Existing situation concerning accessibility of employment in Central Macedonia
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Introduction

In the present WorkAbility deliverable the results of the accessibility evaluation of important employers of the region of Central Macedonia are presented.

These companies were considered by the project implementation team to be potential employers of disabled persons, with some of them already having disabled employees in their workforce.

The evaluation was conducted through the use of the methodology developed in deliverable D3.2: "Methodology for the evaluation of infrastructure and services".
Mediterranean Cosmos shopping mall

The Mediterranean Cosmos shopping mall is located at the eastern part of Thessaloniki, near the “Macedonia” airport, with its operation beginning in October 2005.

Photo 1: General view of the shopping mall

![General view of the shopping mall](image)

The shopping mall includes the following facilities:

- Shopping units
- Cinemas
- Cafeterias
- Restaurants
- Super markets
- Amphitheatre
- Orthodox church

The fact that the mall’s facilities offer an acceptable accessibility level has made it a frequent destination of disabled persons. Thus, the evaluation conducted focused on whether the shopping mall could actually also be a suitable environment for disabled employees.

A disabled person could work at one of the shopping units located at the mall, at one of the restaurants and entertainment facilities located there...
and also at the mall’s administration offices. Thus, the evaluation conducted included both the shopping mall’s public spaces as well as its administration facilities.

**Parking areas**

There are 7 parking areas located at the mall’s entrances. One of them is reserved exclusively for the mall’s employees and is offered for free, while at the rest of the parking areas the charge reaches 1,5 Euros per day. The fact that the employees’ parking area is located farthest from the mall’s entrances can pose a problem to disabled employers, with one possible solution provided through the use of the accessible spaces of the parking areas located closest to the entrances without charge.

There are parking spaces reserved for use of disabled and restricted mobility visitors. These parking spaces have increased dimensions and proper signage. At parking area no. 6 there are also accessible parking spaces available free of charge.

Photo 2: Parking spaces reserved for disabled employees at the employees’ parking area

Since the parking spaces available are locked, in order to be reserved for disabled visitors, the first time a visitor uses the space he/she has to contact the mall’s parking office in order to receive the designated key.
Photo 3: Sign at the parking space informing the visitors on the contact details of the parking office that will provide them with the designated key.

Photo 4: Parking space reserved for visitors with restricted mobility
The fee for the parking use is paid through automatic machines located near the mall’s entrances. The maximum height of their buttons is 1.45 m, which can pose problems for wheelchair users.

Photo 5: Automatic ticket machine

Ramps have been created at the parking area no.6 in order to bridge the height differences between the current sidewalks and the parking spaces, with some of them not complying with the existing national guidelines.

Photo 6: Ramps at parking area no. 6
**Entrances**

There are 5 entrances to the mall in total. All of them are flush with the pavement, with automatic glass sliding doors of adequate width. Similar entrances exist inside the mall which lead to the mall’s food court. The doors are properly signed.

Photo 7: Entrance leading to the mall’s food court

**Horizontal circulation**

The horizontal circulation inside the mall is made through corridors of sufficient width without height differences. For the most part, the corridors have sufficient slip resistance.

Resting islands have been created along the corridors for use by the visitors. The seats’ height differs depending on their location.
Photo 8: Corridor inside the mall. A “resting island” for use by the visitors is also visible

There are small height differences at the entrances of the shopping units, however their small height is not expected to pose problems to wheelchair users.

Photo 9: Height difference at a shopping unit
**Vertical circulation**

The shopping mall is located at two different levels, with a separate third level where the administration offices as well as the parking offices are located.

Vertical circulation between the two levels where the shopping units are located is achieved through staircases, escalators as well as two lifts.

Photo 10: Escalators

Photo 11: Staircase lacking proper handrail located at two different heights
The public elevators have dimensions 2,00m X 1,60m, dimensions considered adequate for wheelchair users. The elevator’s buttons are located at low height, but they do not have adequate colour contrast with the environment. There is no audible indication of floors.

Photo 12: Public elevators

As has already been mentioned, the mall’s administration offices, as well as the parking offices, are located separately at the mall’s third floor. Access to the third floor is achieved either through a dedicated staircase (riser height 18cm) or through a dedicated elevator.

