

ACCESSIBILITY
FOR PEOPLE
WITH
DISABILITIES



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Workshop
ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

BELGRADE 2009

Suport

accessible space program



Public Art & Public space program



My little table



NGO The Inclusive Society Development Center



School for the visually impaired pupils children
Veljko Ramadanovi

Школа за ученике оштећеног вида
Вељко Рамадановић

Handicap International



Workshop

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On the initiative and with the help of Sweden Embassy in Belgrade, and with the help from the Secretary of Education of the City of Belgrade, European Center for Culture and Debate “Grad”, program “Public Art & Public Space”, program “Moj Sto i ” and the others; along with the participation of eminent experts from Sweden and Serbia, Faculty of Architecture University of Belgrade is organizing the workshop “Accessibility for people with disabilities” – “Accessibility of the architectural spaces for the people with developmental disabilities”.

Accessibility for all = Creativity + Politics

The last event of the Sustainability Conference in Belgrade, was a workshop at the Faculty of Architecture. It was held in the afternoon and evening of Friday 27 November, 2009. A lot of students of architecture had gathered.

Our hosts were professor **Zoran Djukanovi** and his assistant **Goran Radulovi** (who took all the photos.) The main speaker was **Fredrik Stockhaus** from Handicap International. Other speakers were **Vesna Bogdanovi** and **Saša Bogdanovi** from the NGO The Inclusive Society Development Center, CRID, and **Miodrag Jankovi** and **Dalibor Šipka** from the Veljko Ramadanovic School for the visually impaired pupils children in Zemun/Belgrade and **Dragana Ognjenovi** from the project Moj Stocic (My little table).



CREATIVITY

Gunnel Bergström was the initiator and the leader of this workshop. She is a freelance journalist and also teaches Swedish at the universities in Riga, Latvia, and Kaliningrad, Russia. She told about her own godson Mikael who got a brain damage through an infection, when he was 6 months old. She also shared her experience from being a supportive member of Forum Women and Disability in Sweden, FQ, which brings together women with all kinds of disabilities, like hearing disabilities, visual impairments, mental disabilities (e.g. panic syndrom), physical disabilities, eating disorders, allergy and asthma (try breathing through a straw!), etc.

www.kvinnor-funktionshinder.se



Breathe through a straw

FQ has been very active in organizing creative courses (Kulturkällan – Source of Culture) at the Långholmen Folk high school in Stockholm, that were open for women with and without disabilities. In these courses, the participants find their inner creativity during classes in poetry writing, painting and drawing, singing, sculpture etc. The main goal of the course was to create and perform a theatre play. The participants heard about this, already on their first day in September: The teachers said: “You will perform a play in May.” The participants shouted ”NO WAY you will get me up on stage”. But when May came, they performed the play. They were on stage. They made it! Everything is possible! This folk high school still gives similar courses every year for women with disabilities. These courses are called Frida (after the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, who got injured in a traffic accident). www.langholmens.fhsk.se.

FQ also cooperates a lot with other organisations, for instance with a Danish organisation called Danske kvinder med handicap, who for instance have worked a lot with theatre and in small sketches show how little we know about different disabilities (even if we have our own disability), and how much knowledge and communication we need to come over all kinds of prejudice. The Danish organisation also tries to ban the international handicap sign, where a person in a wheelchair is neither man, nor woman.

www.netpatient.dk/danskkvindehandi.htm



**The international sign for disability is a person in a wheelchair.
It has no identity – neither as a man, nor as a woman.**

