



Investing in your future
 Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013
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Afternoon panel

- Moderator: Jan De Block, Architect - assistant to the supervisor, Service Construction Ghent
- Ewoud Lagring, accessibility expert, Tourism Flanders
- Ann Maes, Accessibility Consultant, ATO ASBL
- Dirk Boncquet, wd Director Department of Monuments and Architecture Ghent
- Joeri Mertens, Regional and Area Heritage officer Heritage Flanders
- Bart Vermandere, Accessibility Consultant West Chance VZW

Integral accessibility is eligible expenditure? Are there new additions, such as digital evolution?

No, there are no subsidies for new concepts such as virtual accessibility.
 Loveday proposed concepts, only for restorative interventions subsidies.

Historical experience should be optimized. Is this all possible in one building, eg the external entry pavilion to the Louvre or the new digital techniques?

The experience by visiting the site in reel life is the most pleasant. By inability to access an external visitor centre and new digital technologies are a solution. Restoration can also be fatal. For example in the heritage Ename, where we can question the renovation cost to create physical accessible. All valuable pieces can be seen in the corresponding museum. So there is no need to visit the valuable site.

There is an evolution towards more regulation. This can result into extra problems as services are understaffed.

The need for additional regulation is because the design or renovation theme of 'accessibility' is not automatically taken as the theme of 'security'. So there is need for rules. Hopefully, there are as simple as possible. Time will tell whether the regulation should be refined.

Dirk Boncquet points us to use common sense when assigning functions to buildings. Some buildings are simply not suited for the job. The problem that arises is that the function linked to a monument, often is set up quickly, without thinking at the high standards for conversion. We should think carefully about reallocating buildings. One can not simply grow old mansions into apartment blocks with lifts.



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Jo VDK: There is an evolution of marrying on separate date shift to the Medieval Counts Castle. To get a higher price for this location but it is also inaccessible (no accessible toilet). We must take more account of the advice from heritage. The accountability of officials, who are aware of no harm and only purposeful thinking, is nil.

Ewoud Lagring reports that Tourism Flanders gives no subsidies for attractive tourism projects. Tourism Flanders is also cooperate with the Office of Accessibility. The issue is the Counts Castle, where creative solutions to any interactive virtual presentation are a challenge.

Antwerp municipal landmarks: “how do exemptions for non-protected assets requested?”

Until now, no exceptions for non-protected assets are possible. These buildings are not relieved of the normal legislation. However, an exemption can be requested through Art 33, for constructive grounds of the building, or if access to an alternative method is realized. There is a mission statement around valuable assets and not protected monuments. West Chance has already reported this problem to the Flemish government.

Religious heritage: what can be done on the field of accessibility?

Churches are sometimes hard to enter. Slopes are not always an option. Such a slope needs a very large, often unavailable, surface position. However, it can work with other approaches, such as a rear entrance.

Accessibility means that one can enter the building; it does not necessarily have to through the main entrance. One should try as well possible solution for each building separately, and sometimes a rear entrance is almost as worthy as the main entrance cf. Post Plaza Gent. Or as the side entrance of St. Peter Church at St. Peter's Square in Gent. To redevelop the square an open access through the main entrance was examined, but not applied because this was in conflict with the symmetry of the building.

Museum Schone Kunsten Correction: Contrary to what earlier today was claimed, we do have an entry witch can be used full autonomic, not only through the restaurant, but through a side entrance with intercom directly connected to the counter.

Differences in levels of the building can be covered with a built-in elevator.



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Ghent has a wealth of small castles in the suburbs that are at odds with current regulations. What is the best thing to do: modify the function or deliver irresponsible many efforts to create accessibility?

In the conversion of such buildings should be put enough time to think and study!
Often they ask for big investments to make those buildings accessible

Heritage Service Ghent: This legislation seems created for new constructions. It seems that there is less consideration to the implications for existing buildings.

The new legislation is created for new buildings, but also alterations.



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