Achieving full participation through Universal Design: Council of Europe Instruments

Leon (Spain), 12-13 June 2008
Angela Garabagiu

Council of Europe Instruments:

- Resolution ResAP(2001)1…("Tomar Resolution")
- Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 (Recommendation Rec(2006)5)
- Resolution ResAP(2007)3 "Achieving full participation through Universal Design"
- Report by the Committee of Experts on Universal Design (Accessibility) (P-RR-UD)

Council of Europe Resolutions and Recommendation are
adopted by the Committee of Ministers (the decision-making body, which comprises the Foreign Affairs Ministers or their permanent diplomatic representatives)

Resolution ResAP(2001)1
of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the introduction of the principles of Universal Design into the curricula of all occupations working on the built environments ("The Tomar Resolution"):

- applies to the 18 members states, parties to the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field, including Spain;
- provides a definition of Universal Design in a Committee of Ministers' adopted text
(UD aims… to make the design and composition of different environments and products accessible and understandable to, as well as usable by, everyone…)

Recommendation Rec(2006) 5
of the Committee of Ministers (Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015) is addressed to all the 47 member states of the Council of Europe

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15 Key Action Lines:

1. Participation in political and public life
2. Participation in cultural life
3. Information and communication
4. Education
5. Employment, vocational guidance and training

15 Key Action Lines (cont-d):

6. The built environment
7. Transport
8. Community living
9. Health care
10. Rehabilitation

15 Key Action Lines (cont-d):

11. Social protection
12. Legal protection
13. Protection against violence and abuse
14. Research and development
15. Awareness raising

Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015:

Universal Design is mentioned as "an effective way to improve the accessibility and the quality of the built environment, services and products".

Resolution ResAP(2007)3 "Achieving full participation through Universal Design"

- applies to the 18 members states, parties to the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field, including Spain;

- extends the definition and the recommendation to apply Universal Design principles to include:

    communication,

    information technology; and

    services

Resolution ResAP(2007)3 "Achieving full participation through Universal Design" (cont-d)

- the Committee of Minister recommends that the governments of the member states of the Partial Agreement..:

i. promote full participation in community life, and in particular, prevent the creation of new barriers by designing, from the outset, solutions that are accessible and usable for all; and in doing so, take into account and integrate as appropriate in their policy, legislation and practice the principles of Universal Design;

Resolution ResAP(2007)3 "Achieving full participation through Universal Design" (cont-d):

- ii. be guided, in their processes of integrating Universal Design principles in policy, legislation and practice, by the measures advocated in the appendix to this resolution;
iii. promote the application of Universal Design in the implementation of Recommendation Rec(2006)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015;

Resolution ResAP(2007)3 "Achieving full participation through Universal Design" (cont-d)

iv. assure to this end the widest possible dissemination of this resolution amongst all parties concerned, for example through awareness-raising campaigns and co-operation with the private sector and civil society, involving, in particular, non-governmental organisations of people with disabilities.

Universal Design

- What may the Council of Europe offer to member states?
  - Coordinated resolutions
  - Recommendations to governments
  - Plans
  - Examples

Universal Design: Strategy for all aspects of society

- Aiming at accessible and usable
  - built environments
  - communication
  - products
  - services
- Accessible and usable
  - to everyone
  - to the greatest extent possible
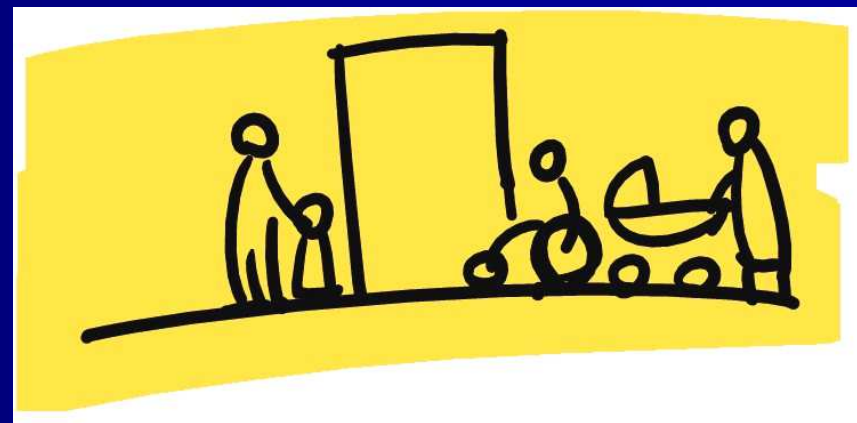 - preferably without adaptations or special solutions

