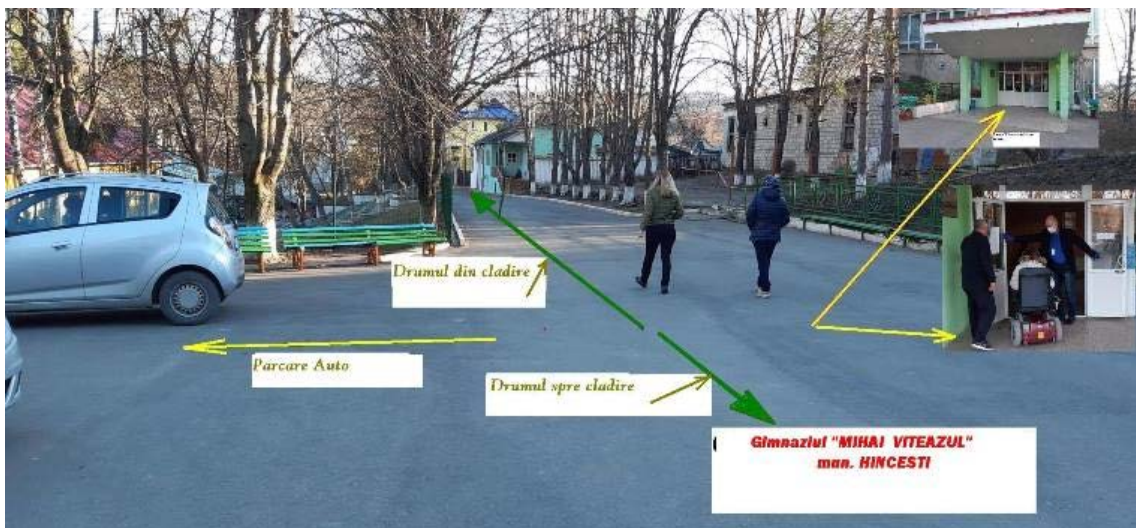
Access road and open gate

PEB 38/2, Mihai Viteazul High School, Hincesti (2019)



Broken parts of sidewalk and road, asphalted surface, lack of tactile pavement or contrasting marking

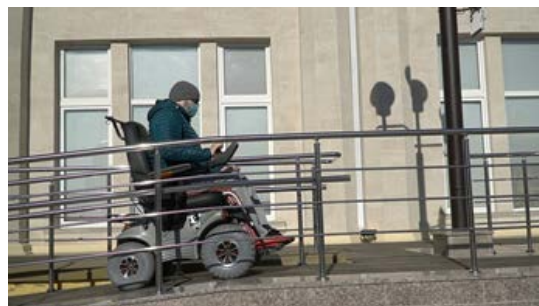
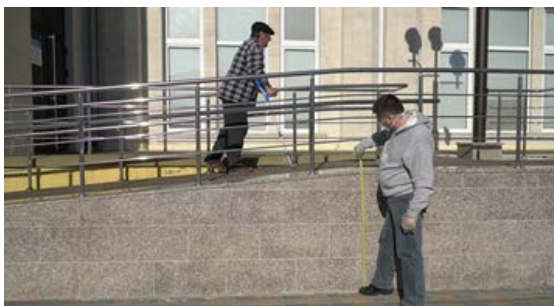
PEB 38/2, Mihai Viteazul High School, Hincesti (2020)



PEB 38/3, House of Culture, Hincesti (2019)



PEB 38/3, House of Culture, Hincesti (2020)





Derogations from standards in renovated elements* at the House of Culture:

1. Ramp inclination angle – 6.12° (H – 1.1 m, L – 10.3 m).
2. Ramp lacks a spot for resting (mandatory on ramps longer than 8 m).
3. Ramp has slippery surface (covered with granite).
4. Slippery surface problem is solved by sticking carpeting on it; however, it is not centered and is too narrow (82 cm) for big size wheelchairs (one-wheel slips and remains outside the carpeting).
5. Upper ramp surface is too small (3.03 x 1.1 m), distance between support bar and lamppost is of 92 cm, insufficient space for turning the wheelchair.
6. Threshold in front of automatically sliding doors is of 4 cm.

