

De : Bensalah Khadija

Envoyé : mercredi 10 février 2021 10:55

À : 'mher hakobyan' <mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org>

Cc : Duchenne Véronique <Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be>; Magritte Olivier <Olivier.Magritte@minsoc.fed.be>

Objet : RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Dear Mher,

Thank you very much for your completed answer!!

About the payment of the document, we also find it a shame. Standards should be published free of charge so that they can be applied... In any case, you are right to do a campagne to make them accessible free.

We are interested in receiving the latest version of the draft in confidence. It's very nice of you.

And for the participation to the extern groups, I have to ask to the BDF's board. I'll come back to you after 9/03.

Again I thank you for your help and availability!!

Kind regards,
Khadija

De : mher hakobyan <mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org>

Envoyé : mardi 9 février 2021 11:10

À : Bensalah Khadija <Khadija.Bensalah@minsoc.fed.be>

Objet : RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Dear Khadija,

I am well. I hope you too.

The Standard is officially available from 2021-01-15. However, it is not freely available but needs to be purchased by anyone interested to use it. Even we at EDF, despite participating in its development, cannot get it for free... quite silly... 😊 This year we want to try to do a small campaign to urge relevant standards to be freely available, so let's see if that works...

I can however share with you the last version of the draft in case you want to check it. It will be almost final, maybe before last editorial changes were done... It's quite a big document so I can send you a link to download it from ... Let me know if this would be useful, and if so, please treat it confidentially...

In the meantime, I attach a small update note on the M420 mandate so you know the latest development in relation to the Standard. As you know the Standard comes with 2 technical documents (TR1: Accessibility and usability of the built environment - Technical performance criteria and specifications; TR2: Accessibility and usability of the built environment - Conformity assessment), which still need to be approved as well. The deadline for that is 22 April. So, it would be great if you can contact

the Belgian standardisation body again and urge them to "Accepts the document as a Technical Report". I will ask the same from our other members, but taking the chance to ask you now since you wrote. 😊

Finally, I don't remember if I have asked you before, but would you like to be involved in our built environment and/or standardisation email expert groups? We also have one on transport accessibility/passenger rights, and on information and communication technologies (ICT). The email groups are where we share relevant information about our work (such as about this standard), ask experts for input, and share event or other engagement opportunities. Participation is purely voluntary and there is absolutely no requirement to engage on all the topics or at all times... If you (or other colleagues) are interested to join any of these groups, please let me know and I'll ask for our group chairs for their approval.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Sorry my email turned out to be quite long.

Best,
Mher

From: Bensalah Khadija <Khadija.Bensalah@minsoc.fed.be>
Sent: 08 February 2021 20:07
To: mher hakobyan <mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org>
Subject: RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Dear Mher

I hope you are fine.
Again I'll come back to you about the Standard, can you tell me if it is published? I see dates on the CEN site but I'm not sure it's online.

I thank you in advance for your answer.

Kind regards,
Khadija

De : mher hakobyan <mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org>
Envoyé : mercredi 9 décembre 2020 14:56
À : Bensalah Khadija <Khadija.Bensalah@minsoc.fed.be>
Cc : Magritte Olivier <Olivier.Magritte@minsoc.fed.be>; Duchenne Véronique <Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be>
Objet : RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Thank you too for your support! :)

Best,
Mher

From: Bensalah Khadija <Khadija.Bensalah@minsoc.fed.be>
Sent: 09 December 2020 14:48
To: mher hakobyan <mher.hakobyan@edf-feeph.org>
Cc: Magritte Olivier <Olivier.Magritte@minsoc.fed.be>; Duchenne Véronique <Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be>
Subject: RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Dear Mher

Thanks a lot for your detailed answer and explanation. That helps us very much!

Again, thank you for your availability!

Kind regards,
Khadija

De : mher hakobyan <mher.hakobyan@edf-feeph.org>
Envoyé : mardi 8 décembre 2020 12:23
À : Bensalah Khadija <Khadija.Bensalah@minsoc.fed.be>
Cc : Magritte Olivier <Olivier.Magritte@minsoc.fed.be>; Duchenne Véronique <Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be>
Objet : RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Dear Khadija,

Sorry for the late reply. I was off for the past weeks, and just back to work. In the meantime, we've published an [article on our website](#). I hope it's not too late for you to receive my feedback.

Congratulations on the approval of the Standard! :)

As the Standard is a non-compulsory guidance document it does not differentiate between public or private environment. It is up to national rules and regulations to determine who needs to apply accessibility standards.

Regarding the functional nature of the Standard, EDF of course would prefer more concrete technical recommendations, but the result is always a compromise. The logic behind a functional Standard, is that it allows more flexibility. Of course, making let's say an entrance accessible, can be achieved in more than one way, so the standard only states the goals which have to be met (this is what is meant by 'functional'). This is also important taking into account environmental/terrain differences between different European countries – for example between more mountainous/rocky and flat terrain or cities which lie on water for example (e.g. Venice, Amsterdam, etc.). But I think the most important reason the Standard is functional is so that countries would agree to it, otherwise there would be too many conflicts with national (technical) standards and approval would not be possible. So, it's also a political decision.

Nevertheless, the Standard will have a technical document adjacent to it (Technical Report 1) which will provide a few concrete examples of solutions with precise measures. These examples will be taken either from the ISO standard or national standards.

I think the most important added value of the Standard is that it will help achieve a more harmonized and at least minimum level of accessibility across Europe. Right now the picture is very fragmented, so this kind of document will help everyone to think of accessibility in similar terms, and persons with disabilities won't face unpleasant surprises when travelling within Europe, some day. :)

I hope this answers your questions. Please let me know if anything is unclear.

Best,
Mher

From: Bensalah Khadija <Khadija.Bensalah@minsoc.fed.be>
Sent: 17 November 2020 09:14
To: mher hakobyan <mher.hakobyan@edf-feph.org>
Cc: Magritte Olivier <Olivier.Magritte@minsoc.fed.be>; Duchenne Véronique <Veronique.Duchenne@minsoc.fed.be>
Subject: RE: EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment

Dear Mher

I hope you're fine. Following the positive vote about the EU Standards on Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment prEN17210, we want to publish a news in the BDF website. But I need some precision if you can help me :

- can you confirm that this standard concerns all private and public buildings (housing, shops, municipalities, etc.)?
- could you tell us what is the added value of having a standard without precision (for example: door sizes) ? this standard is very technical, your knowledge will be us very helpful.

We thank you in advance for your answer.

Kind regards,

Khadija Bensalah