

Are there accessible environments in Athens, Greece today?

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Abstract: This paper aims to reveal the general goals of Universal Design and Universal Access according to the normative situation in the European Community, focusing on the existing situation in Greece. As Athens was the last European city where (Para-) Olympic Games took place, the results of a comparative study are presented, revealing accessibility conditions to buildings of public use in Greece's capital. Using a study carried out in 1984, the changes regarding Universal Access over the last two and a half decades are investigated. Building categories such as ministries, hospitals, higher-degree educational buildings, museums, cinemas and theatres were visited and re-evaluated with the help of a specific protocol in 2004 and 2009. In the end, the degree of improvement is discussed and conclusions are drawn.

Key-Words: universal design, universal access, buildings of public use, disability, survey, Athens

All data, tables and figures of this paper originate from the author's dissertation thesis [1], except if otherwise mentioned.

1 Introduction

Urban awareness regarding Universal Access is a rather recent matter, going hand in hand with general concerns and ideas of acceptance on matters of disability. In conclusion, the necessity to facilitate people with reduced mobility and people with disability in urban space and the importance of its organization was met in different ways over time.

If a glance is taken on the development of the built environment, three main phases can be distinguished [2], according to the understanding of disability and accessibility over different periods of time. At the beginning of the 20th century (first period) no accessibility whatsoever existed and town planning in big urban centers was exclusively based on criteria for "able-bodied" citizens. After the second world-war (second period) partial accessibility began to exist based on the important increase of war invalids and on technical interventions. Recent years (third period) are characterized by believes, that all members of our society are considered possible people with reduced mobility, a notion which has started to consider barriers in the built environment discriminative and prohibitive.

This important awareness change over the last decades contributed in a positive way in supporting and enforcing the implementation of Universal Design and Universal Access criteria in all design

and construction processes worldwide. In the following, relevant matters are discussed and general notions will be compared to the actual situation in Greece, which became an important input regarding accessibility due to the preparatory works for the (Para-) Olympic Games in 2004.

2 The importance of Universal Design and Universal Access

Universal Design and Universal Access are the preconditions that people with reduced mobility and people with disability obtain equal chances in everyday life and in conclusion to have the possibility to lead independent lives. All visible physical obstacles and all invisible social barriers have to be eliminated in order to guarantee autonomous and safe mobility and in consequence accessibility to all spaces for every citizen.

Therefore, Universal Design criteria exist today. These are facilitations providing comfortable and secure spaces including for instance: smooth inclinations without any steps, wider door openings, mechanical means to cover height differences, minimal room sizes, provision of non-slipping grounds, railings and movement aids, suitable and easy understandable signs, easy accessible handling mechanisms and control elements, color contrast between construction elements, marking of glass surfaces, wheelchair lifts in public buses etc.

However, if a glance at criteria for Universal Access to urban spaces is taken, the following criteria need to be added [3]: functionality of pavements, continuous networks with accessible

paths and infrastructure, correct information and traffic signs, lowered public utensils etc.

3 The normative situation in the European Community

Facilitations and criteria, as mentioned in the previous sections, are regulated through technical European standards and national norms and regulations. These rules define the legal planning and in conclusion behavior of society [4]. Within this paper, no explicit reference will be made to the many relevant publications.

However it needs to be pointed out, that on European level the “European Concept for Accessibility” [5] rules. Undoubtedly, the all-over principles in all European countries are very similar and differ slightly on tolerance levels of dimensions, measures etc. declaring, that accessibility ought to be considered as a common environmental quality.

4 The “chain of accessibility”

Although legislation seems to be very precise and widely accepted on a European level, the real needs of accessibility are best portrayed with the so-called “chain of accessibility” (see fig. 1). This idea is based on the principle of a chain and that if one link gets broken, it becomes useless. In conclusion, if not all elements of the built environment, e.g. pavement networks, public transport stops, means of public transport, public services, shops, entertainment facilities, and so on, are accessible, maintained and usable, it is often impossible for a person with reduced mobility and/or a person with disability to exit from home and reach the place she/he needs or wants to get to. Everything has to be accessible, otherwise no mobility is guaranteed!

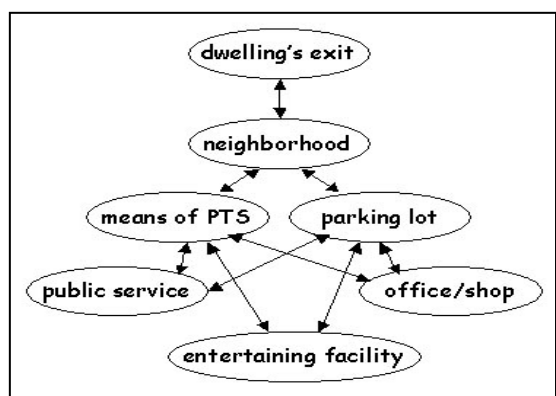


Fig. 1: An example for the “chain of accessibility”

The effects of inappropriate implementation or even absence of Universal Access and in conclusion broken chain elements lead to a series of serious mobility problems for certain population groups [6]. For instance, for infants and children, the lack of appropriate accessibility measures often leads to mobility weaknesses and a partial exclusion, while multiplying the daily number of accidents. For senior citizens, a lack of Universal Access measures may lead to partial or even total exclusion from the built environment and in conclusion to permanent enclosure at home.

As becomes clear, the correct functioning of the “chain of accessibility” is the precondition to guarantee autonomous, easy and safe mobility for every citizen. However, if we take a closer look at existing situations in European cities, many malfunctions will be noticed. Especially in Southern European countries, correct implementation of Universal Design criteria is often far from being reality.

5 Universal Access conditions in Greece

“Free movement of people with disability [in Greece] meets with great difficulties, like entering into the public transport system with a wheelchair, with enormous problems using pavements due to the small number of curb cuts, with tremendous problems entering public, school and/or university buildings and insurmountable difficulties entering theaters, stores and churches” [7].

Despite the fact, that in the last decade the Greek public has started to better understand the needs, particularities and equality of rights of people with disability, a giant void still exists. For instance, many archaeological sites remain inaccessible and there do not exist comfortable and safe guidance paths for their visit [8]. Relevant legislation is weak and insufficient, and although Universal Design Guidelines have been published in 1998 by the Greek Ministry of Environment, Urban Planning and Public Works [9] implementation is not enforced or controlled. However, an important input for ameliorating restorations and refurbishments constituted the informative campaigns and financing supports during the preparatory works of the (Para-) Olympic Games, which took place in Athens in 2004.

Nevertheless, “it is not accessibility, which is the biggest barrier, but society’s attitude itself. The problem lies not in the person with disability or the wheelchair, but in stairs and the lack of spirit to

place a ramp. The problem is not the blind person, but this unfriendly city [Athens], where garbage covers pavements, traffic signs are badly placed, trees are unfenced and basements are yawning.” (Μπενάκη-Πολύδωρου, 1993) [10]

Although the public at large claims, that lately works aiming to make the environment more accessible have started, progress paces still very slowly. A series of evaluation studies have been carried out over the last years, giving the picture on accessibility conditions for people with reduced mobility and people with mobility impairments in Greece’s capital. Some articles indicate, that in Athens ½ of all ministries, ¼ of all hospitals, ½ of all university buildings, most theatres, cinemas and museums and almost all pavements are inaccessible to people with severe mobility impairments, especially wheelchair users.

In the following, a small overview on accessibility conditions to buildings of public use in Athens will be presented, in order to outline the situation before and improvements after the (Para-) Olympic Games in 2004.

6 Recent surveys examining accessibility conditions in Greece

Over the last years, several evaluation studies have been carried out in Greece, which investigated foremost accessibility conditions to buildings of public use.