POLITICS

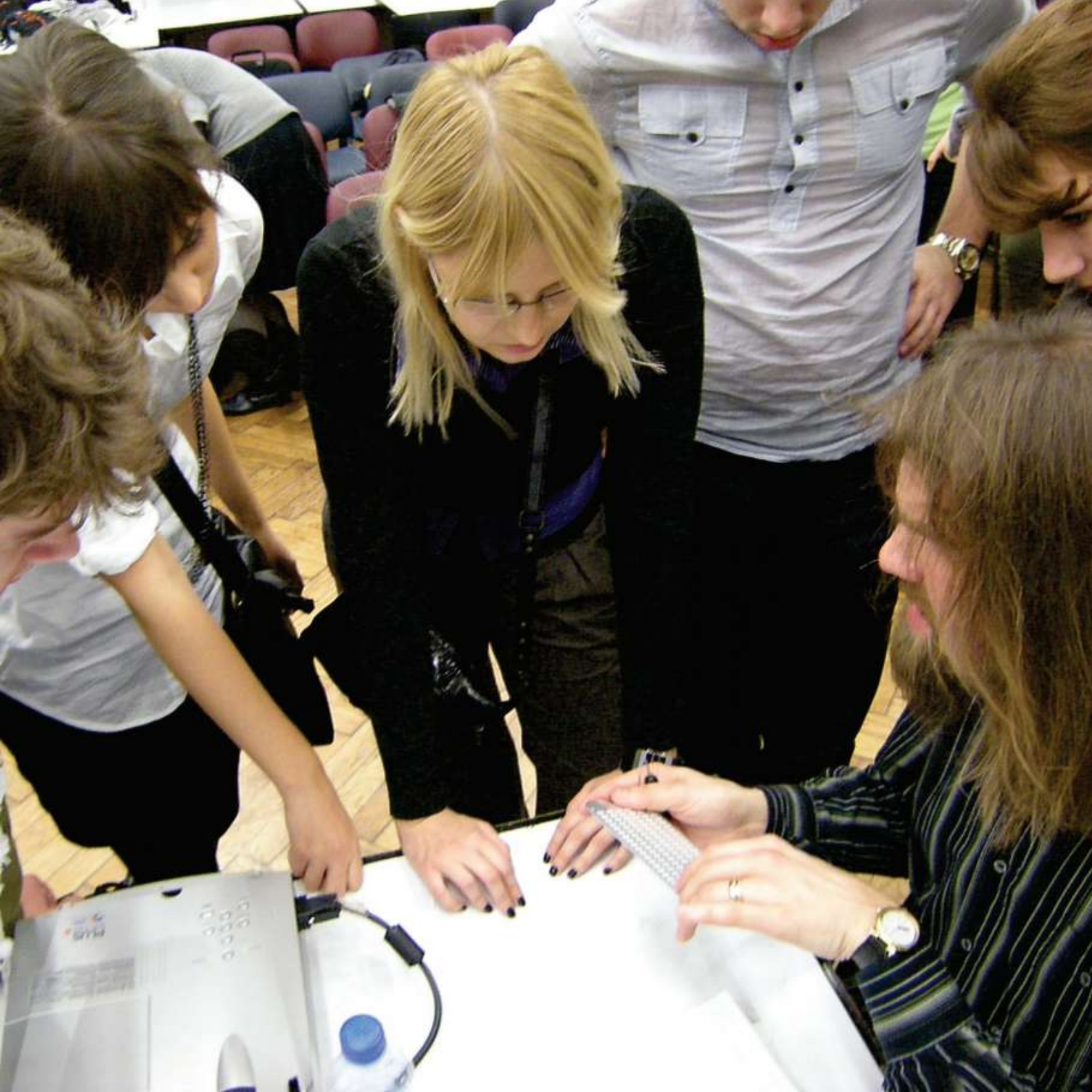
Fredrik Stockhaus is also from Sweden. He has been living in Belgrade since 2007. He is a Regional Program Coordinator, working with advocacy and support to DPOs (Disabled People's Organization) for Handicap International South Eastern Europe). Fredrik Stockhaus told the audience about his work with local disability action plans in 24 municipalities in four countries in the Balkans. The countries involved are Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro.