***Accessibility elements have been renovated at the House of Culture through a general project that costed EUR 225,500.⁶**

PEB 38/4, Vocational School, Hincesti (2019)



⁶ <https://hincesti.md/2019/10/25/renovarea-casei-de-cultura-raionale-hincesti/>

PEB 38/4, Vocational School, Hincesti (2020)



PEB 38/5, Mihai Eminescu High School, Hincesti (2019)



PEB 38/5, Mihai Eminescu High School, Hincesti (2020)



PEB 38/11, House of Culture, Bujor village



2019



2020 – Ramp improvised out of metal rails

PEB 38/35 (2019) 38/36 (2020), Pascani Middle School



2019



2020 – Support bar on steep ramp (34°)

PEB 38/42, Sofia Mayor's Office



2019



2020 - Ramp improvised out of metal rails

CHANGE OF PEB LOCATIONS

PEB 38/36 (2019), Pereni Middle School



PEB 38/37 (2020), Pereni House of Culture

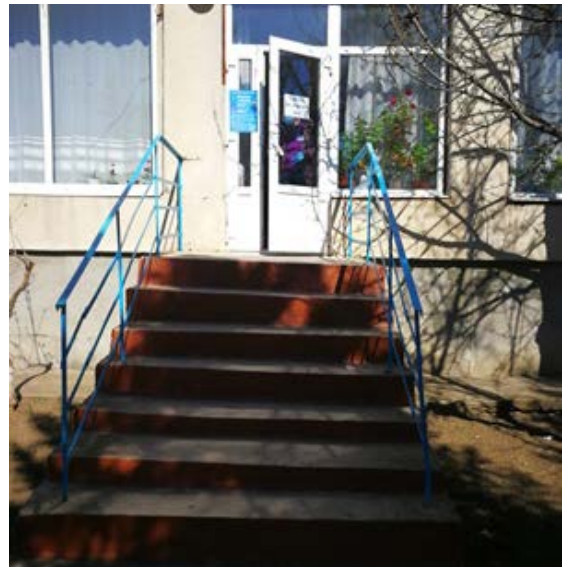




2019

2020

PEB 38/6 (2019), Balceana Middle School



2019

2020

NEWLY ESTABLISHED POLLING STATION

PEB 38/29 Loganesti Middle School (education building)



Access road, entrance to the polling station



Front door (outside and inside), corridor



Sanitary unit on 2nd floor, small space, narrow doors

ANNEX 3. QUESTIONNAIRE ON ASSESSING ACCESSIBILITY CONDITIONS IN BUILDINGS

Locality

I. Type of building

(education, medical, cultural institution, mayor’s office, state-owned or private company, commercial or production, etc. company – indicate exact name)


located at address: _____

Latitude (LAT) _____ (example: 47.082049)

Longitude (LONG): _____ (example: 29.075920)

Note: Carefully read the Instruction before filling in the questionnaire, in order to answer the questions correctly.

II. Roads


No	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
1	Is the road to the building accessible?			Road is made of _____		
2	Are there curbs at pedestrian crossings or at entry to sidewalk from carriageway?			If so, curb height is _____cm		
3	Are there access ramps at pedestrian crossings? <i>The ramp angle can be automatically calculated on data entry into the online calculator no. 2 at this address https://bit.ly/3315Abt</i>			If so, H (height) = __cm L (length) = __cm Ramp angle is of _____% 		
4	Is there tactile pavement or contrasting marking at entry from carriageway to sidewalk?					
5	Is sidewalk to the building accessible? <i>(no deteriorations, holes, gravel, steps, other obstacles)</i>			Sidewalk is made of _____		
6	Does the sidewalk have tactile pavement or contrasting markings?					

No	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
7	Is there accessible parking near the building? (3,5 m x 5 m)					
8	Is there space near the building for organizing at least one parking spot for people with disabilities? (1 parking spot = 3.5mx5m)					
9	If a parking lot is in place, is the road portion from parking to building accessible? (no deteriorations, holes, gravel, steps, other obstacles)					
10	Is there public transport available in the locality/district where the building is located?			If so, indicate the type of transport _____		
11	If public transport is available, are there public transport stations near the building?			If so, distance to station is of about _____ m		
12	If public transport is available, is the road portion from transport station to the building accessible? (no deteriorations, holes, gravel, steps, borders, inaccessible ramps, other obstacles)					
13	If public transport is available, is it accessible to people with disabilities? Type of transportation.					
14	Is there access by car or minibus up to the building entry?					