Definitions: Converging headlines

- Universal Design
- design for all
- integral accessibility
- accessible design
- inclusive design
- barrier-free design
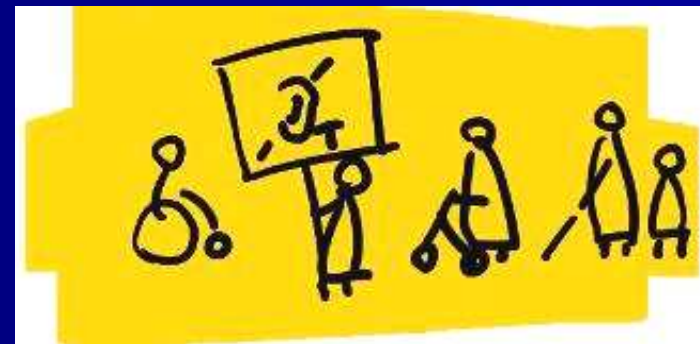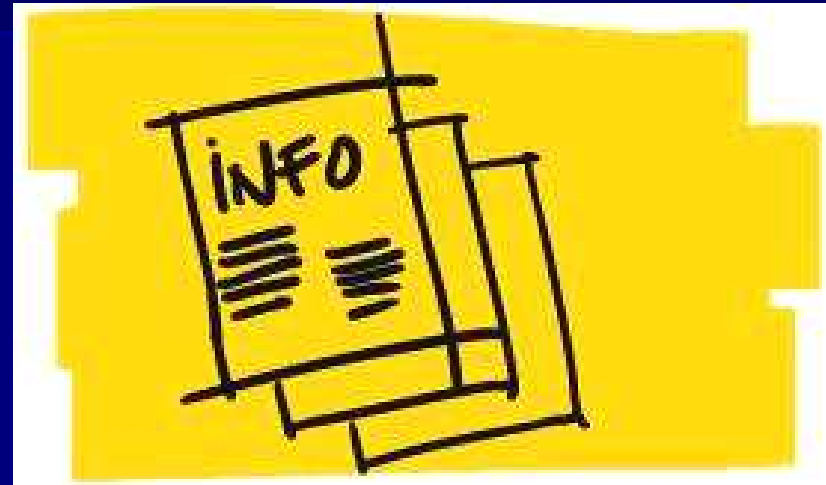- transgenerational design
- accessibility for all

Recommendations to governments:

