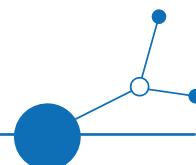


Web Accessibility Viewer with user guide



Final version
September 2024
Prepared by: LP GI





Content

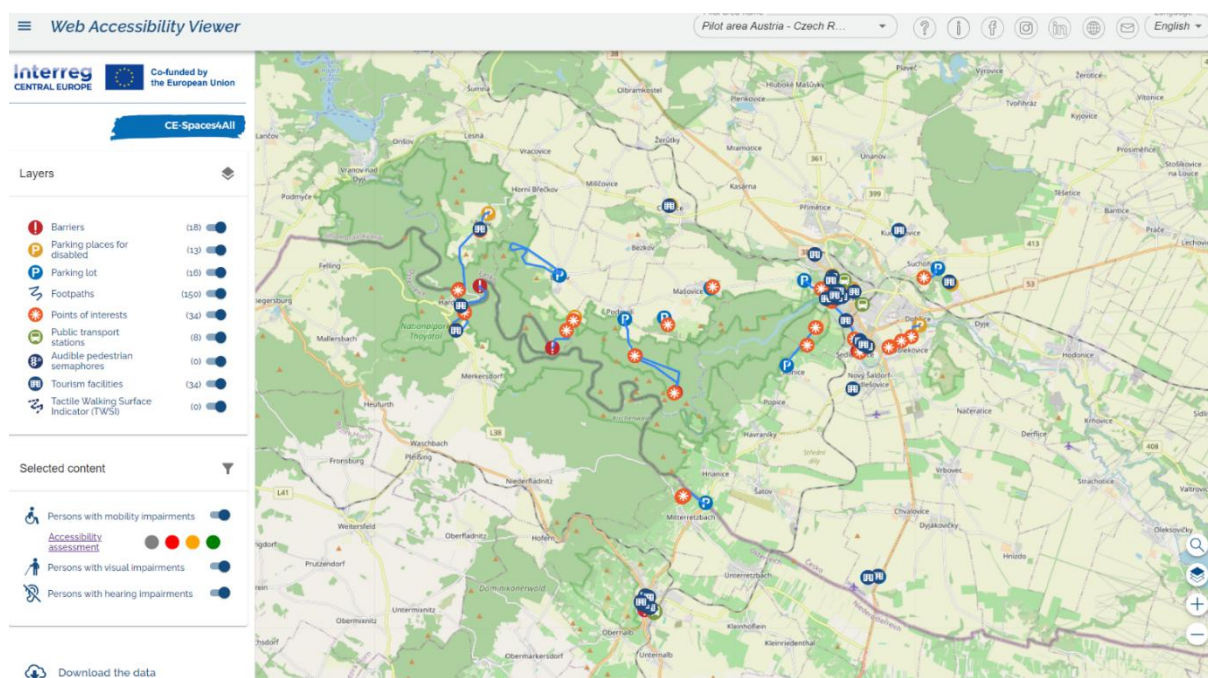
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1. Overview

The Web Accessibility Viewer (WAV), available on the link <https://spaces4all.gis.si/>, is an online tool designed to map and provide information about the accessibility of various tourism locations using a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform. It covers three pilot areas in Central Europe: the transborder area of Slovenia, Croatia, and Hungary; the cross-border area of Austria and the Czech Republic; and a rural area in Poland. WAV provides detailed spatial data for individuals with mobility impairments (wheelchair users), visual impairments, and hearing impairments.

WAV is an outcome of the European project "CE-Spaces4All" (Accessible Spaces for All), funded under the Interreg Central Europe Programme.



2. Pilot activities for the development of WAV

2.1. Timeline overview

Development of the WAV started hand in hand with the pilot testing and preparation of data by project partners. After the development of the data methodology and LP GI started with the preparation of the WAV.

WP1 1.4 ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE
Initial development of WAV	August - December 2023
Import of data	December - February 2024



Presentation of the WAV for PP	February 2024
Feedbacks and evaluation by PP	March 2024
Mobile version and first updates of the WAV prepared	March 2024
Translation of WAV	March 2024
Editing attributes, accessibility assessment	March 2024
Preparation for the dissemination (pitch for stakeholders)	May 2024
Final data editing by PP	May 2024
Final import of data and final version of the WAV prepared	1st half of June 2024
Preparation of a user guide	July 2024
Translation of a user guide	July 2024
Implementation of dissemination events	May - August 2024

2.2. WAV concept and initial steps

WAV was developed based on the viewer available at <https://pregledovalnik.dostopnost-prostora.si/>, part of the Slovenian project 'Enabling Multimodal Mobility of Persons with Disabilities' developed by the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia. WAV was upgraded for accessible tourism, with further developments in functionalities tailored to the project. Attributes were enhanced for all target groups.