Conclusion II. Roads (check appropriate option):

1. Roads to the building and road elements are accessible
2. Roads to the building and road elements are inaccessible, but can be reasonably adapted
3. Roads to the building and road elements are inaccessible and cannot be reasonably adapted

III. Inclined surfaces and stairs

No.	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
1.	Are there stairs at entry into the building?			If so, the number of steps is _____		
2.	Are the stairs marked appropriately by contrasting and tactile elements?					
3.	Are there accessible ramps at building entry? <i>L ramp = h threshold * 10 (minimum)</i> H threshold 					
4.	Are there stairs inside the building on the floor where the public service rooms is located?			If so, the number of steps is _____		
5.	Are the inside stairs marked appropriately by contrasting and tactile elements?					
6.	If there are stairs inside the building on the floor where the room is located, are there accessible ramps or an elevator available? <i>L ramp = h threshold * 10 (minimum)</i>					
7.	If there are stairs but no accessible ramps and/or elevator, is it possible to mount a demountable ramp temporarily (mobile, wooden or metal)? <i>L ramp = h threshold * 10 (minimum)</i>					

Conclusion III. Inclined surfaces and stairs (check appropriate option):

- 1. The building does not have stairs or has accessible ramp (s) and/or an elevator
- 2. The building has stairs, does not have accessible ramp (s) and/or an elevator, but can be reasonably adapted

3. The building has stairs, does not have accessible ramp (s) and/or elevator and cannot be reasonably adapted

IV. Doors

No.	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
1.	Is building front door accessible ($l = \text{min } 90 \text{ cm}$, threshold max. 2.5 (1.4 cm each threshold part))?					
2.	Are there doors inside the building up to the public service room?					
3.	If there are inside doors to the room, are they accessible ($l = \text{min } 90 \text{ cm}$, threshold max. 2.5 (1.4 cm each threshold part))?					
4.	Are building's front and inside doors equipped/appropriately marked by contrasting signage and Braille inscriptions?					
5.	Are there turnstiles or revolving barriers at building entry?					

Conclusion IV. Doors (check appropriate option):

- Building doors are accessible
- Building doors are inaccessible but can reasonably be adapted
- Building doors are inaccessible and cannot be reasonably adapted

V. Sanitary unit (WC)

No.	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
1.	Is there a sanitary unit in the building?					
2.	If there is a sanitary unit in the building, is it accessible? (its size is: – bathroom with washbasin (sink) – 1.6×2.2 ; – bathroom without washbasin (sink) – 1.2×1.6)					

No.	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
3.	Is the sanitary unit equipped with support bars and visual orientation elements?					
4.	Is there a sanitary unit outside the building?					
5.	If there is a sanitary unit outside the building, is it accessible? (<i>necessary size is indicated in p. 2</i>)					

Conclusion V. Sanitary unit (check appropriate option):

1. Sanitary unit is accessible
2. Sanitary unit is inaccessible but can be reasonably adapted
3. There is no sanitary unit but an accessible mobile WC can be installed
4. The sanitary unit is inaccessible and cannot be reasonably adapted

VI. Corridors

No.	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/recommendations	No. photo
1.	Is/are there (a) corridor (s) to the public service room?					
2.	If there is/are a corridor (s), is it/are these accessible? (<i>width=min 1.2 m</i>)					
3.	Are the corridors appropriately marked with contrasting and tactile elements?					

Conclusion VI. Corridors (check appropriate option):

1. There is no corridor in place
2. The corridor is accessible
3. The corridor is inaccessible but can be reasonably adapted or the entry to the building can be changed to avoid the corridor
4. The corridor is inaccessible and cannot be reasonably adapted

VII. The public service rooms

No.	Question	Yes	No	Specifying questions	Comments/ recommendations	No. photo
1.	Is there an accessible public service room in the building?					
2.	If the room is not accessible (<i>thresholds, stairs, flowerpots, fixed chairs, turnstiles etc.</i>), is reasonable adaptation possible?					
3.	Are the paths in the room appropriately marked with contrasting and tactile elements?					

Conclusion VII. The public service room (check appropriate option):

1. The room is accessible.
2. The room is inaccessible but can be reasonably adapted.
3. The room is inaccessible and cannot be reasonably adapted.