- **Promote full participation in community life**
  - prevent the creation of new barriers;
  - design solutions usable by all;
  - integrate Universal Design principles into policies, legislation and practice;
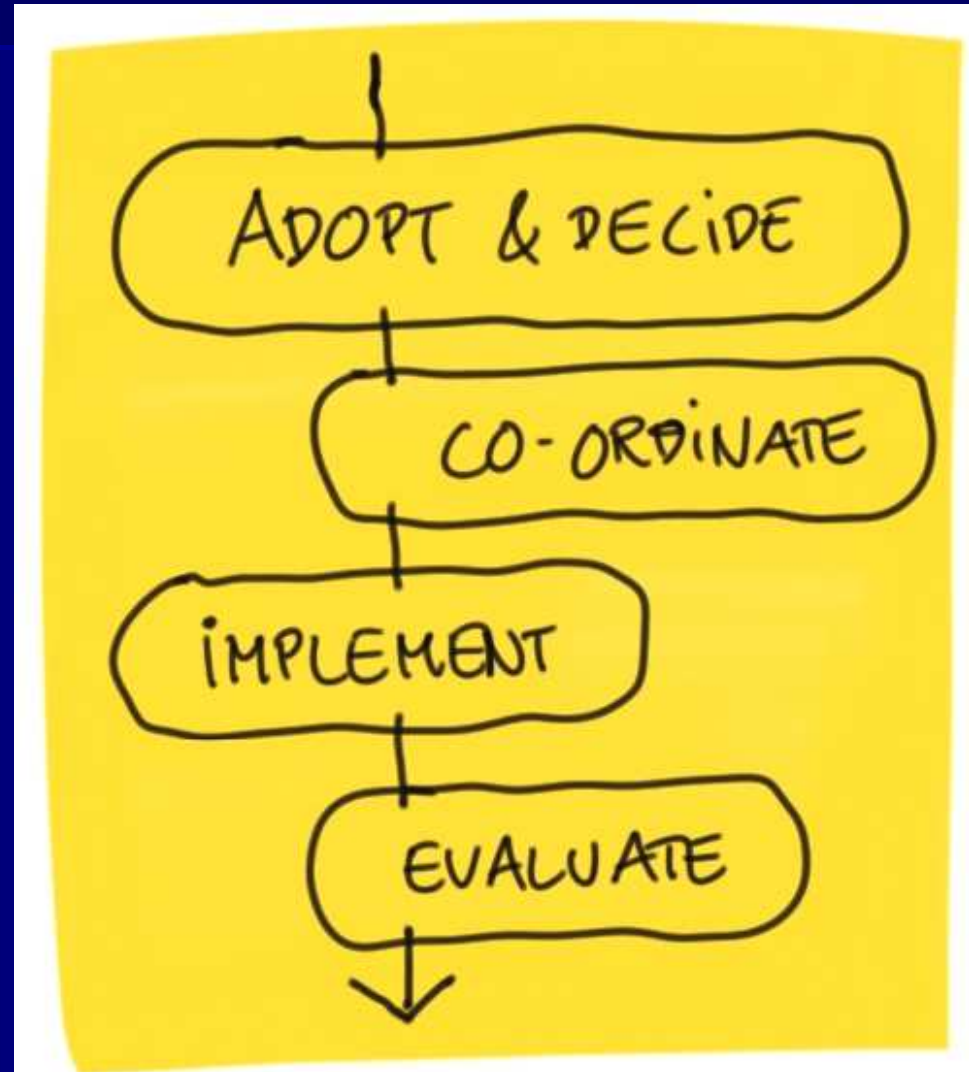 - successful Universal Design: look at the process.

The 2007 Resolution on Universal Design (ResAP(2001)3)

- Ensure widest possible dissemination of awareness-raising campaigns
  - co-operation with the private sector
  - co-operation with civil society, NGO's of people with disabilities

Four-stage process

1. Adoption and decision-making
2. Coordination
3. Implementation
4. Evaluation

Adoption and decision-making

- What do we intend to do?
- - and for whom?
- When?

Adoption and decision-making

Approaches should be:

- Coordinated
- Harmonized
- Intersectorial

Particular emphasis on:

- Universal Design
- Mainstream policies

1st National Accessibility Plan 2004-2012, Spain	Example of Universal design

Sector:	National action plans
Adoption and decision on principle	✔
Co-ordination	✔
Implementation	✔
Evaluation	✔
Beneficial for:	All users
Limitations:	None
Feasibility:	Spain

Description: The 1st National Accessibility Plan is a strategic framework to promote and consolidate the measures the Spanish Government, together with other government administrations and public and private organisations, plans to take to remove barriers and introduce the Design for All concept.

It has been created in the context of the *Act 51/2003 on Equal Opportunities, Non-*