The staircase lacks a double handrail. However, the existing handrail has proper circular cross section and sufficient colour contrast with the surroundings.

The elevator’s dimensions are 1,6 X 210 m. and are sufficient for wheelchair users. The car’s interior has inox panels which cause reflections which can pose problems for users with reduced vision. Furthermore, the elevator’s buttons do not have adequate colour contrast with the surroundings.
Photo 13: The staircase leading to the administration offices

Photo 14: The elevator leading to the administration offices

The working area of the administration offices is equipped with desks with free height of 70cm and chairs seat height of 50cm
Toilets

There are 3 accessible toilets available at the mall. The two of them have dimensions which are sufficient for use by wheelchair users (1,80 X 2,7m and 1,95 X 2,3m respectively), with the toilet located at the mall’s food court having smaller width which may pose difficulties in its use (1,6 X 2,35m)

Photo 16: Accessible toilet
The toilets’ equipment is similar in all three cases, with one of them not have in an anatomical wash basin. The WC has a small height (40cm) and lacks a back to support the user.

The location of the basin does not allow hand washing when seated on the lavatory. The wash basin has a lever operated mixer tap.

Photo 17: Accessible toilet lacking anatomical wash basin

**Signage**

The mall is separated into different colour coded zones in order to assist visitors in their orientation. There are signs located along the mall’s corridors informing visitors on the shops located in the adjacent area as well as signs using pictograms informing visitors on the facilities available.

The signs are either based on the ground or are located at the mall’s roof, thus posing no problems for white cane users.
Photo 18: Sign located at the mall’s roof using pictograms

Photo 19: Sign at the mall’s external areas
Photo 20: Vertical sign using colour coding inside the mall

At the various services, such as the public toilet, signs located on the wall are used. The pictograms used do not have sufficient colour contrast with their surroundings.

Photo 21: Signs located on the wall

**External areas**

At the mall’s external areas cafeterias, restaurants, parking areas as well as a church are located. A large part of the external areas is covered by a pebble surface which could disturb wheelchair users.
The existing height differences are covered by ramps of sufficient inclination (3.5%) which, despite their length, lack proper landings. Furthermore, they lack proper handrails at two heights (70 and 90 cm).

Lack of proper handrails is also apparent at the external staircases.
Photo 24: External staircase
OK Thess

The «OK!Thess» is an attempt by the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the Andreia Innovation Zone, the Alexander Technological and Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the International University of Thessaloniki, the Macedonia University, the Federation of Industries of Northern Greece and the Federation of Exporters of Northern Greece, to create an innovation ecosystem in cooperation with other authorities.

The opening of OK!Thess’ pre-incubator contributes by offering the following services:

- A co-working space allowing up to 20 teams of up to 5 persons to meet and work together
- Access to high speed Wi-Fi (100/100Mbps)
- Participation in seminars and lecture related to innovation at the OK!Thess premises
- Daily guidance by a coach specialised on startup related matters
- Support by a mentor in the same field of economic activity as the startup team
- Space for social interaction with other teams working in OK!Thess’ space
- International networking

The «OK!Thess» premises are located at a municipal building at the corner of Komotinis and Kydonion streets at Thessaloniki

Photo 25: The premises of «OK!Thess»
**Parking spaces**

The building does not have dedicated parking spaces available, thus, no accessible parking space is available. Visitors are requested to use the parking spaces available at the street.

**Entrances**

The building has one main entrance with a vestibule of dimensions 2,3 X 1,8m. Access to it is level with the pavement. The door’s width is sufficient, with two glass hinged leafs, each one being 92cm wide. The glass leafs also have signage at a considerable height (1,5m)

Photo 26: Building’s entrance

In case the main entrance is closed, the visitor has to ring a bell which is located quite high, at 1,4m, making its use difficult for wheelchair users.
The door handle is located at 1m high, with its shape not facilitating its use.

Photo 28: Door handle at the main entrance

**Horizontal circulation**

The entrance leads to space where the various events hosted at the building as well as the co-working activities take place. The room is equipped with chairs and desks which can be moved or folded in order to cover the hosted event’s needs. They desks have a free space of 72cm underneath them, with the chairs having a height of 48cm.
Marble is used for the room’s floor which does not offer sufficient anti-slip characteristics and creates certain reflections which may pose problems for certain visitors with reduced vision. The floor creates sufficient colour contrast with the furniture used.