EVALUATION RESULT (check appropriate option):

1. The building assessed is accessible
2. The building assessed is inaccessible but can be reasonably adapted
3. The building assessed is inaccessible and cannot be reasonably adapted

ANNEX 4. GUIDE FOR ASSESSING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS (IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR FORM OF OWNERSHIP)



I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. National legislation on accessibility: Law no. 60 of 30 March 2012 on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities⁷, chapter III – Accessibility, art. 17, provides – *State Policy on Accessibility (1) In order to ensure an independent life to persons with disabilities, the central and local public authorities, non-governmental organizations, and business operators, regardless of the form of their legal organization, depending on their functional competences, shall assess the situation in the area and take concrete measures to facilitate the access of persons with disabilities, equally to the others, to the physical environment, transportation,*

⁷ Law no. 60 of 30 March 2012 on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities <http://lex.justice.md/md/344149/>

information and the media, including information technology and electronic communications, other utilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and rural localities, in accordance with the regulations in force.

2. The national standards in constructions regulating accessibility: CoCP C. 01.02:2018⁸ and NCM C. 01.06-2014⁹:
 - a) CoCP C. 01.02:2018 “*Buildings and Constructions. General Design Provisions to Ensure Accessibility for People with Disabilities*” (hereinafter – CoCP C. 01.02:2018);
 - b) NCM C. 01.06-2014 “*General Safety Requirements for Construction Objects In Their Use and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities*” (hereinafter – NCM C. 01.06-2014).
3. Terms representing accessibility: For the purposes of this Guide, the following terms used shall mean:
 - **accessibility** – in Law no. 60 it is defined as – *a set of measures and works to adapt the physical environment, transportation as well as the information and communication environment, including information and communication technologies and systems, according to the needs of persons with disabilities, a key factor in exercising the rights and fulfilling the obligations of persons with disabilities in the society;*
 - **adaptation** – *the action of adapting the architectural and information environment necessary to make the space accessible to the needs of people with limited mobility to an already existing situation.*
 - **reasonable adaptation** – *according to the same law – the necessary and appropriate amendments and adjustments that do not require a disproportionate or unjustified effort where necessary, to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy or exercise, equally to the others, all fundamental human rights and freedoms;*
 - **universal design** – *according to the same law – the design of products, environment, programs and services so that they can be used by all people, as much as possible, without the need for an adaptation or special design. The universal design shall not exclude assistive devices for certain groups of people with disabilities when necessary;*
 - **person with disabilities** – *according to the same law – a person with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments that, in interaction with various barriers/obstacles, may hinder their full and effective participation in the life of the society equally to the others.*
 - **persons with limited mobility (PLM)** – *according to NCM C. 01.06-2014 – persons who encounter difficulties in individual movement, obtaining service, necessary information or orientation in space. This category includes: people with disabilities, people with temporary health conditions, the elderly, people with visual and hearing impairments, pregnant women, including users of strollers etc.;*

⁸ CP C. 01.02:2018 – Buildings and constructions. General design provisions by ensuring the accessibility for people with disabilities.

⁹ NCM C. 01.06-2014 – General Security Requirements for Construction Objects in their Use and Accessibility for People with Disabilities