Local disability actions plans

The local disability action plans, LDAP, are based on the UN Standard Rules for Equalisation of Opportunities for People with Disabilities that came into force in 1993 and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, which came into force on May 3, 2008. The Convention aims to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights on an equal basis with others.

In this project the UN Standard Rules together with a method developed in Sweden that is called the Agenda 22 have been used as tools to create the LDAPs. The main player has been the local movement of people with disabilities in the 24 municipalities. They have got training on advocacy tools, how to create an LDAP, what should be included in this document, how to use the Agenda 22 and international documents on disability policy, how to use the media as a partner in promotion etc. As a result DPOs around the region have been capable to lobby for the establishment of LDAPs. Until the end of 2009 the estimation is that about 20 municipalities will have an LDAP as a result of the project. The LDAP defines how the municipality should work on the mainstreaming of disability into local policy.



A policy is needed

Fredrik Stockhaus pointed to the clear link between accessibility and policy. Without a policy that defines how you have to work it will be impossible to achieve accessibility. You need to know how the situation looks like and you need to set up very concrete and measurable aims in order to be able to follow the development. The LDAP might for example state that all schools in the municipality need to be accessible until for example 2013.

Then you first of all need to see how the situation is like now, what needs to be done in order to improve it, where should we start working and why, who should be involved, what will the budget be, who will monitor the development, and how should we evaluate the results afterwards? The LDAP requires active citizens, DPOs, politicians and officials. It requires that disability is seen as a Human Rights issue. Accessibility is a question of Human Rights since it is the precondition for the free movement of large groups in society, and the full participation of all citizens in society requires full accessibility. www.un.org/disabilities



DESIGN FOR ALL

Saša Bogdanovi showed some slides on Design for all. Good design enables, Bad design disables. Who is normal – where some of his headlines.

Miodrag Jankovi talked about the Veljko Ramadanovic School for Blind and Visually Impaired Children in Zemun/Belgrade.

Dalibor Šipka, from the same school showed some of the assistive technology and computer adaptations such as synthetic speech software and magnification software used by people are visually impaired.



DEFINING ACCESSIBILITY

The students started small discussions in "bee hives" (two and two) to answer some questions about accessibility: What? Why? How?

Some of the disabilities the students came to think of were: deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visual impairment, physical disabilities, mental disabilities (and Fredrik asked if there could be two kinds – intellectual and psychosocial disabilities? Respiratory diseases like asthma and allergy, eating disorders (you may have very disobedient stomachs and intestines, and need to find a toilet within a second. This disability is not visible, and you get a lot of suspicion from people at your work, if you are too tired one day to come, and the other day are looking perfectly fine.)) [I think these last sentences need to be clarified in order for an outside reader to understand]

One important conclusion was, that architecture needs a graduation system for accessibility, just like hotels. The goal would be to achieve * * * * * **FIVE stars.**



TERMINOLOGY

What terms do we use, what do they mean?

Invalid – is it a person who is not valid?

Vesna Bogdanovi started a brainstorming and a discussion about terminology. The students came up with a lot of ideas about the terms handicap, invalid, cripple, person with special needs, the handicapped, those disabled ones, mentally retarded, bound to a wheelchair, bound to the bed... Here it needs to be further developed in order for it to be clear. Why is the terminology important? What difference does it actually make?



GOOD DESIGN
ENABLER
GOOD DESIGN
ENABLER

Perkins Braille

CITIZEN INITIATIVES

Dragana Ognjenovi
made a small presentation
about the project Moj sto i
(My little table), where
children design cards, make
animals and other forms of
handicraft.

GOOD DESIGN
ENABLES
BAD DESIGN
DISABLES



ACCESSIBILITY CHECK

The last but maybe most important part of the program was the students' work in groups. They could borrow theater masks when they set off for checking the accessibility of the Faculty building. Their equipment: a wheelchair, blind folds and white canes, ear plugs etc. And common sense.



