



Example 6 **Introduction of the Label “Barrier-Free” to State Accessible Facilities**

City (country) **Berlin (Germany)**

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... motor impairment ... visual impairment ... hearing impairment	city bus tram underground	engineering/technology approach organisational/operational support awareness building

Project description

In July 2007 the “Berlin-Pankow” station was the first German underground station to be labelled “barrier-free.” The new label “barrier-free” was developed through close cooperation by several institutions from the economic sector, trade, tourism, culture and science. It was introduced to make clear the state of the city’s transport accessibility.

The label contains a white arrow on a light yellow background and signals a quality standard to people with disabilities. It is only awarded when certain quality standards are met. In the case of public transport that means stations must be accessible stair-free by elevators or ramps. It also means the elevators need to have a voice system, a tactile operating system approximately 85 cm high and a navigation system with contrasting optimised and tactile guidance for visually impaired people at all platforms, at the exits and at the elevators.

In late summer 2007 200 labels had already been awarded. These indicate not only that people with diverse disabilities are welcome, but that the establishment provides benefits for all. In addition to public transport stations, restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, museums, etc. can be labelled. The “barrier-free” label is not a certificate for barrier-free construction but supports that.

Source:
 Berlin webpage (de): www.berlin-barrierefrei.de (21/10/2007)