As realized during the project, photos are key elements of the tool and were emphasized with a written disclaimer on the landing page and featuring full-size photos.

A new functionality was developed called 'Accessibility Assessments,' evaluating accessibility factors for wheelchair users under the 'Tourism Facilities' data category. The main factor for the evaluation was whether wheelchair users can independently use the facility.



2.3. Data import

All data collected by project partners was imported into the tool and edited by the lead partners. If any mistakes were found, project partners corrected the data and the lead partner performed subsequent imports.

2.4. Presentation of the WAV for project partners

Upon initial development and data upload, the lead partner prepared a presentation for project partners to introduce the tool, its functionalities, and invited them to begin testing the tool independently.

2.5. Preparation of an editor mode

An editor mode of the tool was prepared to allow participants to directly modify data without requiring a new import. This mode enabled users with a link to change data values, prepare translations into their national languages, and add remarks.

2.6. WAV translation

All other terms used in WAV were collected in an Excel sheet and sent to project partners for translation. Subsequently, the lead partners imported these translations to make WAV available in seven languages.

2.7. Testing and evaluation by project partners

The tool underwent testing and evaluation by project partners. Any errors identified were reported to the lead partner, who managed corrections. The same process was followed for addressing recommendations. Significant effort was made between CENIA, CZEPA, and LP to enhance WAV.

2.8. Final version developed

The lead partner, GI, worked on updates identified during tool evaluation. Some proposals, such as making WAV accessible to blind persons, were deferred due to time constraints, but remain considerations for future tool development.

2.9. Implementation of dissemination events

A joint report on the implementation of dissemination events is available in deliverable D1.4.2, detailing workshops for public authorities in pilot areas on the usability of WAV. The events aimed to introduce the WAV and initial data collected to various stakeholders, discussing service and tool developments under WP2 and pilot activities in WP3. Each partner organized at least one dissemination event in their respective country



3. User guide

The WAV user guide was prepared by the lead partner in July 2024 and translated by project partners. The guide is now available online at <https://spaces4all.gis.si/> under the question mark icon.

Below is the English version of the simplified User guide.

3.1. WAV users and main goals

Stakeholders can use collected accessibility data in various ways to improve the quality of life for all residents and create more inclusive environment.

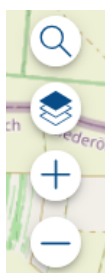
- Policy planners: to enhance governance and policy integration to promote more accessible tourism.
- Local/regional authorities: to implement data into local GIS systems, to remove barriers in public spaces, to ensure compliance with accessibility standards, to analyse data, and incorporate findings into territorial tourism strategies and action plans.
- Persons with disabilities and disability organizations: use WAV for travel preparation, capacity building, and sharing information about accessible spaces.
- Tourism providers: to support local businesses by utilizing data to enhance accessibility and improve service offerings.

3.2. Main functionalities

- Graphic display: visual representation of content on the map.
- Data access: free download of data.
- Search and display: searching, toggling and displaying data and its attributes.
- Filtering: ability to select content based on target group and accessibility assessments.
- High-resolution photos: access to high-resolution images.
- Messaging: options to send messages about specific data or general inquiries directly.
- Multilingual support: available translations in seven languages.

3.3. Getting Started

1. Upon first opening the viewer, a disclaimer will appear.
2. Select pilot area: Choose one of the three project pilot areas by clicking on the flag of the country.
3. Explore the map:



Search: Use the search bar in the right corner to find specific locations (e.g. name of the tourist facility, tourist attraction, city, address).

Background layers: Change the map to Esri World Imagery, OpenStreetMap, or a map without labels using the options in the right corner.

Navigation: Zoom in/out and move around the map using mouse controls or the + / - buttons in the right corner.

4. Menu bar:



Data layers: Explore and toggle different layers to view specific information such as barriers, points of interest, tourism facilities, paths, etc. Next to each data layer is a number indicating the amount of collected data associated with that layer.