In their presentations, they summarized what they have discovered, for instance slippery floors, very steep wheelchair ramps and some parts of the faculty that are not at all accessible for persons in wheelchairs. If you are blind, you may bump in to the sculptures Dobrovi and Zlokovi (Good and Bad) and hit your head. There were also comments on lights, narrow passages, elevators etc.

PROSTORJE

WC

1. NEMA TAKTILNIH NAZNAKA
2. OGRANIČENO KRETANJE KOLICIMA (LAVABO)
3. VRATIZ UDARAVU I ZATVRAVANJE SE

1. NEMA PROGRAMA I SOFTVERA ZA GRAĐANE SA INVALIDITETOM

1. NIŠTA ZA OGRANIČEN VID

1. POTEŠKOĆE ZA OGRANIČEN SLUH I VID
2. KOLICA - DOSTUPNOST

You could also see that these students have deep skills on architecture, as their presentations were pretty direct and concrete in terms of necessary architectonical changes and adaptations. Gunnel Bergström gave their work *** and said:**

"You are all Dobrovi !"



DECEMBER 3, 2009

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Zoran Djukanovi wrote the following words after our workshop, on 3 December

Today is the International Day of People with Disability.

I have a dream...

I have a dream that one day it will not be necessary to point out this kind of day.

We cannot walk alone...

Wantonness is the biggest handicap.

Think about that.

Djuka

Danas je Medjunarodni dan osoba sa invaliditetom.

Sanjam...

Sanjam dan kada vise necemo imati potrebe da obelezavamo ovaj dan.

Mi nismo sami...

Bezobzirnost je najveći hendikep.

Mislite o tome.

Djuka

see also/videti takodje: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=109>



HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

Handicap International is a non-governmental organization created in 1982 to provide help in refugee camps in Cambodia and Thailand. Based in Belgium and France, it has since opened branches in six other countries : Switzerland, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada and the United States. It is an independent, non-profit organization which aims to help persons with disability.

Handicap International is one of the 6 founding members of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. Since February 2005, the organization has also been calling for a ban on cluster munitions and conducted research documenting the human impact of the weapon.



Handicap International South-East Europe

Although South-East Europe is on the way of progress and stabilization with the perspective to integrate the European Union, Handicap International continue its involvement in this region, where it currently runs Mine Action and Disability projects. Under one Regional Program, our team is continuing its action to decrease the risk and impact of Landmines and cluster munitions on civilian populations in close cooperation with local partners and authorities. Handicap International is also working with local partners to ensure that People with Disabilities and People Living with HIV/AIDS fully enjoy their Rights and have access to cost-effective and quality social and medical services. Almost 250,000 people were killed during the Balkans wars of the early Nineties, three million were displaced from their homes, hundreds of thousands were wounded, and 10,000 were victims of mines, with more than 1,500 sq. km of land estimated to be polluted with mines and unexploded ordinances in the region.

www.hi-see.org

SHIA

Solidarity, Human Rights, Inclusion and Accessibility

In February 2010, Fredrik Stockhaus will return to his other job at SHIA in Stockholm. SHIA stands for Solidarity, Human Rights, Inclusion and Accessibility. It's Swedish Organisations' of Persons with Disabilities International Aid Association - a non-governmental, non-profit organisation with 28 members - Swedish organisations of persons with disabilities - actively involved in global development co-operation. SHIA's main objective is to eradicate poverty and strengthen the human rights for persons with disabilities through development co-operation.

