



## Croatia

### Čakovec, Prelog, Sveti Martin na Muri

In northern Croatia, Međimurje County is a region full of culture, nature, and friendly people. Its main town, Čakovec, has the beautiful Zrinski Park and many festivals like Porcijunkulovo and Jazz Fair. Near the Drava River, the town of Prelog offers rest and fun at Marina Prelog and the accessible Hotel Panorama, where everyone can enjoy sports and nature. In Sveti Martin na Muri, visitors can learn about the old river mill and enjoy the warm water at Terme Sveti Martin, Europe’s first Healthness resort. The whole region shows how culture, relaxation, and accessibility can live together in harmony.

### Positive polygon



The **Positive Polygon** is an event that helps people understand the everyday life of persons with disabilities. It shows what it means to face physical, sensory, and communication barriers.

Visitors can try moving in a wheelchair, walking with a white cane, or learning basic sign language. They can also take part in Autism Awareness and Early Intervention sessions, which explain how to support children and adults with special needs.

The event took place on May 17, 2025, in Čakovec, on Franjevački Square. It was organized by REDEA, the Tourist Board of Međimurje County, Međimurje County, and six local disability associations as part of the CE-Spaces4All project. Many citizens, volunteers, and experts joined to learn together.

Through workshops and simulations, **people saw how hard it can be to move, see, or communicate in everyday life.** They also met people with disabilities and shared ideas for making public spaces more accessible.

The Positive Polygon shows that **inclusion starts with empathy and cooperation.** When we work together and understand each other, we can build a world without barriers — open to everyone.



Wheelchair mobility workshop with participants navigating obstacles on a public square.



Person in a pink T-shirt performing a hand movement during a sign language activity.



Massage demonstration at an outdoor event promoting inclusion and accessibility.



Two participants walking on textured surfaces during a tactile paving simulation.



Person wearing simulation glasses during an outdoor accessibility awareness activity.



Large crowd gathered in a town square for an accessibility awareness event.

### Inclusive tourism accessibility guide



The **Inclusive Tourism Accessibility Guide** for Međimurje County helps tourism providers make their places friendly for everyone. It shows how to welcome all visitors, including people with disabilities, families with children, and older guests.

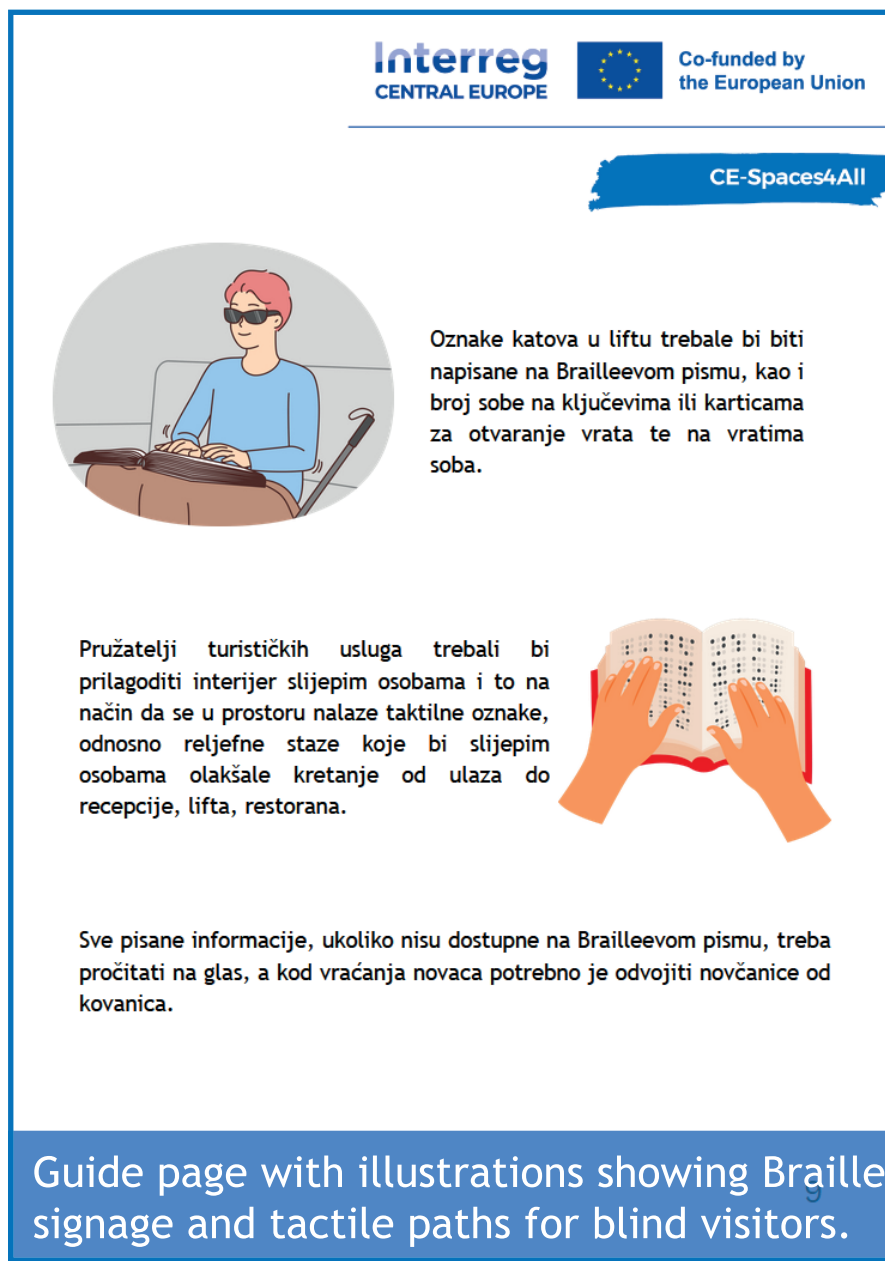
The guide gives simple and useful **tips on how to remove barriers.** It explains how to build ramps, create accessible restrooms, and use tactile and clear signs. It also teaches how to use audio guides, accessible apps, and other helpful technologies.