Selected content: Apply filters to narrow down results based on criteria like target groups* and accessibility assessments** for persons with mobility impairments.

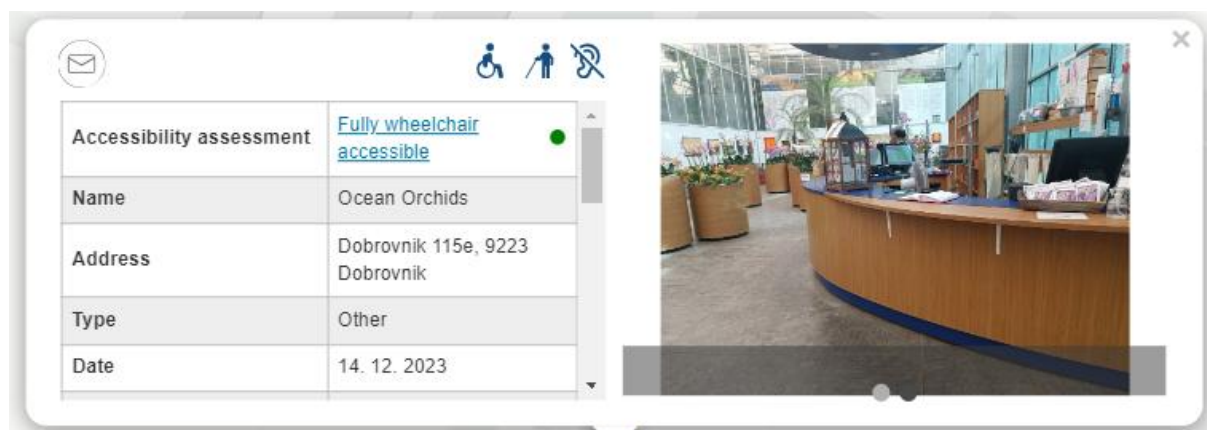
*All countries collected data on persons with mobility impairments, while the Slovenian mapping area also includes information on persons with visual and hearing impairments, and the Austrian mapping area includes information on persons with visual impairments.

** Accessibility assessments are evaluated for wheelchair users only in all pilot areas for the data category called "Tourism facilities".

5. Data information:

Click on any point or line on the map to view detailed information in the attribute table. Data include different attributes about the accessibility features, general information (name, address), photos, notes***, date of data preparation and the icon representing the target groups, for which the data was captured****.

For the data category "Tourism facilities", accessibility evaluations for wheelchair users are also included, conducted by persons with disabilities with a help of project partners.



*** Notes provide specific information essential for persons with disabilities to better prepare for their travels. In the Czech mapping area, these notes include additional details on the accessibility of tourism facilities available on the web.

**** For the data layers called »Tourism facilities« and »Public transport stations« the icons for target groups are used to indicate whether a particular point or line is accessible for each group. A blue icon represents an accessible location, while a grey icon indicates inaccessibility. If data for a specific target group is unavailable, the icon is not displayed.

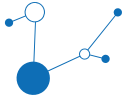
- For individuals with mobility and visual impairments, accessibility is determined by the availability of a safe and independent physical entrance to the object or location.
- For individuals with hearing impairments, accessibility is based on the installation of an induction loop in the objects.

6. Other functionalities:

- User contributions: Users can submit new or corrected information about public spaces, update existing entries, and upload images through a contact form. This form is accessible within detailed information for any point or at the top toolbar for general claims/comments.
- Data export: Download data for offline use or further analysis in ZIP format. The downloaded folder will include GPKG and QGZ formats. GPKG (Geo Package) is a standard file format for exchanging geospatial information in geographic information systems.
- Other features in the top bar include selecting different pilot areas for direct zoom, connecting with the project's social media accounts and accessing more information about WAV.

Warning:

WAV is not optimized for use by blind and visually impaired individuals with screen readers, alternative text, or keyboard accessibility.



4. WAV maintenance

For long-term management and usage, the lead partner will maintain WAV until the end of the project and potentially beyond, if a suitable organization is found to continue its operation. Special efforts will also be made to integrate the collected data into other platforms, particularly OpenStreetMap.

Ongoing data updates are essential, with each participating partner responsible for completing at least one update before the project's conclusion