In 2001, a study called “ΚΑΘΕΝΑΣ” was launched by the EIAA (National Institution for Rehabilitation of People with Disability), which evaluated 124 randomly selected buildings hosting public services in specific municipalities of Athens [11]. Churches, schools, post offices, bank institutions and more were visited. Based on a questionnaire, conditions of autonomous mobility for wheelchair users were examined, emphasizing on the accidental visit of any of these buildings. The deriving results of this study as regards accessible buildings for people with mobility impairments is insignificant (only 4%). For unknown reasons this program was never finished.

In 2002, the Greek Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization engaged in a survey on the existing accessibility conditions to buildings that host Ministries, Regions, Prefecture Governments, Municipalities and further State Services all over Greece [12] during the preparatory works for the (Para-) Olympic Games of 2004. The survey was carried out via sending informative deeds and questionnaires to all public services on

Greece. Relevant employees were asked to fill out all universal design-adaptations and to register all existing deficiencies in buildings hosting public services. The study comprised of gathering information concerning the presence of ramps, parking lots for wheelchair users, elevators, large sized toilets and lowered counters. During two years the General Secretary sent out papers reminding services on the necessity of immediate recording of the existing situations in public services and on their obligation to answer. But although it is State services, which should give the positive example, most employees forgot to answer the evaluation-documents and, therefore, almost no implementation of the required adaptations were fulfilled. As no detailed information on the evaluation criteria could be gathered, no further reference will be made.

However, the most detailed on accessibility conditions to specific buildings categories in Athens was carried out two decades earlier. As this study was user for the author’s comparative study, it will be described in a more detailed way in the following.

7 Results of a comparative study on accessibility conditions in buildings of public use in Athens (1984-2004-2009)

7.1 General remarks on the comparative evaluation study

The comparative study presented in the following reveals accessibility conditions for mobility-impaired users to specific public building categories in Athens, comparing the situations in 1984, 2004 and 2009.

The primary study entitled “Athens – An impenetrable city” was carried out by the Greek Company for the Protection of Spastics (Εταιρία Προστασίας Σπαστικών - ΕΠΣ) in 1984 [13]. Within the total range of visited buildings, the study evaluated 20 ministries, 31 hospitals, 12 university faculties, 12 museums, 38 theatres and 31 cinemas. Investigations were based on a specific protocol, examining the number of steps and stairs, the presence of ramps, railings and elevators, as well as the elevator’s cabin size. Evaluation was scaled into five graduations, although only “very good” stands for really accessible buildings.

The results of this study were very disappointing, as access to tertiary education was impossible; joining entertainment or cultural establishments was also almost prohibitive, while ministries guaranteed access to only 35% of all examined buildings; even

hospitals were at 63% inaccessible in 1984 (see fig. 2). In few words, the situation 25 years ago was very unfriendly for people with reduced mobility and Athens indeed was an impenetrable city.

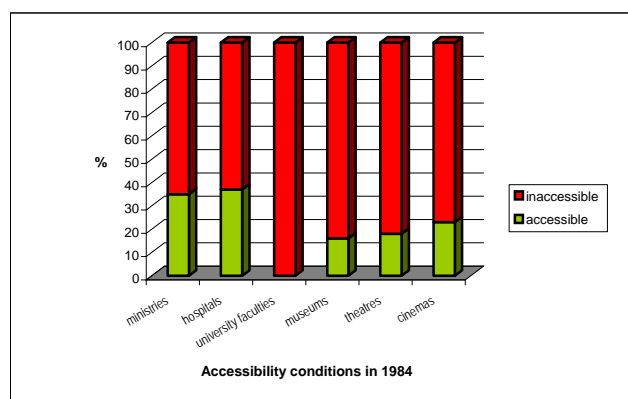


Fig. 2: Percentages of “very good” accessible buildings compared to inaccessible buildings in Athens (EΠΣ-study in 1984)

After the preparatory works for the (Para-) Olympic Games in 2004 were completed, the same buildings of public use were revisited and reevaluated by the author in order to investigate the degree of improvement regarding Universal Design and Universal Access for people with mobility impairments in Greece’s capital over the last two decades. The evaluation protocol was kept the same and additionally the existence of a wheelchair-user toilet, as well as of a wheelchair-user parking lot was checked.

Five years later, in 2009, all the impenetrable found buildings of 2004 were contacted again, in order to investigate if further improvements regarding safe and autonomous access for users with reduced mobility had taken place over the last years.

In the following, a short presentation of the evaluation tables is given, sorted by building category. First, the results gathered more than 20 years ago are compared to the situation citizens could find in Athens in 2004 and then to the actual situation of today. Besides the presentation of universal access criteria as described above, no explicit reference to the presence of supportive equipment will be made. Nevertheless, in the tables below, some supplementary information is shown, in case of interested readers.

7.2.1 Evaluation of buildings hosting Ministries in Athens in 1984

In the following, accessibility conditions to ministerial buildings in Athens for users with mobility impairments are presented. The table below

gives the detailed data on accessibility conditions in 20 ministries in Athens in 1984 (see tab. 1) and in conclusion it can be stated, that only 30% of the visited buildings were wheelchair-accessible in 1984.

NO	MINISTRY	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	MENTR.	ELEV.	SIZE	WC	PARK.	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	National Economy	Πλατεία Συντάγματος	yes	4	no	no	yes	normal	1	no	1 ramping 4 areas	good
2	Nat. Education & Religious Affairs	Μητροπόλεως 15	yes	15	yes	yes	yes	normal	no	no	parking lot is covered	very bad (7)
3	Public Works	Χηφ. Τραπεζών 192	no	-	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	new building	very good
4	Justice	Ζωσιμαίου 2	no	-	no	no	yes	normal	no	no		very good
5	Finance	Καρουζούφι Στρατός 10	yes	3	no	no	yes	normal	no	no		good
6	Transportation	Σοφοκλέους 13	no	-	no	no	yes	medium	no	no		very bad
7	Interior	Σταδίου 27	yes	2	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	entrance from Stadiou	good
8	Public Order	Καρουζούφι 1	no	-	no	no	yes	normal	no	no		very good
9	Agriculture	Αγροτών 2	yes	17	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	wide door	bad
10	Mercantile Marine	Βασ. Σοφίας 151, Παροδία	yes	2	no	no	yes	normal	no	no		good
11	Traffic	Πλ. Καραγιώργη	yes	14	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	old building	bad
12	Health & Welfare	Αριστοτέλους 17	yes	6	yes	yes	yes	medium	no	no		very bad (7)
13	Social Affairs	Σταδίου 23	no	-	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	new building	very good
14	Energy & Natural Resources	Μιχαλακοπούλου 80	no	-	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	new building	very good
15	Foreign Affairs	Ακαδημίας & Βασ. Σοφίας	yes	8	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	new building	medium
16	Labour	Παρισίων 40	yes	5	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	widening door	very bad
17	Research & Technology	Ερμού 2	no	-	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	single entrance	good
18	Culture & Science	Αριστοδίου 14	yes	12	no	no	yes	big	no	no	new building	bad
19	Presidential	Ζαλοκώστα 3	yes	8	no	no	yes	normal	no	no	entrance from Zalkosta	medium
20	Physical Planning & Environment	Απυλλοδίου 17	yes	4	yes	yes	yes	normal	no	no		good (7)

Table 1: Accessibility conditions in 20 ministries in Athens in 1984 (EΠΣ-study)

7.2.2 Evaluation of buildings hosting Ministries in Athens in 2004-2009

Over the last decades, some ministries changed their names and were merged with others, so in 2004 there existed 17 ministries of the former ones, which could be visited and reevaluated. The improvement of the accessibility situation to ministries over these two decades is considerable. As can be seen in table 2, almost all ministries (88,2%) were wheelchair-accessible in 2004.