www.shia.se

DIFFERENT NEEDS

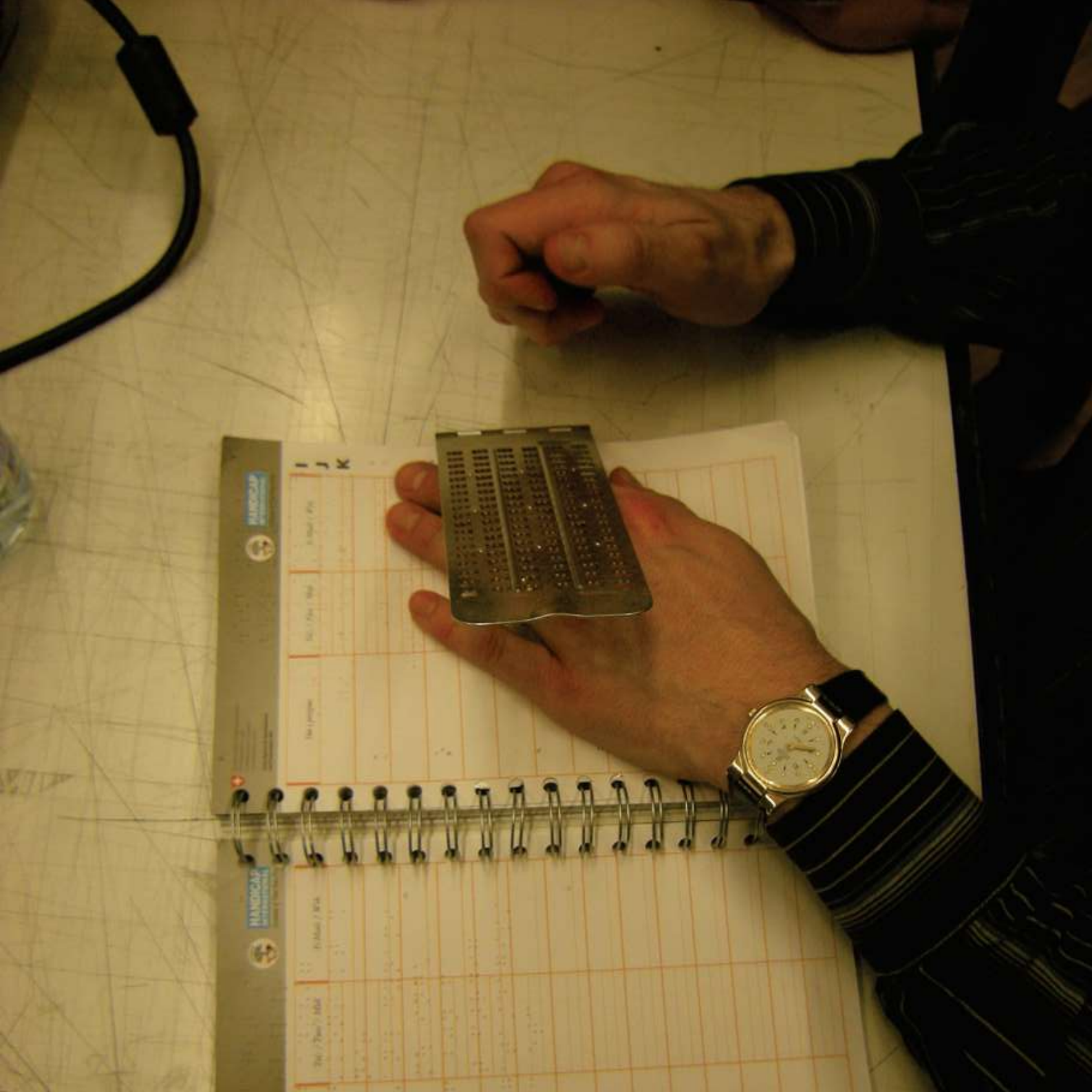
People have different needs. For instance, if you can't walk, you might need a wheelchair, a cane or a walker.



If you are deaf and want to communicate with hearing people, you probably need a sign language interpreter. If you are hard of hearing, you will need a teleloop in a classroom, during a conference or lecture. If you are blind, you need the literature to be available in braille, via computer and/or recorded. If you are visually impaired, you need different kinds of glasses. And a xxxx to take notes.