There are ideas for better communication and staff training, so that every visitor feels respected and supported. The guide also includes checklists, examples, and pictures to make improvements step by step.

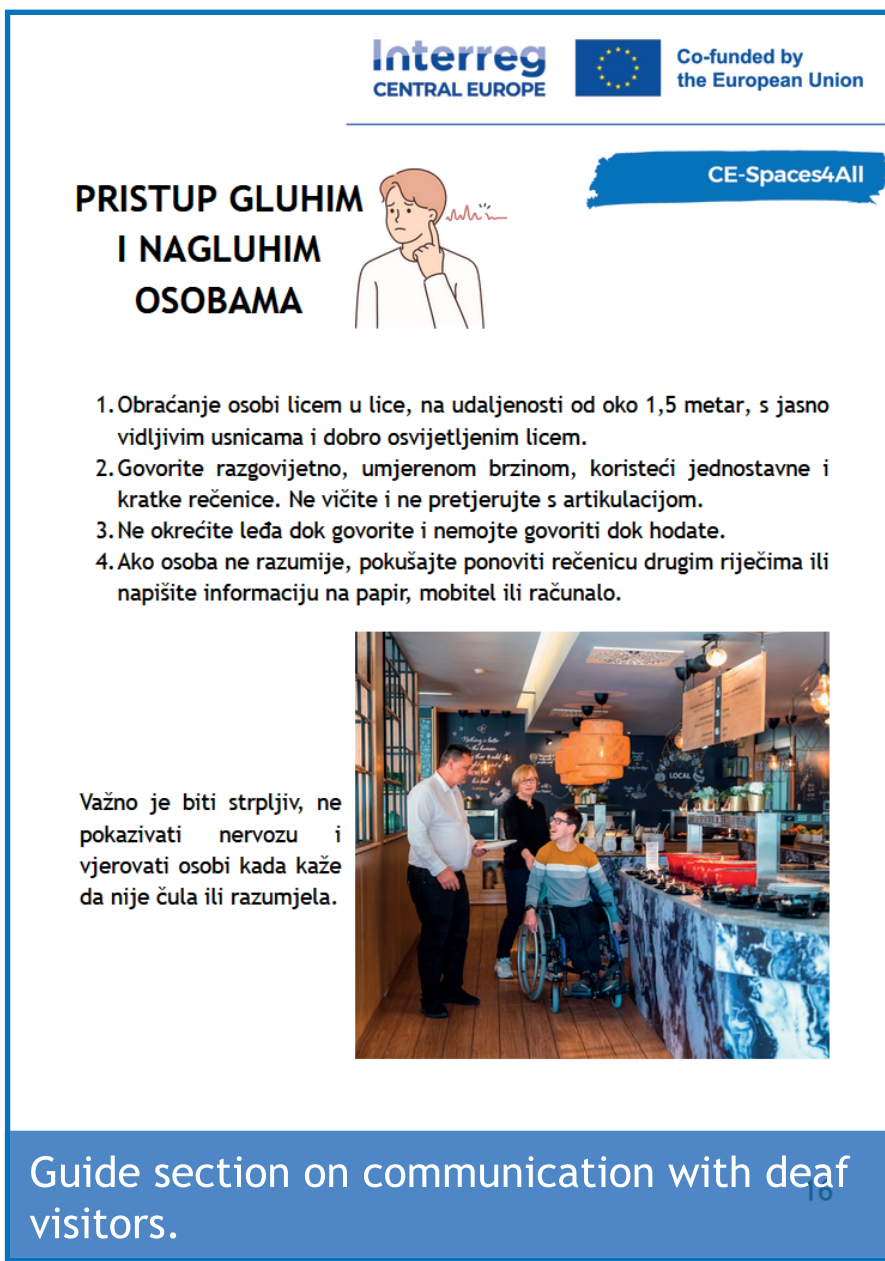
Tourism providers are encouraged to ask for feedback and keep updating their services. By following the guide, businesses can make travel safer, easier, and more enjoyable for everyone. Inclusive tourism means that **every person can feel welcome, comfortable, and independent.**



