



CITY IDENTITY

City name

Bremerhaven

Country

DE

City size: (number of inhabitants)

117606

Short description of city

Bremerhaven is the largest city on the German North Sea coast. Historically shaped by shipbuilding and deep-sea fishing, its decline and the shipbuilding and steel crisis in the 1980s plunged the city into a structural crisis, from which it has recovered only slowly since then. Today Bremerhaven is increasingly focusing on the promotion of scientific research, new technologies in climate change adaptation, port management/logistics, fish and food industries and of urban development as a maritime barrier-free city with unique touristic attractions and accessible to all infrastructures, including the difficult to access dyke, pier, beach and the historic ships.

SCOPE OF THE INITIATIVES

Please provide a general description of existing and planned initiatives, making reference to one or more of the areas of: Accessibility to the built environment and public spaces, Accessibility to transportation and related infrastructures, Accessibility to information and communication, including information and communication technologies.

1. Annx. 1 tab.1 , annx.2 foil 2-5

The harbour area is an exciting intermediate zone, including buildings, open space, harbour, park and landscape. Since the "water edge" holds some dangers for the visually impaired, the area has an "inclusive" design that is accessible and readable for all. The shore zone was zoned differently in terms of material and equipment. Sawn large stone pavement with smooth surfaces characterizes the main movement areas, while the rough surfaces of the used cobblestone pavement along the bank edges signal to the pedestrian "Attention, move with caution". The connecting path in the harbour area was laid out as a shared space: The ramp is now the main design element. The historic cobblestone pavement was sanded down to create a flat surface. The area is therefore suitable for wheelchair users, people with rollators or prams and cyclists.

2. Annx .1 tab.2 , annx 2 foil 6

In Bremerhaven, only low-floor buses are in use since 2005. A special feature of the vehicles is the "kneeling function". The buses can be lowered on one side to facilitate boarding. All buses are equipped with optical and acoustic stop announcements. A third multi-purpose platform in all articulated buses allows the easy transport of rollators and wheelchairs. 191 stopping points are equipped with tactile guidance system and high board, the remaining 96 stopping points will be successively expanded. Dynamic Passenger Information (DFI) with acoustic announcement of the bus departures is already available at 73 stops.

3. Annx. 1 tab. 4

Bremerhaven and University Bremen are developing an innovative navigation system for wheelchair users, where real-time navigation is possible. Satellite and aerial images as well as images from Google Streetview are used. Automatic image recognition provides an area-wide and consistent, reliable information system on public transport. The project is in the technical implementation phase and is expected to be ready for application by the end of 2020. Bremerhaven is a pilot city. Conversely, the app can also be used to make statements about the degree of accessibility in public spaces.

4. Annx 1 tbl. 6, Annx. 2 Foil 7

The sports offers are designed inclusively, because sport connects - particularly inclusively. People with disabilities were first asked about their wishes for sports and sports clubs about their needs to win them over to inclusive sport. Now we are building up an inclusive network in Bremerhaven, to promote the exchange of experience, education, awareness and finding out how to participate.

OWNERSHIP / LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

Please describe your overall approach and global strategy to improve accessibility in your city and how the policy is implemented or planned to be implemented.

Around 20,700 people with a disability live in Bremerhaven. These people shall be able to actively participate in social life and participation. The city-wide goal "City for All" is fully pursued by administration and politicians, supported by an Inclusion Advisory Board. For this purpose they issued various local ordinances

- Guideline for the barrier-free design of public transport facilities, public green spaces and public playgrounds and sports facilities.
- Amendment to the Heritage Act: Inclusion of barrier-free access to publicly accessible cultural monuments in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Cadastre to record accessibility in public spaces and measures to dismantle existing barriers.
- The local participation plan of the city of Bremerhaven for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities contains strategies and measures to improve accessibility.
- expert assessment "Barrier-free tourism in the city of Bremerhaven" analyses barrier-free offers, shows recommendations for action for the dismantling of existing barriers and is the basis for the strategy of a barrier-free design of the tourist offers.
- the first German city certified as "Travel for All" -City (2019).

IMPACT

How has the city's policies/initiatives improved equal access and the quality of life of people with disabilities? It is important to mention project(s) involving people with intellectual disabilities

In the integrative "Kindergarten for all", joint education of 54 children aged 3-6 with and without disabilities is a basic principle. Empathy, tolerance and understanding are lived through the common experience of the children.*

The service group "Alfred-Wegener-Institute" of the Elbe-Weser-Werkstätten has a particularly high responsibility in carrying out their tasks for the world-famous Polar Research Institute. People with mental or psychological limitations are lining the scientists, which is done in direct contact. After the end of an expedition, they also check and maintain the equipment of the polar researchers. *

People with a disability who, because of the nature and severity of their disability, do not (yet) find employment on the general labour market can be admitted to a workshop for disabled people at

Lebenshilfe Bremerhaven. It is the employer of around 630 people with and without disabilities. They currently employ 414 people with disabilities, 65% mentally disabled. They work in the cardboard factory, assembly and packaging, plastics processing, a wood workshop, the domestic sector, the laundry, the factory service, as gardeners, in the bicycle shop and at a bakery with bistro. They engage in an inclusive Theatre group and a music band.*

(*see annex.1 and 3).