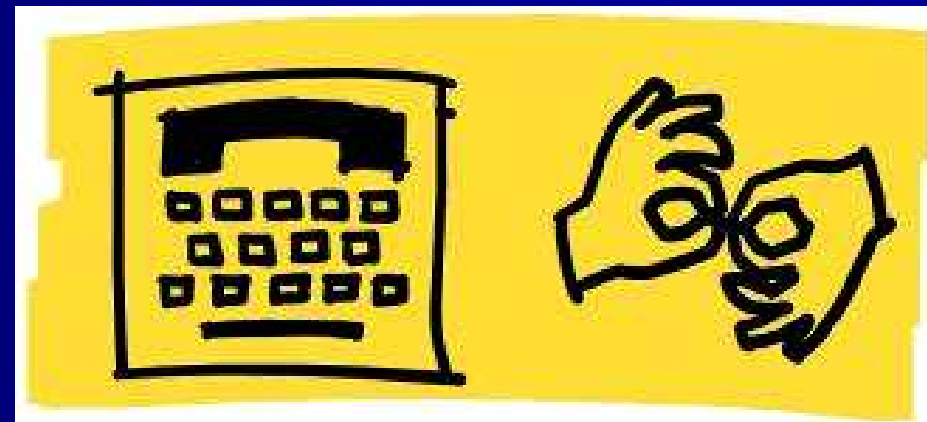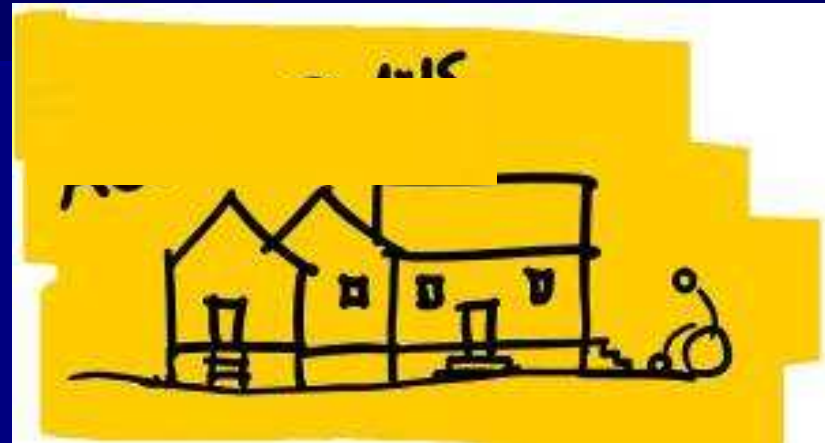| The Government Action Plan for increased accessibility for persons with disabilities Plan for universal design in key areas of society, Norway	Example of Universal design

Sector:	National plans
Adoption and decision on principle	✔
Co-ordination	✔
Implementation	✔
Evaluation	✔
Beneficial for:	All users
Limitations:	None
Feasibility:	All countries

Description: The Government Action Plan for increased accessibility for persons with disabili-

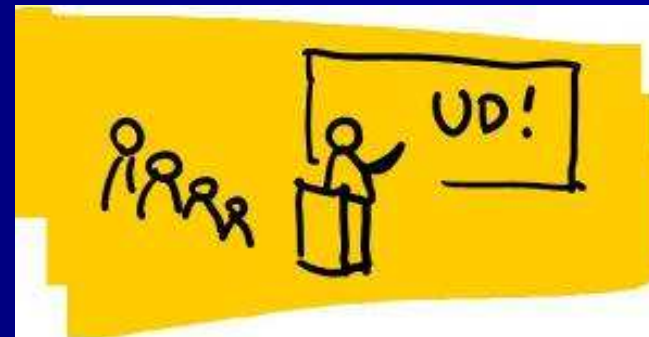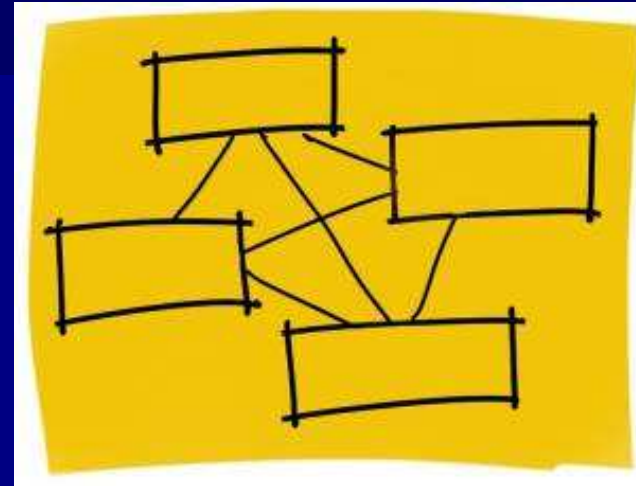# Adoption and decision-making

Examples

- Legislation: building regulations
  - strictly enforced
  - refurbishing included
  - more than just persons in wheelchairs