NO	MINISTRY	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	MENTR.	ELEV.	SIZE	WC	PARK.	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Economy & Finance	Νίκης 5-7	yes	1+3+7	lift	yes	yes	6 pers.	yes	no	special code, special phone	very good
2	Nat. Education & Religious Affairs	Μητροπόλεως 15	yes	5	yes	yes	yes	6 pers.	yes	no	parking lot is covered	very good
3	Justice	Μητροπόλεως 96	yes	6	lift	yes	yes	8 pers.	no	no	special counter	very good
4	Transportation & Communications	Αριστοτέλους 2 & Τραπεζών, Πατισίου	yes	1+1	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	yes	special counter, special phone	very good
5	Interior, Public Administration & Decentralisation	Σταδίου 27	yes	2	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	no	no	entrance from Stadiou	very good
6	Public Order	Π.Καραγιώργη 2-4	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	?	yes	special counter	very good
7	Agriculture	Αγροτών 2-6	yes	6+5	no	-	yes	6 pers.	no	no	special code and phone, tracking for WC and phone	bad
8	Mercantile Marine	Γρ. Λαυραίου 150, Παροδία	yes	2	yes	yes	yes	20 pers.	yes	no	space for (dis)orientation, removable ramp	very good
9	Health & Welfare	Αριστοτέλους 17	yes	2+5	yes	no	yes	10 pers.	yes	no		very good
10	Foreign Affairs	Ακαδημίας 1	no	-	-	-	yes	6 pers.	no	yes	tracking for WC and parking	very good
11	Labour & Social Affairs	Παρισίων 40	yes	1+3	yes	yes	yes	7 pers.	yes	no	special counter	very good
12	Culture	Μητροπόλεως 20-22	no	-	-	-	yes	5 pers.	yes	no	tracking for WC and phone	very good
13	Environment, Physical Planning & Public Works	Απυλλοδίου 17	yes	3	yes	yes	yes	5 pers.	no	no	space for (dis)orientation	very good
14	Development	Μιχαλακοπούλου 80	yes	2+3	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes	special code	very good
15	Nat. Defence	Μητροπόλεως Πανόραμα	no	-	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes		very good
16	Press & Mass Media	Ζαλοκώστα 10	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	7 pers.	yes	yes		very good
17	Asylum	Φιλαδέλειου 9	yes	2+7	no	-	no	-	no	no		bad

Table 2: Accessibility conditions in 17 ministries in Athens in 2004

However, as two ministries remain in very old and preservable buildings until today, accessibility to them has not been fully established yet.

7.3.1 Evaluation of buildings hosting hospitals in Athens in 1984

This paragraph will look at accessibility conditions in Athens' hospitals in 1984. Access situation for 31 hospitals as registered by the ΕΠΣ-study are shown in table 3. As shocking at it is, only 32% of these hospitals were wheelchair-accessible in 1984.

no	HOSPITAL	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	RAILWAY	ELEV.	SIZE	COMMENTS	EVALUATION		
1	Αρσάκειος	Τζουμα Κατωχάκη	yes	4	no	no	yes	normal		good		
2	Αρσάκειον	Βασ. Σοφίας 76	yes	4	no	no	yes	normal		good		
3	Αργυρέων	Βασ. Σοφίας 72	no	-	-	-	no	-	3 upper floors without elevator	very good (?)		
4	Αγιος Εφραίμ	Αλεξάνδρος 171	no	-	-	-	yes	normal	entrance of new building at	very good		
5	Άγιος Όλγας	Βασ. Όλγας 8, Λαμία	yes	4	no	no	no	-	separate exit at day clinic wing	bad (?)		
6	Αλεξάνδρος	Βασ. Σοφίας 80	no	-	-	-	yes	normal		very good		
7	Γενικό Νίκαιας	Π. Πάλης & Θεσσαλονίκης 6	yes	2	no	no	yes	normal		good		
8	Δροσολιβάδο	Ισπιδ. Οδός 343, Χαλκίδα	yes	10/15	no	no	yes	normal	all entrances accessible	very bad		
9	Διαγώνιος Ψυχιατρικό	Δαφνί	yes	10/15	no	no	yes	-	many entrances inaccessible	very bad		
10	Εργ. Νοσ. Αθηνών Ελάτης	Τριφυλλίας & Διογυραίου	no	-	yes	no	yes	normal		very bad (?)		
11	Ερμούλης Στρατός	Αγριάδων	yes	3	no	no	yes	normal	entry at separate exit	good		
12	Ευαγγελισμός Εισπ.1	Μαροσίνη	yes	1	yes	-	yes	normal		very good		
13	Ευαγγελισμός Εισπ.2	Αλιαντών	no	-	-	-	yes	normal		very good		
14	Ευαγγελισμός Εισπ.3	Υψηλών	yes	15	no	no	yes	normal	entrance inaccessible	very bad		
15	Ε.Π.Α.Α.	Αναγ. Φαλάκη	no	-	-	-	yes	normal		very good		
16	Γενικό Κέντρο	Βασ. Σοφίας 114	yes	5	no	no	yes	normal		medium		
17	Κ.Α.Τ.	Κίως 2, Κηφισού	no	-	-	-	yes	normal		very good		
18	Λαϊκό	Αγ. Θωμά 17	yes/no	3+3	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	no	no	very good	
19	Ματσούκι (Παρωσιδί)	Μαροσίνη 51, Παρωσιδί	yes	9+3	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	yes	very good	
20	Ματθαίου Μ. Ηλιάδη & Ελ. Βινιζίου	Πλ. Ελ. Βινιζίου 2	yes	2+1	yes	yes	yes	2 pers.	yes	no	spec. part. not too much, also too small in some buildings	very good
21	Μίμης	Ελαιώ. Μεταίχτη	yes	1+2+1	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	no	no	not all entrances accessible	very good
22	Οφθαλμολογικό	Τίνα 2	yes	2	lift	-	lift	-	yes	no	4,7 steps into same building	medium
23	Παιδικό Αθηνών	Παναγι. Τσαυζάκη 3	yes	3	yes	yes	yes	14 pers.	no	no		very good
24	Παιδοψυχιατρικό	Ιωνίου 43	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	12 pers.	no	yes	access up to 2nd floor only	very good
25	Παιδικό Πεντάγωνο (ΜΚΠΝ)	Κηφισού 2, Παιδικό Πεντάγωνο	yes	1+7	lift	-	yes	10 pers.	no	yes		very good
26	Παιδικό Αγ. Κοσμάου	Θεόδωρ. & Αρσάκειος	yes	5+10+8	yes	no	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes	entrance from outpatient dept	very good
27	Παιδικό Αγ. Λαζάρου	Θεόδωρ. & Πατρισταρ. Μικτόπουλου	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes		very good
28	Γενικό Γ. Γεννημάτων	Μαροσίνη 154	yes	1 to 5	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	no		very good
29	Σταθμολογικό	Δροσολιβάδη 5	yes	1	yes	yes	no	-	no	no	upper floors inaccessible	very good
30	Σταθμολογικό	Μαροσίνη 152	yes	2+3	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no		very good
31	Υπεργλυκ. Αρ. Φίλιππου	25ης Μαγιάλας	no	-	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	no	yes		very good
32	481 Γενικό Στρατομαρτί	Αλιαντών-Κατωχάκη & Μαροσίνη	yes	5 to 7	yes	no	yes	4 pers.	yes	no	solely only outpatient dept	very good
33	Νοσοκόμο ΗΜΑ	Διογυραίου 70	yes	3	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	no		very good

Table 3: Accessibility conditions in 31 hospitals in Athens in 1984 (ΕΠΣ-study)

7.3.2 Evaluation of buildings hosting hospitals in Athens in 2004-2009

All hospitals still existed and operated in 2004, and thus could be reevaluated (see tab. 4).