How do these initiatives benefit, beyond persons with disabilities, also wider parts of the population?

Families with pushchairs and older people in particular benefit from the comfort-oriented offers. For the inhabitants of the city, the quality of life and the quality of recreation increases due to the removal of barriers. Citizens, commuters, tourists, and employees - disabled or not - benefit from barrier free access.

In the historical area of the city, the Hafenwelten, cobblestones were laid for an authentic overall picture. The cobblestones were sanded down to prevent the paving from creating a bumpy surface. In this way, both a historical overall impression and a smooth barrier-free path design could be created. The paths can be used very well with wheelchairs, rollators, prams and bicycles.

The installation of reading-aloud-functions in the Klimahaus and Emigration Centre also benefits older people and children who are not (yet) able to read.

Young families also profit from sufficient seating in the inner city areas. Young children as well as elderly or mobility-impaired people can only cover longer distances by taking a rest /sitting down.

The Lebenshilfe states, that customers appreciate the high quality of products and services, delivered by the working people with mental and physical disabilities.(see app. 3 p. 23)

QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF RESULTS

How do you ensure the quality and sustainability of accessibility measures?

- The staffing of the Inclusion Advisory Board ensures a critical and at the same time competent view and monitoring of the execution of the participation plan.
- Evaluation of the participation plan every two years
- The Office for People with Disabilities incorporates the knowledge and practical experience of disabled citizens into the preparation and implementation of a Local Participation Plan. In this way, issues relevant to people with disabilities can be identified in good time and incorporated into Bremerhaven's disability policy in the long term.
- Employers are informed annually about current developments in the area of company integration management (regulations, jurisdiction).
- Evaluation of the objectives of the transition from the workshop for disabled people to the first labour market
- frequent tours in the core areas of the town to identify and remove barriers
- Determination of the accessibility of shops (inspections, information and education of shop owners - barrier-free shopping in Bremerhaven)
- Strengths/weaknesses analysis of the core areas of the city (summary of the results with proposed measures in a report).
- Adaptation and updating of the City's Integration Agreement according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

What are your plans and initiatives to continue these efforts in the future?

Yes, because the city has a great interest in regional, national and European exchange and cooperation. I.E. currently the city is partner in the Interreg Europe project "Desti Smart", addressing challenges for efficient sustainable and accessible tourism and at the same time promotion of low-carbon economy. Public regional/local and transport authorities increasingly face such challenges, particularly at busy

destinations with high tourism travel flows.

The project partners, representing mass tourism destinations in South Europe, emerging tourism destinations, coastal, maritime and insular ones, form an interregional working scheme promoting interregional cooperation for sustainable mobility, accessibility and low-carbon responsible travel, through capitalisation of best practices, improvement of regional/local policy instruments and preparation of action plans towards their emergence and recognition as 'Smart Destinations'.

The four themes are:

- Investments in low-carbon transport systems for modal shift to sustainable tourism mobility
- Intermodality facilities for visitors, including ICT, Mobile Apps & MaaS
- Accessible tourism for all
- Cycling, Walking facilities

The city informs the public via its website, press releases, flyers and public events.

Has your city ever used EU funds? How does your city inform your citizens about EU actions involving EU funds?

Disability associations provide the members of the Inclusion Committee.

The Inclusion Advisory Board is exclusively non-governmental. Among other things, the advisory council provides advice on the implementation and updating of the municipal participation plan on the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and submit proposals regarding the participation plan and its implementation to the city council and the magistrate. The basis for this activity is the Local Act on the Inclusion Advisory Board of the City of Bremerhaven, which was passed by the City Council in December 2014.

The municipal representative for the disabled of the city of Bremerhaven is consulted in particular for building projects and events.

Participation of the Inclusion Advisory Board is guaranteed in every planning process and in the in drafting of local laws and regulations.

Department for people with disabilities is member of the regional advisory council on participation:

www.behindertenbeauftragter.bremen.de/themen/un_behindertenrechtskonvention/der_landesteilhabebeirat-12186

INVOLVEMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND RELEVANT PARTNERS

Please describe the involvement of persons with disabilities, their representative organisations and accessibility experts in both the planning, implementation and maintenance of city's policies and initiatives aimed at increased accessibility.