- **wheelchair** – one of the orthopedic equipment commonly used to improve mobility, allowing people with permanent or temporary locomotor disability, the elderly, to participate in daily activities, to access a normal social life. The wheelchair can be used inside or outside the home, can be driven by the user or assisted by a companion, on flat or slightly rugged terrain, on moderate slopes, in dry or wet weather, at low or high temperatures.
- **information in accessible format** – information printed in Braille, in audio format, printed in a large font, presented verbally or in writing in an easy-to-read and understand language, accompanied by images, pictograms or presented in sign language;
- **relevant and/or contrasting markings** – warning, targeting, information markings used to prevent, direct or inform visually impaired persons, applied on vertical and horizontal surfaces, both inside and outside buildings, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, etc.
- **visual contrast** – a difference in visual properties that makes an object stand out against another object or from the background.
- **tactile-visual warning surfaces** – means of displaying information, represented by a relief strip with a determined design and color, which allows visually impaired people to orient themselves in space by touching with their feet, cane or using the remaining sight. These are distinguished by types: for the road, floors, as well as warning and guidance.
- **visual means of information** – carriers of information for the visually impaired or those with hearing and speech disabilities, which is rendered in the form of texts, signs, symbols, or visually distinctive light signals.
- **free movement** – horizontal or vertical path, without steps, properly sized, which is provided with the necessary equipment to allow the movement of people with limited mobility without barriers of any kind.
- **door light** – the completely free size, used for passage, when the door is open. The light of the door depends on the size and positioning of the door leaf and its frame.
- **maneuvering surface** – the projection at floor level of the space necessary to perform return maneuvers by the person using a wheelchair.
- **inclined curb** – a construction at the sidewalk level intended for descending/ ascending from it on the road.
- **access ramp** – construction incorporated in stairs or over any other obstacle for the passage and movement of persons with limited mobility.
- **sign language translator** – shall be called “interpreter of sign language” – a specialist who uses interpretation techniques between people who use sign language and those who use spoken language, to ensure complete and accurate information both for people with hearing and deafblindness as well as for the hearing ones.
- **public building** – any building/space/room, regardless of the form of ownership, intended for the provision of services to the general public: health, social, education, trade, food or entertainment services.

- **evaluation commission** – the commission composed of representatives of: public authorities, the owner of the building, civil society organizations representing the interests of people with disabilities.
4. In assessing the accessibility of buildings for the organization of public services, the Evaluation Commission shall apply a set of tools and a specific questionnaire.
 5. The tools used include (drawing 15):
 - A roulette or a metal ruler 1 m long;
 - A protractor;
 - A level with 2 stable air bubbles or a level with 3 bubbles of which 1 adjustable bubble 0 ° – 90 ° and 0% – 45%;
 - One camera;
 - One evaluation questionnaire of A4 format for each building subject to evaluation;
 - One pen for filing in the questionnaire.
 6. The evaluation questionnaire contains questions on the accessibility of exterior and interior spaces of the building proposed for or where public services are already provided.
 7. The exterior spaces of the building refer to roads and their integral parts, including curbs at pedestrian crossings or sidewalk entries from the carriageway, parking spaces, signs and markings.
 8. The interior spaces of the building refer to such elements as doors and passages through doorways, halls, stairs, slopes, sanitary units (WC), the room (s) in which public services are/will be provided.
 9. In order to complete the evaluation questionnaire, the Evaluation Commission members shall make the measurements and record the results in the fields allocated to each element subject to evaluation.
 10. Measurements are made using a roulette, a protractor and an air bubble level.
 11. The roulette is used to measure the width, length and height of the elements subject to evaluation as well as the distances between the elements, as appropriate. In the absence of a roulette, a 1 meter metal ruler could be used as a measuring tool.
 12. The protractor and the bubble level are used to measure the angle of inclination of the surfaces to the horizontal plane, especially of ramps and access slopes to the building as well as of bumpy surfaces.
 13. For the 2-bubble level – the protractor is placed with its base on an inclined slope, one end of the air-bubble level is placed at the protractor's zero point, and the other end is raised or lowered until the horizontal air bubble takes the position in the middle of the tube.
 14. The angle of inclination is the angle formed on the surface of the protractor at the point through which the lower side of the air bubble level passes.
 15. For the 3-bubble level – the level is placed with its base on the surface whose angle of inclination is measured, the adjustable bubble is rotated until the air bubble is positioned in the middle of the tube, and the figures next to the indicator will show the existing angle of inclination in percentages or degrees).

16. The element to be assessed is considered accessible if it meets the characteristics and parameters set out in the following chapters of this Instruction.
17. If the element to be evaluated does not exist, for the questions starting with “If” in the questionnaire, the evaluator shall mark “N/A” i.e. non-applicable in the “Comments/recommendations” column. For example, if there is no public transportation in the locality, the evaluator in question 9 shall check the box “No” and shall mark “N/A” for questions 10, 11 and 12 in the “Comments/recommendations” column.
18. For the inaccessible elements or obstacles, they shall be photographed, the photograph shall be attached to the building assessment questionnaire and submitted to the local public authority or the building/room manager, when reasonable accommodation measures are requested, as appropriate.
19. Each photograph shall have a number that matches the number of the element evaluated, in the order established in the evaluation questionnaire.