As can be seen, accessibility to Athens' hospitals had been improved as well and in 94% of the visited buildings barrier-free access was possible from at least one entrance in 2004.

The only not completely accessible hospital complex out of the visited ones remains the Dromokaiteion Psychiatric Clinic of Athens until today. This is a complex of many old, detached buildings, which until today remain only partly accessible.

no	HOSPITAL	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	RAIL	ELEV.	SIZE	WC	PARK.	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	251 Γενικό Αρσάκειος	Αλιαντών-Κατωχάκη & Μαροσίνη	yes	1+1	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes	solely only outpatient dept	very good
2	Αρσάκειον	Βασ. Σοφίας 76	yes	4 to 5	yes	yes	yes	4 pers.	no	no	not all entrances accessible, project finished	very good
3	Αργυρέων	Δ. Αργυρού 1	no	-	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	no	based on roof (subterr.)	very good
4	Αγιος Εφραίμ	Αλεξάνδρος 171	no	-	yes	yes	yes	3 pers.	yes	no	not all entrances accessible	very good
5	Άγιος Όλγας	Αγ. Όλγας 3-6, Ν. Λαμία	no	-	yes	-	yes	10 pers.	no	no	special phone	very good
6	Αλεξάνδρος	Κ. Αλιαντών & Βασ. Σοφίας 80	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes	top park in front of hospital	very good
7	Νίκαιας-Αγ. Παναγι. Λαζάρου	Φαναριού 6 & Παναγι. Πάλης	yes	2 to 11	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	yes	not all entrances accessible, but stair-lift & lobby system	very good
8	Δροσολιβάδο	Ισπιδ. Οδός 343, Χαλκίδα	yes	1 to 15	yes/no	no	no	-	yes	no	all buildings with no access to 2nd or 3rd floor	very bad (?)
9	Διαγώνιος Ψυχιατρικό	Αναγ. Φαλάκη 360, Χαλκίδα	yes	1 to 5	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes	renewed buildings - all accessible	very good
10	Εργ. Νοσ. Αθηνών Ελάτης	Διογυραίου 7	yes	9+3	yes	no	yes	13 pers.	yes	yes	is being renovated	very good
11	Ερμούλης Στρατός - Κορυφαίου Μεταίχτη	Ερ. Τσαυζάκη & Αλιαντών	yes	1+3	yes	no	yes	8 pers.	yes	no	raised at outpatient dept.	very good
12	Ευαγγελισμός Εισπ.1	Μαροσίνη	yes	4	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	no		very good
13	Ευαγγελισμός Εισπ.2	Ι. Διαμαντή Πατέρα	yes	5	yes	yes	yes	12 pers.	yes	no		(very good)
14	Ευαγγελισμός Εισπ.3	Υψηλών 45-47	yes	1+15	no	-	yes	5 pers.	no	no	access from other gates	(very bad)
15	Ε.Π.Α.Α.	Αναγ. Φαλάκη, Τίνα	no	-	yes	yes	yes	15 pers.	yes	yes	toilets not properly equipped	very good
16	Γενικό Κέντρο	Αναγ. Φαλάκη & Βασ. Σοφίας 114	yes	3+7	yes	yes	yes	5 pers.	yes	no		very good
17	Κ.Α.Τ.	Κίως 2, Κηφισού	no	-	yes	yes	yes	14 pers.	no	no		very good
18	Λαϊκό	Αγ. Θωμά 17	yes/no	3+3	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	no	no		very good
19	Ματσούκι (Παρωσιδί)	Μαροσίνη 51, Παρωσιδί	yes	9+3	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	yes		very good
20	Ματθαίου Μ. Ηλιάδη & Ελ. Βινιζίου	Πλ. Ελ. Βινιζίου 2	yes	2+1	yes	yes	yes	2 pers.	yes	no	spec. part. not too much, also too small in some buildings	very good
21	Μίμης	Ελαιώ. Μεταίχτη	yes	1+2+1	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	no	no	not all entrances accessible	very good
22	Οφθαλμολογικό	Τίνα 2	yes	2	lift	-	lift	-	yes	no	4,7 steps into same building	medium
23	Παιδικό Αθηνών	Παναγι. Τσαυζάκη 3	yes	3	yes	yes	yes	14 pers.	no	no		very good
24	Παιδοψυχιατρικό	Ιωνίου 43	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	12 pers.	no	yes	access up to 2nd floor only	very good
25	Παιδικό Πεντάγωνο (ΜΚΠΝ)	Κηφισού 2, Παιδικό Πεντάγωνο	yes	1+7	lift	-	yes	10 pers.	no	yes		very good
26	Παιδικό Αγ. Κοσμάου	Θεόδωρ. & Αρσάκειος	yes	5+10+8	yes	no	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes	entrance from outpatient dept	very good
27	Παιδικό Αγ. Λαζάρου	Θεόδωρ. & Πατρισταρ. Μικτόπουλου	yes	1	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	yes		very good
28	Γενικό Γ. Γεννημάτων	Μαροσίνη 154	yes	1 to 5	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	no		very good
29	Σταθμολογικό	Δροσολιβάδη 5	yes	1	yes	yes	no	-	no	no	upper floors inaccessible	very good
30	Σταθμολογικό	Μαροσίνη 152	yes	2+3	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no		very good
31	Υπεργλυκ. Αρ. Φίλιππου	25ης Μαγιάλας	no	-	yes	yes	yes	8 pers.	no	yes		very good
32	481 Γενικό Στρατομαρτί	Αλιαντών-Κατωχάκη & Μαροσίνη	yes	5 to 7	yes	no	yes	4 pers.	yes	no	solely only outpatient dept	very good
33	Νοσοκόμο ΗΜΑ	Διογυραίου 70	yes	3	yes	yes	yes	10 pers.	yes	no		very good

Table 4: Accessibility conditions in 31 hospitals in Athens in 2004

7.4.1 Evaluation of buildings hosting higher-degree educational buildings in Athens in 1984

In the following, accessibility conditions to tertiary educational buildings in Athens for wheelchair-users are presented. The table below gives the detailed data on accessibility conditions in 12 university and higher technological institution buildings in Athens in 1984 (see tab. 5). As can be clearly seen, no higher-degree educational buildings was wheelchair-accessible in 1984.

no	UNIVERSITY	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	RAIL	ELEV.	SIZE	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Πολυτεχνείο	Παρωσιδί	yes	5/more	no	no	no	-	many subterranean buildings	very bad
2	Νοσηρ. Εισπ.1	Μαροσίνη 15	yes	15	no	yes	yes	normal	old building	very bad
3	Νοσηρ. Εισπ.2	Ζέμα	yes	10	no	no	yes	normal	old building	(very bad) (?)
4	Πολυτεχν. Εισπ.1	Αλ. Πάνου	yes	9+8	no	no	yes	normal	subterranean buildings	bad
5	Πολυτεχν. Εισπ.2	Αλ. Πάνου	yes	13	no	yes	yes	normal	subterranean buildings	(bad)
6	Ιατρική	Γουδί	yes	5 to 15	no	no	no	-	3 subterranean buildings	medium (?)
7	Αρτοποιίας Παιδ. Ανορθώσιμ.	Π. Φυλάκη	yes	28	no	yes	no	-	old building	very bad
8	Γραμματοφιλολογία	Παρωσιδί	yes	9	no	no	yes	normal		(bad)
9	Γλωσσολογία	Βουκουρέζης	yes	10	no	no	no	-	old buildings, upper floors, new ones old	bad (?)
10	Γεωγραφία	Πατρισταρ. Μικτόπουλου	yes	10 to 15	no	no	yes	normal		bad
11	Κ.Α.Τ.Ε. Αθηνών	Αγ. Πλάτων	no	-	-	yes	no	-	three floors, no elevator	very bad
12	Κ.Α.Τ.Ε. Περραιφίας	Κ. Φαλάκη	yes	-	no	no	no	-	two floors, old building	very bad
13	Κηφισομάτιος	Βουκουρέζης 70	yes	11	no	no	no	-	two floors	very bad
14	Πολυτεχν. Εισπ.2	Καλλιθέα	yes	20	no	no	no	-	old building, upper floors, new ones old	very bad