As we grow older, we realize more and more about our needs for accessibility for all. Young planners and architects, keep this mind and in your backbone, already when you start designing a house, a flat, an official building, a park etc. And safe elevators.

And we always need each other!



ISAAC – a GPS tool for differently abled people

"Isaac" was named after Isaac Newton. It's a personal electronic assistant for people with cognitive dysfunction. It is being developed at CERTEC (the Center of Rehabilitation Engineering at Lund's Institute of Technology, Sweden) by Bodil Jönsson in collaboration with Lars Philipson, professor in computer technology and director of the technological development phase of "Isaac". It uses far more advanced technology than can be found in today's multinational, corporate executive's attaché case. Still the idea of a personal electronic assistant is no more far-fetched than giving electric wheelchairs to people with physical disabilities.

Isaac consists of a pocket computer combined with a digital camera, a GPS-receiver and telephones for calls and computer communication. The screen has distinct symbol and you can point on them with your finger. Isaac (named after Isaac Newton). If you don't know where you are – take a picture and send to somebody – is this the library? Is this salt or sugar?

Contact person for the Isaac-project is Arne Svensk

tel +46 46 10 46 94

arne.svensk@certec.lth.se

http://www.arkiv.certec.lth.se/isaac/isaac2_2_bassyst.html



THE SWEDISH EQUALITY OMBUDSMAN

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” it says in the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Sweden used to have four separate ombudsmen – for Equal Opportunities, against Ethnic Discrimination, the Disability Ombudsman and an Ombudsman against Discriminations on grounds of Sexual Orientation. In January 2009, these four were merged into a new body: The Equality Ombudsman (DO) is a government agency that works against discrimination and for equal rights and opportunities for everyone.

In Sweden, you can turn to a single authority regardless of the reason why you have been discriminated against. You may also have been discriminated against for several reasons, for example because you are a woman from Iraq with a hearing disability, or because you are a young homosexual man with dyslexia.

On 1 January 2009 a new comprehensive Discrimination Act, which covers more areas than before, came into force. The Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, trans-gender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

www.do.se/Other-languages/English/The-Equality-Ombudsman--a-united-force-for-human-rights-

Tijana Ilić Milan Kalapiš Darko Cvetković
Iskra Đurić Milan Janković Petar Tufegdžić
Zorica Medo Ljiljana Kocić Dušan Trifunović
Aleksandra Kostić Milkica Ljubojević
Nataša Drašković Milica Vujović Marija Golubović Zorica Malešević
Darko Cvetković Monika Jovanović Ana Savić
Milorad Vidojević Milutin Milušević Helene Larson
Marija Purešić Jelena Jovanović
Vejselović Enisa Aleksandra Zabljac Boris Pejanov
Aleksandra Stanić Nataša Šarić Danilo Vukosavljević
Goran Anđelković Jelena Nikolić Sanja Ivkov Katarina Cerović
Milica Delibašić Marijana Bugaric Nevena Zelenika
Jovana Grujevski Nebojša Prokić Milan Dimitrijević
Ivana Kula Tatjana Vorinski Stanislava Predojević
Nikolina Vidić Aleksandar Hrib Zita Kiš Uroš Maksimović
Marko Radenković Ana Cogoljević Ivan Lašić Irena Erić
Danica Marinković Filip Petrović Zoran Đukanović Dragana Ognjenović
Milan Stojanović Ivana Ratković Ivana Anđelić
Ksenija Radovanović Enisa Vejselović Ivana Arsenijević
Ana Jevtić Jovana Buđevac
Milan Karaklić Gunel Bergstrom
Jelena Bokšan Milena Stevanović Milica Stanojević Ivana Vučetić
Milica Vučković Olga Blagojević Goran Radulović
Aleksandra Lilić Mirjana Antonijević Goran Maksić
Aleksandar Petrović Marija Radojlović Ružica Jovanović
Marija Kovljanić Jelena Radonjić



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN