



Investing in your future
Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013
Part-financed by the European Union (European
Regional Development Fund)

Questions from the public to the morning speakers.

Moderator: Jan De Block, Architect - assistant to the supervisor, Department
Construction projects Ghent

Joeri Mertens, Regional Heritage Area officials and Heritage East-Flanders

Michael Loveday, Chief Executive Heritage Economic & Regeneration
Trust Norwich (UK)

Fien Van den Abeele Projectmedewerker Enter vzw Vlaams Expertise
Accessibility

To Michael Loveday (Bart Vermandere of West Chance): Do the buildings with are opened to the public have a landmark feature or other functions?

Norman Cathedral is still a cathedral and other buildings have new features,
some have evolved. For instance a college for training priests that now has
evolved into a space for conferences. Most have other functions than that they
originally were intended.

Affirmative remark to Michael Loveday from Jasmien Herssens PHL Department of Architecture Diepenbeek:

You gave an interesting opening from the start in using different perspectives:

- integrating users in the research;
- accessibility in general;
- designing for a target audience (children is a good example) and wider: design for all;
- The way how you work from different angles from the emigration (Jewish community, Italians, the community is NOT English);
- The evolution of social (for special needs) to cultural plane (for anyone with the expertise of the utmost users).

To Michael Loveday (Paul Claeys service City construction projects Ghent): Has Norwich a similar regulation like ours?

You should also submit the building plans and projects to justify interventions for
accessibility.

To Michael Loveday (Jan De Block Service City construction projects Ghent): How scores the heritage of Ghent in comparison with that of Normwich?

At first glance it is pretty well set in Ghent. Michael Loveday often uses the city of
Ghent as good practice of accessible activities.

To Fien van den Abeele: Dimensions of stairs in the apartment blocks would be deleted from the regulation. At the moment is not so. In what



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stage and to who should architects focus for this deviation?

Who would like to get an exemption, should ask the board which handles the file. Anyway, criteria must be followed and the motivation must be added. On this basic deviation will be examined. It is advisable to seek advice at the accessibility agencies because they have more experience with the opportunities for deviation and possible solutions.

To Bart Vermandere: For the realization of the legislation, they has worked with West- Flanders, because there was already a regulation. How is the ratio?

City councils and provincial governments could impose a more stringent regulation but it may not come in conflict with the regional regulation.

To Fien van den Abeele: How is the follow-up the regulation?

Well, as the building inspector comes by, he will deal with the violations as he deals with other ones.

At this time, it often happens that there are actions by users. For example in Hasselt users went to the press with their comments on the inaccessibility of a relatively new city hall and state house.

To Michael Loveday How is the follow-up in Norwich?

This is done using a similar process.