Table 5: Accessibility conditions in 12 higher-degree educational buildings in Athens in 1984 (ΕΠΣ-study)

7.4.2 Evaluation of buildings hosting higher-degree educational buildings in Athens in 2004-2009

Although most of the visited educational buildings are situated in old buildings, some basic adaptations were made until 2004 to guarantee access to students with reduced mobility at least to lecture halls that are situated on ground-floors in 84,6% of the cases (see tab. 6).

no	UNIVERSITY	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	ENTR	ELEV	SIZE	WC	PARK	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Πολυτεχνείο	Πατησίων 42	yes	4/more	yes	yes	yes	3 pers.	no	no	stair (no elevator too small)	very good
2	Νορική Εκπ.1	Αεολυγίας 45	yes	2	no	-	yes	6 pers.	no	no		good
3	Νορική Εκπ.2	Σόλωνος 57	yes	1+1	yes	yes	yes	3 pers.	no	no	stair (no elevator too small)	very good
4	Πάντειος Εκπ.1	Αλ. Πάντου	yes	12	yes	yes	yes	4 pers.	yes	yes	new building	very good
5	Πάντειος Εκπ.2	Φραγκούδη	yes	3+8	yes	no	yes	3 pers.	no	yes	old building	very good
6	Παιδική	Μαγός Ασίας 75, Γουδί	yes	3/more	yes (lift)	yes	yes/no	5 pers.	yes	yes	all lecture halls are accessible	very good
7	Γερμανική Φιλολογία	Πανεπιστημίου	yes	>15	yes	no	yes	14 pers.	yes	yes	toilets are locked	very good
8	Γεωπονική	Ιερά Οδός 75	yes	7/more	no	-	yes	5 pers.	yes	no	elevator does not reach basement, library fully accessible with up. toilet	very bad
9	Γεωλογική	Πανεπιστημίου	yes	11	yes	no	yes	5 pers.	yes	yes	up park locked	very good
10	ΤΕΙ Αθηνών	Αγ. Σπυρίδωνα & Δημητρίου, Αγιάφω	yes	1 to 7	yes	yes	yes	5 pers.	yes	no	all buildings accessible (only 1 train entrance), 2 up. toilets in total	very good
11	ΤΕΙ Περγαμώνας	Θηβών & Π. Ράλλου, Αγιάφω	yes	1 to 13	yes	yes	yes	6 pers.	yes	no	all buildings are accessible, up. toilet in every building	very good
12	Χημείας	Θηβών 70, Κολιβάδα	yes	5+2+3	yes	no	yes	big	yes	no	elevator locked	very good
13	Τεχνολογίας	Θεσσαλονίκης 151, Κολιβάδα	yes	7+7	yes	no	yes	big	yes	yes	up park, leads to elevator (but locked)	very good

Table 6: Accessibility conditions in 13 higher-degree educational buildings in Athens in 2004

However, access to many administrative bureaus and laboratories and lecture halls on upper floors remains in many cases problematic and often even impossible until today!

7.5.1 Evaluation of buildings hosting museums in Athens in 1984

This paragraph will look at accessibility conditions in Athens' museums in 1984. The very poor access situation for 12 museums as registered by the ΕΠΣ-study are shown in table 7.

no	MUSEUM	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	RAIL	ELEV	SIZE	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Εθνικό Αρχαιολογικό	Τοσότα 1	yes	10	no	no	no	-		bad
2	Βυζαντινό	Βασ. Σοφίας 22	no	-	-	-	no	-	second floor inaccessible	very bad
3	Γουλιερμάκη Φωκ. Ιστορίας	Αρβύλων 13, Κηφισός	yes	8	no	no	no	-	ground floor and basement	medium (?)
4	Καραϊσκάκης	Καραϊσκάκης	yes	3	no	no	no	-		good
5	Διοικητικό Χαρτζηράκη	Αγ. Χαρτζηράκη 6	yes	16	no	no	no	-	see floor	very bad
6	Αιλικός Τίγρης	Κυβερνήτων 17	no	-	-	-	yes	normal		very good
7	Μπενάκη	Βασ. Σοφίας & Κουμπάρη	yes	13	no	yes	yes	normal		very bad (?)
8	Πολυτεχνείο	Βασ. Σοφίας & Ριζοίρη	yes	11	no	yes	no	-	ground floor and basement	bad
9	Εθνική Πνακοθήκη	Βασ. Σοφίας & Βασ. Αλεξάνδρου	yes	10	no	no	no	-		bad
10	Διοικητικό Πνακοθήκη	Παρακάσι 51	yes	8	no	no	no	-	no floor, 30 steps	very bad
11	Ιστορικό Εθνικό Μουσείο	Παλαιά Βουλή, Σταδίου	yes	20	no	no	no	-	ground floor	very bad
12	Ναυτικό Μουσείο	Αρμ. Ζωής, Φραγκούδα, Παρακάσι	no	-	-	-	no	-	ground floor	very bad (?)

Table 7: Accessibility conditions in 12 museums in Athens in 1984 (ΕΠΣ-study)

7.5.2 Evaluation of buildings hosting museums in Athens in 2004-2009

The improvement of accessibility conditions to museums over the last decades is evident. In 2004, 75% of all visited museums were accessible for visitors with reduced mobility (see tab. 8).

The two problematic buildings which remained, are both located in preservable ones, which did not

have any facilitations at all for users with mobility impairments until 2004.

no	MUSEUM	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	ENTR	ELEV	SIZE	WC	PARK	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Εθνικό Αρχαιολογικό	Πατησίων	yes	7	yes	yes	no	-	yes	no	no up. toilet	very good
2	Βυζαντινό	Βασ. Σοφίας 22, Κολιβάδα	no	-	yes	-	yes	10 pers.	yes	no	ground floor and basement are accessible through ground floor	very good
3	Γουλιερμάκη Φωκ. Ιστορίας	Αρβύλων 13, Κηφισός	yes	3 (?)	yes	yes	no	-	no	no	no up. toilet	(very good)
4	Καραϊσκάκης	Αγ. Χαρτζηράκη 6, Πλάκα	yes	3+13	no	-	no	-	no	no	ground floor and basement	very bad
6	Αιλικός Τίγρης	Κυβερνήτων 17, Πλάκα	no	-	-	-	yes	4 pers.	no	no	ground floor and basement	very good
7	Μπενάκη	Κουμπάρη 1, Κολιβάδα	yes	2+3	yes	no	yes	6 pers.	yes	no	ground floor and basement are accessible	very good
8	Πολυτεχνείο	Ριζοίρη 2, Κολιβάδα	yes	8+8	yes	no	yes	8 pers.	yes	no	ground floor and basement are accessible	very good
9	Εθνική Πνακοθήκη	Βασ. Κωνσταντίνου 50	yes	3+7	lift	yes	yes	8 pers.	yes	no		very good
10	Πνακοθήκη Αθηνών	Παρακάσι 51	yes	1+8	no	-	no	-	no	no	ground floor and basement	(very good)
11	Ιστορικό Εθνικό Μουσείο	Παλαιά Βουλή, Σταδίου 13	yes	21	no	-	no	-	no	no	ground floor	very bad
12	Ναυτικό Μουσείο	Αρμ. Θρακοκλήδος, Παρακάσι	yes	1+1	no	-	no	-	no	no	lift on the ground floor	good

Table 8: Accessibility conditions in 12 museums in Athens in 2004

Until January 2009, an elevator had been placed in the Folklore Art Centre making the visit to almost all exhibits on the upper floors possible, except for the semi-floor over ground-level.