Guide page with tips for helping blind visitors.



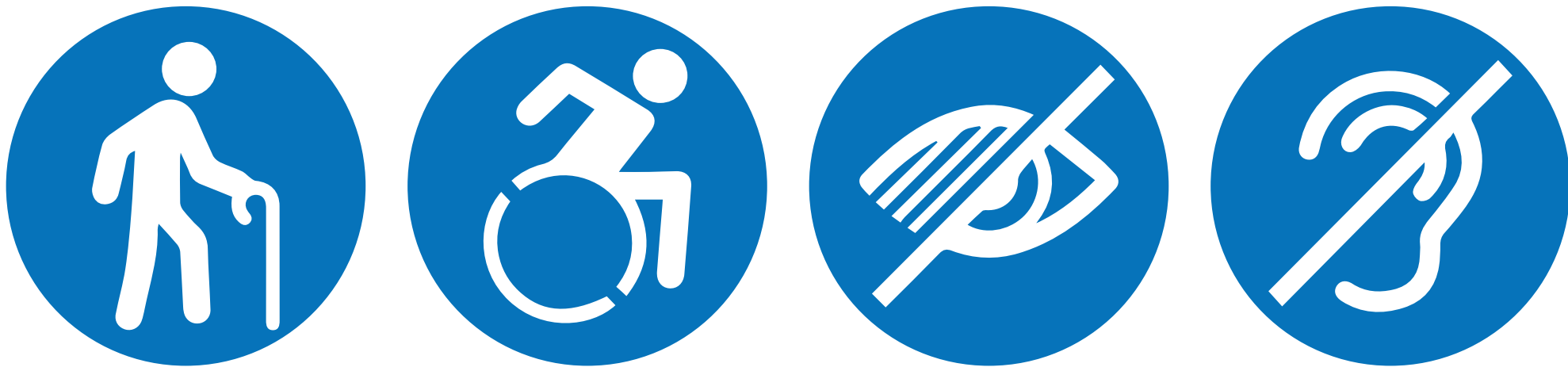
Guide page with illustrations showing Braille signage and tactile paths for blind visitors.



Guide section on communication with deaf visitors.

### Workshops toolkit

#### „In the shoes of persons with disabilities“



Group of participants seated in rows during an accessibility workshop presentation.



Person in a wheelchair speaking with a facilitator at a desk in a conference room.



Facilitator assisting a participant putting on a blindfold for a sensory simulation exercise.

The **“In the Shoes of Persons with Disabilities”** workshops help people understand what it feels like to live with different disabilities. They were created within the CE-Spaces4All project, co-financed by Interreg Central Europe.

The workshops are made for tourism workers, public service staff, and local institutions. Participants learn through practical activities. They try to move in a wheelchair, walk blindfolded, or wear earplugs to see how difficult everyday situations can be.

The toolkit includes simple instructions, materials, and reflection questions to help everyone think about their experience. Through discussion, participants share ideas and find ways to make tourism more accessible.

The events took place on October 8 and 9, 2024, and brought together people from tourism, local government, and the community. By learning through experience, participants became more aware, empathetic, and ready to make changes.

These workshops show that **true inclusion starts with understanding.** When we put ourselves in someone else’s shoes, we build a world where every visitor feels welcome and valued.