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Do you carry out awareness raising or information activities around accessibility? Do you exchange and share experience and good practices with other cities at local, regional, national and/or European level? If so please describe them

- Information event "Travel for All" and "Accessibility tested" in 2018
- Workshop of Barrier-free Museums and Inclusion of the Federal Association of Museum Education e. V. in Bremerhaven in 2018
- Image campaign "The Daily steeplechase" in the local newspaper for more understanding in 2018
- Information events with regional partners in Tossens and Osnabrückin 2018.
- Congress for service providers in cooperation with the federal group of Lebenshilfe in 2019 in Bremerhaven
- Annual exchange on the international day of barrier-free tourism at the national ITB fair.
- Regular visit to the Werkstätten Messe in Nuremberg.
- Partner in EU-project Desti Smart on i.a. accessible transport
- Event "Inclusion and sport": exchange on possibilities of inclusion by sports 2018
- 2 Bremerhaven Inclusion Conferences per year
- 2nd Interim Report on the Implementation of the Bremerhaven Participation Plan (Status 2019)
- Extensive public relations work to raise awareness and provide information
- The Network inclusive Bremerhaven is developing a more inclusive attitude in urban society with an appreciation for diversity, e.g. Action days to make handicaps tangible for people without restrictions in the city centre twice a year and tips at facebook to improve the inclusion.

Have you addressed disability in other initiatives undertaken by your city? If so, you may mention any initiative your city has worked on, even if it was not addressed directly to people with disabilities, if it took measures to improve accessibility or raise awareness about disability and accessibility

Participation at Network Inclusive Bremerhaven to promote a self-determined and equal life for all people, to convey appreciation for diversity, to abolish barriers and to enable equal rights for all.

Barrier-free development of housing stock and creation of barrier-free living space by the housing associations

Information centre for architects for barrier-free building and living in Bremerhaven: leaflet for BARRIEREFREIES BAUEN:

BaWo Bremerhaven: specialised providers in Bremerhaven for barrier-free construction

Training and qualification of the Bremerhaven police in dealing with people with disabilities.

Public Transport company conducts training on mobility

Sign language courses of the VHS for everyone

A disabled person's representative is hired by the first league club "Fischtown Penguins" to share the experience with all ice hockey fans.

Self-defence for people with different disabilities

In the bands "Echtes Leben" and "Werk 8" members with and without handicap play music.

Joint events and close cooperation with the Association "Active-Promotion-Handicapped-People"

All initiatives: see annex. 1 and 3

WHY DOES YOUR CITY DESERVE THE AWARD?

Please provide a short presentation of your overall accessibility policy and actions.

We have integrated the subject of accessibility into all areas of public life: tourism, retail, sport, education, creativity, leisure and the labour market. Our goal isto be a real life "city for all". It is clearly recognisable that the city of Bremerhaven, being a regional centre city and despite its difficult financial situation, has

nevertheless achieved good results by covering all areas of life, which is a great challenge. We are particularly keen to make our city a safe experience for all people, even if these transformations are very often associated with high investments.

What makes us special is the unconditional recognition of this goal by the administrative authorities and politicians. We are thus taking on a pioneering role as the main centre of a region between the Weser and Elbe with a population of around 120,000.

What sets us apart from other cities: BHV has not only expressed the will to dismantle barriers in the city, but has also created the legal basis for this by issuing its own legal directives. This also shows the determination of the city and local politicians to speed up and implement the "City for All" process. In addition, the city has succeeded in motivating the economic actors, too, to implement the necessary measures.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Annex 1 and 3 is a pdf with provides 12 Tables and a longer version of our powerpoint presentation full of information and evidence, figures and links about the various existing organisations, projects, services, products and facilities related to people with physical or mental disabilities in Bremerhaven.

Annex 2 is a powerpoint presentation about the highlights of our initiatives, as described in B. SCOPE OF THE INITIATIVES.

The document can be downloaded right above my picture at:

https://www.bremerhaven.de/de/verwaltung-politik/bremerhaven-in-der-eu/eu-kompetenzenaktivitaeten/bremerhaven-in-europa.23104.html?backend_call=true&editmode=true

!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please click:

ACA2020-Bremerhaven-ppt-annx2.pptx

The ppt will be ready for download.

Due to internal administration regulations, there is no other way to provide you with a download link on Bremerhaven.de.

ACA2020-Bremerhaven-mayor.pdf

ACA2020-Bremerhaven_Annex IV_declaration-honour-grants.pdf

ACA2020-Bremerhaven-legent-public.pdf

ACA2020-Bremerhaven-Financial Identification.pdf

ACA2020-Bremerhaven-annx1+3.pdf

https://www.bremerhaven.de/de/verwaltung-politik/bremerhaven-in-der-eu/eu-kompetenzenaktivitaeten/bremerhaven-in-europa.23104.html?backend_call=true&editmode=true

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Official city website

<http://www.bremerhaven.de>

Eventual webpages devoted to accessibility

www.bremerhaven.de/de/verwaltung-politik/buergerservice/adressen-oeffnungszeiten/amt-fuermenschen-mit-behinderung.22504.html

www.behindertenbeauftragter.bremen.de/themen/un_behindertenrechtskonvention/der_landesteilhabebeirat-12186