The only exception remains the National Historic Museum until today, which still is not autonomously accessible, due to a large staircase with 21 steps at its entrance.

7.6.1 Evaluation of buildings hosting theatres in Athens in 1984

no	THEATRE	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	RAILING	ELEVATOR	SIZE	EVALUATION
1	Αθήναι	Επιφανίου 10	yes	10	no	no	no	-	bad
2	Αθηναίων	Ακαδημίας 3	yes	25	no	no	no	-	very bad
3	Αθηνών	Βουκουρεστίου 10	yes	20-30	no	yes	no	-	very bad
4	Αεολυγίας	Ιπποκράτους 17-19	yes	40	no	yes	no	-	very bad
5	Αεροπορία	Ιπποκράτους 9	yes	3	no	no	yes	normal	good
6	Αλέξανδρα	Σταυρινάρα 53	yes	40	no	yes	no	-	very bad
7	Αλική	Αμρικής 4	yes	15	no	yes	no	-	very bad
8	Άλφα	Πατησίων 37	yes	25	no	yes	no	-	very bad
9	Άρμολ	Αμρικής 18	yes	25	no	yes	no	-	very bad
10	Ανατολή	Πατησίων 72	yes	15 to 20	no	yes	no	-	very bad
11	Αντιόχευο	Κοδριγκιανός 2	yes	10	no	yes	no	-	bad
12	Αποθήκη	Σαρρή 10	yes (?)	-	-	-	-	-	very good
13	Βαχά	Σταυρινάρα 32	yes	40	no	yes	no	-	very good (?)
14	Βίργη	Βουκουρεστίου 1	yes	15	no	yes	no	-	bad
15	Βίγμο	Καρόλου 18	yes	6	no	-	no	-	medium
16	Βρετανία	Πανεπιστημίου 7	yes	45 to 50	no	-	no	-	very bad
17	Γκλόρια	Ιπποκράτους 7	yes	9	no	-	no	-	bad
18	Δάφνη	Ιπποκράτους 7	yes	20	no	yes	no	-	very bad
19	Διονύσια	Αμρικής 10	yes	15 to 20	no	-	no	-	very bad
20	Εθνικό	Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου 24	yes	3 to 5	no	no	no	-	good
21	Ένα	Φιλοσόφου 178	yes	4	no	no	no	-	good
22	Έρευνα	Βασιλίου 21	no	-	-	-	no	-	very good
23	Περσίδα	Αλεξάνδρου 104-106	yes	20	no	no	no	-	very good (?)
24	Κόππα	Κυβερνήτων 4	yes	3	-	-	no	-	good
25	Κέα	Κόροπος 7	yes	5	-	yes	no	-	medium
26	Κοκκιάδων	Κοκκιάδων	no	-	-	-	-	-	very good
27	Λουκιζιάνα	Ευαγγελίου 47	yes	10	no	no	no	-	bad
28	Μίνωα	Ευαγγελίου 47	no	-	-	-	no	-	very good
29	Μουσική	Πλ. Καρόλου	yes	15	no	yes	no	-	very good (?)
30	Μπενιγούση	Πατησίων & Αγ. Μελαιρίου	no	-	-	-	yes	-	very good
31	Όρχο	Βουκουρεστίου 15	yes	25 to 30	no	-	yes	-	very bad
32	Πορπία	Τριπόρων 3	yes	3 to 4	no	no	no	-	good
33	Πόρτα	Μεσογείων	yes	10	no	no	no	-	very good (?)
34	Ριζέ	Πανεπιστημίου 48	no	-	-	-	yes	-	very good
35	Σούπερ Στάρ	Αγ. Μελαιρίου	no	-	-	-	yes	-	very good
36	Στάθ	1η Στάση Σωκράτους	yes	10	no	-	no	-	bad
37	Τίγρης	Σταδίου 52	yes	20	-	-	-	-	very bad
38	Χαρτζηράκη	Πανεπιστημίου 38	yes	20	no	no	no	-	very bad

Table 9: Accessibility conditions in 38 theatres in Athens in 1984 (ΕΠΣ-study)

In the table above (see tab. 9), accessibility conditions for wheelchair-users to buildings hosting theatres in Athens are presented. In 1984, out of 38 evaluated theatres, only 11 were found to be accessible for mobility reduced spectators.

7.6.2 Evaluation of buildings hosting theatres in Athens in 2004-2009

In 2004, only 27 of the 38 visited theatres from 1984 were still operating and having performances. In these theatres, unfortunately almost no changes regarding Universal Access could be noticed.

One main problem lies in the fact, that most theatres are located in basements. Furthermore, they mostly belong to private owners and thus, seldom applications for State subventions are made or approved. In conclusion, only 7,4% of the visited theatres were accessible for spectators with reduced mobility in 2004 (see tab. 10).

no	THEATRE	ADDRESS	STAIRS	STEPS	RAMP	ELEVATOR	WC	PAVING	COMMENTS	EVALUATION	
1	Αθήνα	Διφύλλο 10 & Πατησίων	yes	3+2	no	-	no	no	no	excellent	
2	Τσίνα Κορυθ	Ανδριάντων 3	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	staircase to entrance	very bad	
3	Αθηνών	Βακουραίου 10	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
4	Ακαδημίας	Ιπποκράτους 17	yes	>15	no	yes	lift	no	no	excellent to good	
5	Αρχαία Νέα Σχολή Ε.Α.Ε.	Ιπποκράτους 5-11	yes	1+3	no	-	no	no	staircase to entrance	good	
6	Αθήνα	Αριστοτέλους 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
7	Αθήνα	Πατησίων 27	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
8	Αθήνα	Αγρινίου 10	yes	>15	-	-	no	no	no	very bad	
9	Ανατολή	Ατταλίας & Πατησίων	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
10	Αθήνα	Μεταχρύσου 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
11	Αθήνα	Αδελφώνων 40, Ν.Μαρ	yes	1	no	-	no	no	no	good	
12	Αθήνα	Στοάς 32	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
13	Αθήνα	Μεταχρύσου 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
14	Αθήνα	Καρόλου 10, Μεταχρύσου	yes	2	no	-	no	no	no	good	
15	Αθήνα	Πατισσίων 7	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
16	Αθήνα	Ιπποκράτους 7	yes	3	no	-	no	no	no	bad	
17	Αθήνα	Ιπποκράτους 7	yes	10	no	-	no	no	no	bad	
18	Αθήνα	Αιτωπόλεως 10	yes	3+6	no	-	no	no	staircase to entrance	bad	
19	Αθήνα	Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου 22,24	yes	1	no	-	no	no	2nd stage on 1st step, 2nd stage on 2nd step	good	
20	Αθήνα	Βακουραίου 17	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
21	Αθήνα	Βακουραίου 27, Σουλίου	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
22	Αθήνα	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
23	Αθήνα	Καρόλου 2	yes	1+3	no	-	no	no	no	good	
24	Αθήνα	Αριστοτέλους 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
25	Αθήνα	Κορνηλιού & Κωνσταντίνου	no	-	-	yes	no	no	2nd stage on 1st step, 2nd stage on 2nd step	very good	
26	Αθήνα	Ευαγγελιστών 47	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
27	Αθήνα	Πατισσίων 31	yes	1	no	-	no	no	no	good	
28	Αθήνα	Πλ. Κόρατος 6	yes	15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
29	Αθήνα	Αγ. Μελίτιου 51	yes	>15	no	-	yes	no	no	very good	
30	Αθήνα	Μεταχρύσου 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
31	Αθήνα	Τραπεζών 3/5, Πλ. Βακουραίου	yes	1	yes	yes	-	yes	no	4 stages on 1st step	good
32	Αθήνα	Μεταχρύσου 59	yes	15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
33	Αθήνα	Ρίγ. - Εθνική Κληρονομία	yes	>15	-	-	yes	no	no	1. 2nd stage on 1st step	good
34	Αθήνα	Πλ. Μελίτιου	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	
35	Αθήνα	Μητσών 155, Ζωγράφου	yes	2+5+5	no	-	no	no	4 stages on 1st step	good	
36	Αθήνα	Τεχνών - Υπόγειο - Κ.Κων	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	no	very bad	
37	Αθήνα	Πατισσίων 20	yes	>15	no	-	no	no	staircase to entrance	very bad	

