

# European Centre for Cultural Accessibility

ACTING for equal opportunity and non-discrimination

“States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures (...).”

Article 30 – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ON, 2006

André Fertier, General Secretary of the European center for cultural accessibility

Individuals and peoples express their unique identities in art and culture.

This great wealth of diversity nurtures and preserves the very idea of humanity and of civilisation.

This publication is also available in accessible formats on request (Braille, large print, audio, Easy Read).



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## **The concept of cultural accessibility**

The right of access to culture is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 27, 1948) and in the United Nations on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 30, 2006).

Cultural accessibility is the conceptual tool for implementing this right, avoiding the perpetuation and creation of discriminations, as well as physical, sensory, mental, psychological, cognitive, social, financial and cultural barriers.

Cultural accessibility covers access to media, works of art, cultural heritage, digital content, as well as arts and cultural practices, amateur and professional.

The concept applies to cultural venues and all outreach work, including places in which people with a disability live.

Its implementation requires policies and action plans which dynamically and collaboratively involve all local stakeholders.

The concept of cultural accessibility generates research, knowledge, skills and new professions in the cultural sector.

## Who we are

### **The European Centre for Cultural Accessibility, ECCA, is a platform...**

Initiated and created by Cemaforre, it was unanimously adopted by the Regional Consultative Council of Citizens with a Disability of the Île-de-France Region, with the support of the French Ministry of culture, the Regional Council of Île-de-France and the City of Paris.

### **... is of benefits to**

European and international institutions and organisations, government and local authorities, cultural organisations, health and social care sectors, as well as user organisations...

## Initiatives

Promotes concepts, policies and legislation develops know-how at national, European and international level

## Organisation

### **Ethics and scientific council**

Multidisciplinary group of European experts

### **General Secretariat**

Cemaforre, with associated partners

With the involvement of people with a disability, in accordance with the principle "Nothing for us without us!"

## **Actions**

### **Training**

Development of training and e-learning modules in partnership with institutions of Higher Education

### **Publishing**

Publication and distribution of the Memorandum on cultural accessibility and Memorandum on visually impaired people and dance, in French and English

### **Research**

Coordination of research programmes about :

- processes of discrimination in cultural accessibility
- the accessibility of arts and cultural practices for :
  - visually impaired people,
  - people with autism,
  - people with Alzheimer
- access to museums : feasibility study for the development of an international network
- creation of documents contributing to the United Nation's work regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the development of the European legislative act on the accessibility.

### **Network**

Collaboration with networks and groups of cultural, health and social care sector bodies and organisations, local authorities and disability organisations

### **Events and seminars**

Participation in European conferences, seminars and events

## **First bilingual website on cultural accessibility**

[www.culturalaccessibility.org](http://www.culturalaccessibility.org)

Launched 11 February 2011

### **Topics** (in French and English)

- National, European and International concepts, legislation, policies and frameworks
- European « art culture and disability » programmes and projects
- European and international networks
- Resources : evaluation tools, good practice guidance, factsheets, DVDs
- Publications : surveys and reports, conference proceedings
- European and international events
- News : Up-dates



## **Ethics and Scientific council**

The ethics and scientific council leads on the development of the strategic directions of the Centre. It examines processes, actions and policies likely to be a source of discrimination in cultural accessibility and make recommendations for change.

### **Marie-Christine Lemardeley**

President of Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 University.

### **Dr Peter Radtke**

Actor, author, member of the National Ethics Council of Germany, director of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Behinderung und Medien (ABM).

### **Françoise Regnard**

Director of the Île-de-France Music Teacher Training Center (CeFEdeM).

### **Ryadh Sallem**

Three times European wheelchair basketball champion, President of CQFD, Cap Sport Art Aventure Amitié (Capsaaa), Regional Committee of le-de-France Adapted Sport.

### **Anne-Marie Sandrini**

Honorary dance inspector, City of Paris, President of 'La Possible échappée' ("The possible evasion").

### **Didier Sicard**

Honorary President of the National Ethics Advisory Committee (France) , Professor Emeritus of medicine at Paris Descartes University.

### **Marcus Weisen**

International expert on cultural accessibility, Disability Adviser for Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, England, (2002-2007).

## **General secretariat**

### **Cemaforre, French national resource centre for cultural accessibility.**

Cemaforre, an NGO, works for the public interest. Cemaforre, an expert in cultural development, has unique expertise in supporting and advising NGOs, cultural, medical and social sector organisations and establishments, local authorities and government, and internationally active.

While presidency Eucra International, Cemaforre initiated the European Declaration on Art, Culture, Media and Disability, adopted by the European Disability Forum. It contributed to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers for Education, Youth and Culture of the European Union on cultural accessibility for people with disabilities (2003).

### **Projects**

Information : first web portal on cultural accessibility, practical guidance

Access audits of a diverse range of cultural venues

Surveys and reports about levels of cultural accessibility

Training programmes for the cultural, health and social care sector organisations

Technical support for networking within frameworks and programmes facilitating local collaboration between stakeholders



# European Centre for Cultural Accessibility

Tel. 00 33 (0)1 47 97 87 26

[contact@culturalaccessibility.org](mailto:contact@culturalaccessibility.org)

[www.culturalaccessibility.org](http://www.culturalaccessibility.org)

## **Cemaforre**

115, rue de Ménilmontant

F-75020 Paris

[www.cemaforre.asso.fr](http://www.cemaforre.asso.fr)