II. ROADS

20. Access roads – in the absence of sidewalks – to the public service location are considered **accessible** if they allow the autonomous movement of people using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.), as well as the autonomous movement of persons with visual impairments.
21. The accessibility of roads is determined by the materials with which their road surface is covered (asphalt, concrete, gravel, ground, pavement) as well as by the degree of surface damage (holes, bumps, cracks). Accessibility is also determined by the presence or lack of tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for people with visual impairments.
22. Roads covered with asphalt or concrete and that allow the autonomous movement of people using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.) are considered partially accessible in the absence of holes, bumps, large cracks in the asphalt or concrete surface.
23. Roads covered with gravel or sand/primer do not allow the autonomous movement of people using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.) and are considered inaccessible.
24. Unpaved and unasphalted roads (country roads) allow the autonomous movement of persons using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.) only if the surface is straight, dry, hard and not sandy.
25. Roads that do not have tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for people with visual impairments but have the ability to travel for people with reduced mobility are considered partially accessible.
26. The curbs at pedestrian crossings or entries from the carriageway shall be considered accessible if their height does not exceed 2 cm or, if they are higher than 2 cm, they have an access ramp with an angle of inclination not exceeding 8% or 5°, and have tactile guidance pavement installed for people with visual impairments (*see drawing 1*).
27. Entries to pedestrian crossings or from the carriageway to the sidewalk are considered accessible for the visually impaired if they have tactile pavement and/or contrasting color markings. The tactile pavement is a strip with textured surface, with specific unevenness, which can be felt with the foot, the cane or the wheelchair

and which has the role of guiding and warning people with visual impairments while traveling (*see drawing 2*).

- 28.** Sidewalks, similar to the criteria for determining road accessibility, shall be considered accessible or inaccessible depending on the materials with which their surface is covered, as well as the degree of surface deterioration, including if it is equipped with tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for the persons with visual impairments.
- 29.** A paved sidewalk is considered accessible if it does not have bumps or thresholds larger than 2 cm.
- 30.** Parking lots are considered accessible if they have properly marked and signposted places for people with disabilities (*white wheelchair user symbol on a dark blue background*) (*see drawing 3*).
- 31.** If the premises have a parking lot with more than 5 spots, at least one parking spot must be properly marked and signposted for people with disabilities.
- 32.** If there are no specially arranged parking spaces, the building owner shall offer and reasonably adapt at least one parking spot or space for people with disabilities near the building intended for public services (Law no. 60, art. 20, pt. 6). This adaptation is considered accessible if the surface is covered with asphalt, concrete or cement, is not uneven or damaged and allows maneuvering space for a wheelchair. The parking space must comply with the standards indicated in CoCP C. 01.02: 2018 pag. 45 (*see drawing 4*).
- 33.** The road section from the parking lot to the building is considered accessible if it is less than 500 m, has no bumps, holes, has an asphalt, concrete, cement or hard ground surface and no obstacles that would prevent the independent movement of people using a wheelchair or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.), including is equipped with tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for the visually impaired.
- 34.** If public transport moves within the territorial area of the public service building, the distance from the station to the building entrance shall not exceed 500 m. Distances greater than 500 m shall be considered inaccessible.
- 35.** If public transport moves within the territorial area of the building intended for the public service, it is considered accessible if it has transport units adapted for people with disabilities (the transport unit has a sliding micro-lift that allows wheelchairs to go up, has an electronic display and stations are announced by sound).
- 36.** The road section from the public transport station to the building is considered accessible if it is less than 500 m, has no bumps, holes, has an asphalt, concrete, cement or hard ground surface and there are no obstacles that would prevent the autonomous movement of people using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.), is equipped with tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for the visually impaired.