Table 10: Accessibility conditions in 27 theatres in Athens in 2004

As adaptations of theatres lie in the hand of their owners, few private theatres have made their performance halls accessible for wheelchair users until today.

Until 2009, little further changes towards accessibility were made. Only Alike Theatre and the

National Theatre, which were both being renovated in 2004, are now wheelchair-accessible. Furthermore, in Gloria Theatre, there now exists a ramp, which can be placed over the steps if needed.

7.7.1 Evaluation of buildings hosting cinemas in Athens in 1984

The last table of the ΕΠΣ-study analyses cinemas, as another form of entertainment building of public use. The following table (see tab. 11) shows accessibility conditions in 31 cinemas in 1984. Again, the percentage of accessible buildings is very small: only 7 out of 31 cinemas were evaluated very good accessible.

no	CINEMA	ADDRESS	STAIRS	STEPS	RAMP	RAILING	ELEVATOR	WC	PAVING	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Αθήνα	Βασ. Σοφίας 102	yes	9	no	no	-	-	-	no	bad
2	Αλεξάνδρα	Πατησίων 79	yes	20	no	yes	-	-	-	no	very bad
3	Αλκωνίδα	Κοκκινόπου 42-46	yes	3	no	no	-	-	-	no	good
4	Αρκελ	Γ' Σεπτεμβρίου 166	yes	8	no	no	-	-	-	no	medium
5	Αστάρης	Ιπέρ Οδός 197	yes	1	no	no	-	-	-	no	good
6	Ασπίλων	Σταδίου 19	yes	20 to 25	no	no	-	-	-	no	very bad
7	Αστρά	Σταδίου	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	very good
8	Αστρά	Μπότταρη, Αγάλου	yes	4	no	no	-	-	-	no	good
9	Αστρά	Α.Κορνηλιού 37	yes	6	no	no	-	-	-	no	medium
10	Ασπί	Καραή 4	yes	40	no	-	-	-	-	no	very bad
11	Ασπί	Πλ. Αμφοτέρων	yes	3	-	-	-	-	-	no	good
12	Ασπί	Σταδίου 19	yes	8	-	no	-	-	-	no	medium
13	Δανάης	Α.Κορνηλιού 100	yes	6	no	yes	-	-	-	no	medium
14	Ελλά	Ακαδημίας 64	yes	8	no	no	-	-	-	no	medium
15	Ερμού	Πατισσίων 5	yes	18	no	no	-	-	-	no	very bad
16	Ερμού	Μεταχρύσου 4, Αγάλου	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	very good
17	Ελλά	Βασ. Σοφίας & Παμβαλακίου	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	very good
18	Κέρκε	Φωκίας 11-13	yes	45	-	yes	-	-	-	no	very bad
19	Ασπί	Φωκίας 11	yes	20	-	yes	-	-	-	no	very bad
20	Μεταχρύσου	Ευαγγελιστών 44	yes	8	no	no	-	-	-	no	medium
21	Μίνι Ριξ	Φωκίας 87	yes	4	no	no	-	-	-	no	good
22	Ναυπλίου	Α.Αλεξάνδρας 192	yes	6	no	no	-	-	-	no	medium
23	Ναυπλίου	Ιπέρ Οδός 234	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	very good
24	Οστρά	Ακαδημίας 57	yes	25	no	no	-	-	-	no	very good (?)
25	Οστρά	Βουλιαγμένης & Αρταίου 57	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	very good
26	Πατισσίων	Ακαδημίας 67	yes	2	no	no	-	-	-	no	good
27	Πατισσίων	Βακουραίου 1	yes	>15	no	no	-	-	-	no	very bad
28	Πατισσίων	Πλ. Πατισσίων	yes	2	no	no	-	-	-	no	good
29	Πατισσίων	Βασ. Γεωργίου Β' & Ρίγης	yes	30	no	-	-	-	-	no	very bad
30	Ρίγης	Πατισσίων 240	yes	6	no	yes	-	-	-	no	medium
31	Στοάς	Σταυρούλου 33	no	-	-	-	-	-	-	no	very good

Table 11: Accessibility conditions in 31 cinemas in Athens in 1984 (ΕΠΣ-study)

7.7.2 Evaluation of buildings hosting cinemas in Athens in 2004-2009

Two decades later, 11 of the former cinemas were closed or had changed their function. In the following (see tab. 12) the evaluation of the 20 operating cinemas in 2004 is presented.

Unfortunately, the same problems as discussed with buildings hosting theatres occur here as well. In 2004, only 25% of all visited cinemas were accessible in Athens. This comparison portrays as well, that almost no changes have taken place during those two decades in cinemas – and this is today's situation as well.

no	CINEMA	ADDRESS	STAIR	STEPS	RAMP	MENTR	ELEV.	SIDE	WC	PARK.	COMMENTS	EVALUATION
1	Αθήναον	Βοστ. Σοφίας 124	yes	2+12	no	-	no	-	no	no		bad
2	Αλεξάνδρα	Πατισίων 77-79	yes	15	no	-	no	-	no	no		very bad
3	Μοντέρνο Θέατρο Αλευρκών	Ιουλιανού 42-46	yes	2+7	no	-	no	-	no	no	turned into a theatre	bad
	Αίχμη	Γ. Στεφάνου 166	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
4	Αντρός 1	Ιερά Οδό 197, Αιγάλεω	no	-	-	-	no	-	no	no	Adans2 (1st floor) inaccessible	very good
5	Αττικόν Renault	Σταθίου 19	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no		very bad
6	Astron Nes cafe	Σταθίου 28	yes	1	no	-	no	-	no	no		good
	Αστρα	Μπότση, Αιγάλεω	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
7	Αστρον	Λαωφ. Κηφισίας 37	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no	only 3 steps at fire exit	good
8	Αστύ	Κορονη 4	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no		very bad
9	Αττικά Cinema 1	Πλ. Αμπελιών 5	yes	2+3	no	-	no	-	no	no	Adans2 (1st floor) inaccessibile	medium
10	Αττικόν Renault	Σταθίου 19	yes	>15	yes	no	no	-	no	no		very good
11	Δαναός 1	Λαωφ. Κηφισίας 109	yes	6	no	-	no	-	no	no	Dansos: fire exit has only 1 step	good
12	Έλλη	Αναδημιός 64	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no		very bad
13	Εργασια Filmnet Odeon	Πατρ. Ιωακείμ 5, Κολωνάκι	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no		very bad
	Εργα	Μοσχιστην, Αιγάλεω	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
14	Θέατρο Λίλιαν - Μ. Ντεμίσση	Βοστ. Σοφίας & Ποσειδωνοστασίου	no	-	-	-	-	-	no	no	turned into a theatre	very good
15	Κάροουτ	Φιλιππίου 11-13	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no	turned into a theatre	very bad
	Καρό	Φιλιππίου 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
	Μουσικόν	Ευρυπύου 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
	Μία Ρ.Σ	Φιλιππίου 67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
16	Νυφάρου Cinemax	Λαωφ. Αλεξάνδρας 192	yes	1+7	no	-	no	-	no	no		medium
	Νύφα	Ιερά Οδό 254	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
17	Alpha Odeon Ομπρα	Αναδημιός 57	yes	>15	no	-	no	-	no	no		very bad
	Οραός	Αρτίμους 57 Βιττόρια	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
	Παγκάτον	Δαμάρου 57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
	Παλλός	Θεσσαλονίκης 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
18	Παλιός	Υψηλιού 109, Παγκράτι	yes	2	no	-	no	-	no	no		good
19	Πττ Παλαι	Βοστ. Γ. Ευαγγελίου & Ριζοφύση	yes	>15	yes	no	no	-	no	no	ramp at fire exit	very good
	Ράβου Οίκο	Πατισίων 240	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	closed	-
20	Art Studio	Στεφανοπούλου 33	yes	1 (3cm)	no	-	no	-	no	no	tree entrance	very good

