



PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MUST BE FOR EVERYONE: UITP SIGNS DECLARATION TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY



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A declaration with key principles for accessible public transport

It is the responsibility of all with a vested interest in advancing public transport to work towards improving accessibility for all.

With this aim in mind, UITP has signed a declaration to improve accessibility within public transport: The **'Lecco declaration'** (named after the Italian city where the agreement was reached and signed) is a crucial framework aligning key principles that organisations can build on to improve their own implementation of accessibility.

Signed by UITP Secretary General Mohamed Mezghani*, Georgios Kouroupetroglou, President of AAATE (Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology) and Laura Alčiauskaitė,

Project Coordinator at the European Network of Independent Living, each organisation is a partner of the EU-funded project, [TRIPS](#).

The project and its partners have been actively working on co-creation with users who have disabilities, and public transport providers, to develop new design concepts to remove barriers and make public transport more accessible.

“When discussing accessibility, it is challenging to make sure all the different transport stakeholders are on board with such measures and coordinating their efforts. The Lecco declaration is important because it forces the sector to focus their attention on the user. We have to educate the sector that we are not only doing this for persons with reduced mobility but we are doing this for everyone.”

Mohamed Mezghani
UITP Secretary General

The core concepts of the Lecco Declaration...

- **Freedom of movement is a human right and personal mobility should be guaranteed**
- **Mobility is related to other rights such as participation, education and employment.**
 - **Public transport is a vector of social and environmental policies and values – connecting places and people to foster social and economic development.**
- **Technological developments have the potential to reduce or overcome access barriers by providing new solutions.**

Advancing public transport is crucial for inclusive cities...

Public transport plays a key role in keeping our cities and regions alive and moving. Our sector should offer sustainable and safe mobility solutions to all while contributing to improve air quality, social cohesion, employment, and more.

To build more inclusive and participative societies, it is important that these opportunities can also be enjoyed by passengers with different access needs.

Everybody at some point in their lifetime will face challenges and we must ensure public transport answers to all situations throughout a passenger's journey.

Creating barrier-free mobility shouldn't be about ensuring the full sector is 100% accessible for all - but rather to direct users to multi-modal transport services for door-to-door mobility.

By working with users and knowing their requirements, operators, authorities and industry providers can make informed decisions based on their direct feedback and ensure that our services are ready for their use.

The Lecco Declaration is a framework of key accessibility principles, and will enable the development of a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed early next year.

Advancing accessibility in our cities: The Lecco Declaration

**Acting on behalf of Mohamed Mezghani SARL*

FOR EDITORS

(UITP) The International Association of Public Transport works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1900 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes.

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