



Example 73 **Accessible Trains on the Narrow Gauge Zillertalbahn**

Region (country) **Zillertal (Austria)**

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... motor impairment ... visual impairment ... hearing impairment	local trains	engineering/technology approach financial support measure organisational/operational support

Project description

The Zillertalbahn is a narrow gauge railway in the Tyrol region in Austria. This privately operated railway is about 32 km long and runs from Jenbach to Mayrhofen along the Zillertal. Every year many tourists and locals alike use the railway because of its attractive route and nice surroundings.

In 2002 the Zillertaler Verkehrsbetriebe AG took a step forward in making their trains more accessible. They bought an old baggage car and reconstructed it with, among other things, a pivoting lift to carry wheelchairs. This was especially important for tourists in wheelchairs because they were consequently now able to use any steam train. Within the car there is space for four wheelchairs.

In order to satisfy the demand for more accessibility to the regular diesel trains, Zillertalbahn decided to publicly invite tenders for five new carriages. These carriages are equipped with low-floor access in the middle of the vehicle and with wide double sliding plug doors. To make entry and exit barrier-free, the doors are equipped with electrical ramps for wheelchair users. There is a great deal of space for wheelchairs and baby carriages in the area around the doors. For visually and hearing impaired people the car is also equipped with elements for orientation inside the train and for feeling more comfortable during the journey.

The first new low-floor carriage went into service in 2006 and the new cars can be used in regular diesel trains as well as in steam trains. Zillertalbahn now claims that it is the first Austrian railway able to carry wheelchairs on any train.

Source:
 Zillertalbahn: Neue Fahrzeuge (de), http://www.zillertalbahn.at/news/f_main_n.htm (19/10/2007)