- Discrimination acts

- Standards
  - covering relevant user groups
  - linked to legislation
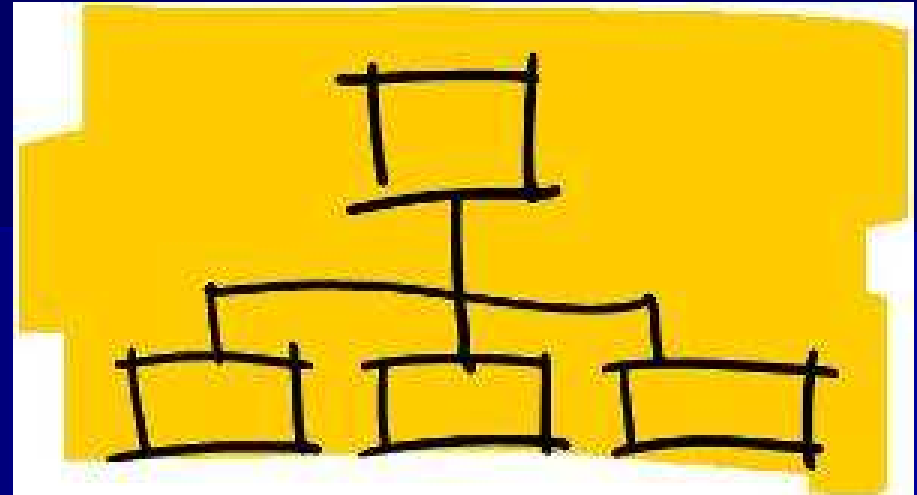
Co-ordination

- Making sure we work together

Co-ordination

- Examples:
  - Assigning responsibility to high-ranking persons in organisations
  - Information on legislative measures, social services, products, assistive technology

Implementation

- Doing it!

Universal Design principles integrated into the architectural education, Hungary

Example of Universal design.

Description: Universal design principles are an integrated part of the undergraduate education of architects since 2002 in the Szent Istvan University, YMMF School of Architecture.

Universal Design features: The YMMF School of Architecture has introduced the Universal Design principles into the education via a compulsory course for all architects, following preparation of specific teaching materials and courses for educators. According to the resolution of the government 1015/2005 on "the barrier free environment and civil services for all", schools and universities involved in the education of all professions working on the built environment should introduce the principles of Universal Design in the curricula before 31 December 2005.

In operation: 2002

Sector:	Built environment, DAP action 3
Adoption and decision on principle	✔
Co-ordination	✔
Implementation	✔
Evaluation	
Beneficial for:	All users
Limitations:	Unknown
Feasibility:	All countries

Regulations for accessible information technology, Germany

Example of Universal design

Description: Regulations for accessible information technology under the act on equal opportunities with measurements have been taken on: Internet contents, unrestricted access to all public websites (Following WAI guidelines of W3C). Full accessibility of graphic interfaces analogous to the Internet, without specific regulations.

Sector:	Information and communication, DAP action 9
Adoption and decision on principle	✔
Co-ordination	✔
Implementation	✔
Evaluation	
Beneficial for:	All users
Limitations:	None

Implementation

■ Examples:
  – Adequate funding and resources for projects
  – Detailed requirements
  – Standards
  – Guidelines

Evaluation

■ Making sure we are getting there

Evaluation

Examples:
- Quality assessment
- Feedback
- Instruments for measuring of effects
- Follow-up procedures
- Involve user organisations

The Government Action Plan for increased accessibility for persons with disabilities
Plan for universal design in key areas of society, Norway

Example of Universal design

ARBEIDS OG SOSIALDEPARTEMENTET
MILJØVERNDEPARTEMENTET

Handlingsplan

Regjeringens handlingsplan for økt tilgjengelighet for personer med nedsatt funksjonsevne.

Plan for universell utforming innen viktige samfunnsområder.

Sector:	National plans
Adoption and decision on principle	✔
Co-ordination	✔
Implementation	✔
Evaluation	✔
Beneficial for:	All users
Limitations:	None
Feasibility:	All countries

Description: The Government Action Plan for increased accessibility for persons with disabili-

Council of Europe Report on Universal Design

- Universal Design
  - What?
  - For whom?
  - How?
- Examples of UD aspects
  - Disability action plan
  - Process stages

Disability Action Plan 2006 - 2015

Universal Design Initiatives

Universal Design requirement no. 1

Determination

THANK YOU!

More information:

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