Table 12: Accessibility conditions in 20 cinemas in Athens in 2004

Many performance halls are situated in basements, or it is often only one performance hall that is somehow accessible for spectators with mobility impairments. For instance, Adams Cinema 1 is very good accessible, while its second performance hall is located on the first floor and thus inaccessible, as there is no elevator or stair lift. An identical situation can be found at Attika Cinema and Danaos Cinema.

As adaptations of cinemas lie as well in the hand of their owners, only two cinemas had made their performance halls accessible for wheelchair users until 2004. The one was Attikon Renault Cinema, where a ramp was placed at the side entrance. The other was the Petit Palais Cinema, where a ramp was placed at its fire-exit. Furthermore, the owner of Astron Cinema mentioned, that he had applied for a subvention in order to make this cinema accessible, but the State and the Municipality showed no interest and denied the request!

Thus, situation has not changed at all until today as regards wheelchair-access to cinemas in Athens.

5.2.7 Overview on accessibility improvements to public buildings in Athens

The overview, which was presented in the precedent sections might have given an almost perfect image as regards the improvement of accessibility conditions in some of Athens’ public buildings until today. If one regards only Universal Access criteria as determined by the ΕΠΣ-study, important changes can be remarked in some of the presented building categories (see fig. 3).

The majority of buildings hosting ministries, hospitals and university faculties were evaluated “accessible” in 2009, with the exception of some services that are located in very old, preservable buildings.

However, situation is very different if a glance at entertainment facilities is taken: most of the locations remain inaccessible for people with reduced mobility until today. In contrast to the former categories, in most cases of the entertainment sector it is private owners that have to engage in establishing accessibility to their buildings.

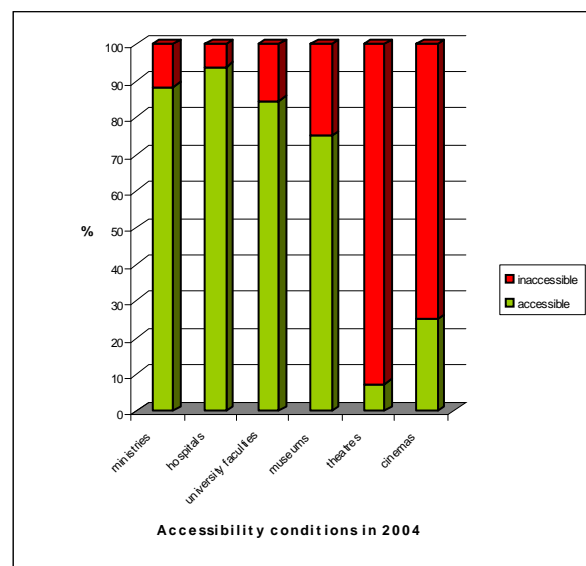


Fig. 3: Percentages of “very good” accessible buildings compared to inaccessible buildings of public use in Athens (author’s study in 2004)

6 Accessibility conditions in Athens today

Regardless the previous figure, the application of Universal Design guidelines during the last years has been rather poor in Greece. Most improvements have been made exclusively for people with reduced mobility and specifically wheelchair-users. All other impairments (such as visual, acoustic or sensual) continue to have almost no accessibility facilitations at all.

However, in 2009, all of the examined ministries were found to be now accessible, “only” two museums continue to have barriers to reach some of their exhibition levels, but unfortunately over 92% of Athens’ theatres and 75% of Athens’ cinemas remain inaccessible for users with mobility impairments even today. And even these data do not reflect reality in Greece’s capital.

Although many efforts can be remarked during the last years in public buildings hosting State services in Greece, constructions often remain bad (e.g. ramps with steep inclinations) and adaptations are rather short-minded (e.g. placing of removable platform on top of steps). Efficiency and functioning in the way it would be helpful for people with disability is often not the result of such undertakings.

«Autonomous» in Greece seems to stand for moving with the help of only 1 person, instead of 4 or 5! Although some efforts can be remarked during the last years, there is no guarantee that a building thought to be “accessible” is really autonomously reachable. The presence of a ramp does not necessarily mean that a wheelchair driver can really use it. Ramp inclinations often exceed the 5-6 degree limit, as they only provide a platform, which is placed on top of steps.

In addition, there is no proper provision for surveillance and maintenance, which leads to the fact, that, for instance, elevators often are out of order, toilets for wheelchair-users are used as storage rooms and special parking lots for wheelchair-users are not kept free!

But in general, the situation in Athens’ buildings with public use, especially those belonging to private owners, is alarming. The precedent analysis of some theatres and cinemas gives the real image of this rather unfriendly city! As buildings are old and performance halls are often located in the basement, adaptations have not been made over the last years. Re-use of traditional and modern architecture has to propose contemporary methods and new suggests should not offend traditional ones [13]. There is no legislative ordinance, which forces existing buildings to become accessible. And even in those few cases, where owners showed some interest to adapt their building, no support or interest on the part of the state has been noted!

However, the positive side is, that more recently built or completely renovated buildings hosting public services and facilities do guarantee accessibility for people with disability and they can be often used autonomously. One famous example is the Athens’ Megaron Mousikis (Μέγαρο Μουσικής Αθηνών), which has been even awarded for its

accessibility by the EEC [12]. All Village and Multiplex Cinema Centres are also completely accessible and frequently visited by wheelchair users. Finally, the buildings, which host the private collections at the Vorre Museum and the Jewellery Museum Lalaounis, are accessible, as well.

But, the most important problem remains the fragmentary way in which work is done. No continuity is guaranteed, leading to a piecemeal of adaptations that finally serve nobody, as there is no follow-up in the «chain of accessibility». So far, only few pavements in Athens have curb cuts, which lead people with disability to primarily use the road to move without obstacles. Parking lots for wheelchair users are almost never kept free - and police only gives tickets, if at all, to illegally parked vehicles, instead of ordering their pick up! In general, it seems that people with disability are not expected to move around or use buildings of public use in Greece and first and foremost not on their own!

7 Conclusions

Greece may be an extreme case as portrayed so far, but situation in other European countries is similar, in one way or the other.

The most important problem remains the fragmentary way in which Universal Access is applied. Often, the over-all important continuity is not guaranteed, leading to a piecemeal of adaptations that finally serve nobody, as the follow-up in the chain of accessibility is not available, either by bad architecture or misbehavior of citizens.

In conclusion, social and physical barriers need to be erased on all levels and finally the notion has to prevail, that people with disability have the same right to move around autonomously and wherever they choose to!

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