

Guideline Framework

Achievement of Equal Opportunity & Social Inclusion For Every Person in the European Union (E.U.)

Direct and meaningful consultation with people, partnership between all sectors of society, consensus, transparency, institutional openness ⁽¹⁾, and political accountability, are essential elements in '**social wellbeing**'. Set out below are a number of areas which should be actively considered by the Institutions of the E.U. and relevant authorities in each Member State - implemented, and effectively monitored through the **informed** application of sustainability performance indicators

1. Empowering People for Participation in Society

- respecting dignity, privacy, autonomy and independence
- adjusting education and training programmes to foster participation
- developing services, systems and policies to improve participation
- moving towards a 'person-centred' approach in the design / implementation of *services, systems and policies* ⁽²⁾
- mainstreaming of *people with activity limitations*
- providing seamless and consistent provision of support services and assistance technologies
- guaranteeing social, economic and cultural participation as fundamental human and legal rights
- ensuring a high level of human health and environmental protection for everyone

2. Removing Physical Restrictions on Participation

- respecting dignity, privacy, autonomy and independence
- viewing *access / usability / egress / evacuation* and *health / safety / welfare* issues in the light of equal opportunity, the right to participate, and the elimination of direct / indirect discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation
- developing effective legislation, standards (nationally transposed *Accessibility EuroCode* and *Supporting European Standards*), with *Design Guidance* in order to eliminate all forms of restriction
- monitoring and controlling compliance with legislation
- moving towards a 'community-based' approach to the spatial planning, and a 'person-centred' approach in the design and construction, of *Sustainable Built (incl. Virtual) & Social Environments*

3. Opening Up Every Facet of Society to Ability

- respecting dignity, privacy, autonomy and independence
- upholding the equal civic status of every person
- promoting good education, and good employment for people, as keys to social inclusion

4. Nurturing Opinion of Society, Politicians, Bureaucrats & Designers to be Receptive to 'Person-Centredness' of the Built & Social Environments

- respecting dignity, privacy, autonomy and independence
- providing concerted programmes of awareness raising, and education / training

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(1) See also 1998 UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

(2) See 2001 WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability & Health (ICF)