III. INCLINED SURFACES AND STAIRS (RAMPS, ACCESS SLOPES, UNEVENNESS INSIDE AND/OR OUTSIDE THE BUILDING)

- 37.** The building that has stairs at the entrance or inside and does not have accessible ramps and/or an elevator is considered inaccessible.
- 38.** The stairs at the entrance must be equipped with tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for the visually impaired (*see drawing 5*).
- 39.** The ramp built at the entrance to the building or inside the building is considered accessible if it cumulatively meets the following conditions (*see drawing 6*):
- 1) angle of inclination does not exceed 8% or 5°;
 - 2) width is of 0.9 m – 1 m, so that it allows wheelchair maneuvering;
 - 3) has support bars installed on both parts at a height of 70 cm and 90 cm, accordingly;
 - 4) the surface is non-slip (does not allow slipping);
 - 5) a rest area is located at each 4m of length.
- 40.** Constructions made of two metal rails welded in parallel and installed on stairs **do not constitute** access roads and present an increased risk of injury for persons using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.). These constructions are considered inaccessible even if they have appropriate width and angle of inclination (*see drawing 7*).
- 41.** In order to reasonably accommodate and make accessible a public service building that has stairs or different levels and lacks an accessible ramp or slope, removable access ramps may be used temporarily – if they cumulatively meet the following conditions:
- 1) are installed correctly, so that to maintain their stability;
 - 2) the angle of inclination at which they are mounted does not exceed 8% or 5°;
 - 3) are accompanied by support bars on both sides at a height of 70 cm and 90 cm accordingly (*see drawing 6*).
- 42.** Removable access ramps, installed incorrectly or not checked after certain periods of use to prevent dislocation, present an increased risk of injury to persons using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.), and are considered inaccessible.

IV. DOORS

- 43.** Entrance doors and doors inside the building are considered accessible if they cumulatively meet the following conditions (*see drawings 8-9*):
- 1) the minimum width of the passage through the door opening is at least 90 cm, including for double doors;
 - 2) have no thresholds higher than 2.5 cm (the height of each element of the threshold shall not exceed 14 mm) or have accessible passages over the thresholds with an angle of inclination not exceeding 8% or 5°;
 - 3) in front of the door there is a platform of at least 1.20 m x 1.20 m or enough space to ensure wheelchair maneuverability;
 - 4) have simple actuation systems and without risk of blocking (sensors, easy to open handles);

5) show contrasting marking and Braille inscriptions (*see drawing 10*).

44. The passage distance through the door opening shall be measured when the door is open at 90°. For double doors, the width shall be measured with both doors open and the opening between both doors shall not be less than 90 cm.

45. Turnstiles or other revolving barriers at the entrance to the building are inaccessible entrances. In order to reasonably accommodate and make the entrance accessible, turnstiles and other revolving barriers should be dismantled and a secure passage/entrance should be ensured by using modern electronic equipment.

V. SANITARY UNITS (WC)

46. The building's sanitary unit is considered accessible if it cumulatively meets the following conditions (*see drawings 11-12*):

- 1) the door opens outside;
- 2) WC cabin size on plane has at least 1.65 m x 1.8 m;
- 3) next to the toilet bowl, there is maneuvering space for a wheelchair with a radius of 1.5 m as well as hooks for hanging clothes, crutches and other objects;
- 4) the sink is located at a maximum height of 0.8 m from the floor and at a distance of 0.2 m from the side wall;
- 5) the lower part of the mirror, the devices for drying hands, for hooks and for wiping or paper are located at a maximum height of 0.9 m from the floor.
- 6) Walls are equipped with support bars.

V. Corridors

47. Travel corridors (if any) are considered accessible if they cumulatively meet the following conditions (according to CoCP C. 01.02: 2018 pages 46-49) (*see drawings 13-14*):

- 1) have the width of 1.5 m;
- 2) are lit;
- 3) have non-slip floor (does not allow slipping) and no unevenness;
- 4) they have directing strips of 20 cm of contrasting colors placed on the wall or on the floor, made of materials that are different in appearance and sound from the surface on which they are placed;
- 5) entrance/exit doors, including to/from offices/corridors, are marked with contrasting colors and have information boards in Braille and print formats;
- 6) the floor surface is equipped with tactile and contrasting visual orientation elements for people with visual impairments.

VI. Room Where A Public Service Is Provided

48. The public service room shall be considered accessible if it cumulatively meets the following conditions:

- 1) the space left behind by the placement of furniture and equipment must allow the free movement of persons using wheelchairs or other auxiliary equipment (walking frames, crutches, etc.);

- 2) in front of the areas where visitors are served, there must remain space with a diameter of at least 1.5 m necessary for the maneuvering a wheelchair or other auxiliary equipment;
- 3) has a non-slip floor (does not allow slipping) and no unevenness, and is equipped with tactile and contrasting visual guidance elements for the visually impaired people.