At certain areas of the room a small height difference occurs (11cm) in order to create more “closed” spaces. Obviously, these areas cannot be reached by wheelchair users.

Other offices are located at the building’s ground floor which are currently used as storage areas. Their dimensions and configuration can pose difficulties to wheelchair users.
Photo 31: Offices at the building’s ground floor

Besides the co-working space described above, there is also a meeting room available at the building’s ground floor. The height difference between the co-working space and the meeting room is covered by a ramp with significant inclination (17%) and width which is not the same throughout its length, with the narrowest point being 83cm wide. Furthermore, at the end of the ramp a height difference of 2cm is apparent and the ramp lacks proper handrails.

Photo 32: Ramp at the conference room
At the building’s first floor, co-working space are also available as well as staff offices, with equipment similar to the co-working space at the ground floor.

At the first floor there are also rooms that can be used for the “isolation” of working teams, if so desired. Access to these, which include a kitchen, is difficult due to the doors’ restricted width.
Photo 35: Space at the building’s first floor and restricted door width

At the building’s basement there are spaces that are mainly used for storage and public toilets. It should be noted that the basement’s entrance allows the approach of a vehicle to it.

**Vertical circulation**

The vertical circulation in the building is made through staircases. No elevator is available, despite the fact that there is a designated space for its installation, implying that it was part of the building’s initial design.

Photo 36: The staircase leading to the building’s basement, also showing the space reserved for the installation of an elevator. The staircase lacks proper handrails and does not offer adequate slip resistance. The riser is 17cm high while the tread has 31cm depth.
Toilets

The toilet that is reserved for disabled visitors is located at the building’s ground floor. It lacks proper equipment as well as anatomic type wash basin and WC. However, its dimensions allows the entering of wheelchair users. Its maximum width is 2,1m, with its maximum length reaching 1,95m. It has a polygon shape. The WC is located at a low height which is not convenient for wheelchair users and its location does not allow easy transfer. The same WC is used by the general public, while there are separate toilets at the building’s basement. It should also be mentioned that toilets with large dimensions, that could potentially become accessible, also exist at the building’s basement as well as at the conference room.
Signage

The building lacks analytical signage. Signs, some of the handmade, give directions to the building’s toilets.

Photo 39: Signs inside the building
Public transport provider’s (OASTH’s) administration offices

OASTH’s administration offices are located at the Papanastasiou Street of Thessaloniki.

Photo 40: General view of the building

Access to the entrance

Access to the building’s entrance is achieved either through a ramp, which is located at the shopping centre OASTH’s building is part of, or through a staircase at Dyrachiou street.

The ramp located at the shopping centre has an inclination of 5,6%. Its surface is made out of tiles that do not offer sufficient slip resistance, resulting in complaints from members of the personnel. Furthermore, the ramp has a transverse inclination, resulting in further difficulties in its use and a landing which is not completely flat.

A hand rail is installed only at one side at the beginning of the ramp. It is double, at two heights (70 and 90cm). However, it does not start from the ramp’s edge, making its use difficult.
The ramp leads to a corridor leading to the building’s entrance. The OASTh’s services are located at six floors of the building, with further offices located at the adjacent shopping centre.

Access through Dyrrachiou st is achieved through a staircase, with each riser being 17cm high and each tread being 30cm wide.

The building’s main entrance is made out of metal and glass hinged door leafs with a total width of 1.45μ. Each door leaf is 70cm wide. The door handle is located 1.05m high.
Vertical circulation

Vertical circulation is achieved mainly through double elevators with dimensions 116X135. The elevators have automatic doors which are 80cm wide as well as audible announcement of floors. The elevators’ buttons are placed between 1,1m and 1,36m high, with the alarm button in particular being at 1,54m high, making its use difficult for wheelchair users.

The building’s main staircase has risers 17cm high and treads 30cm wide. There is a single handrail installed at 90cm high, only at the right hand
side of the staircase. The staircase is divided from the main corridor by hinged doors with a total width of 1,4m, each leaf being around 65cm wide.

Photo 44: Main staircase of the building

**Horizontal circulation**

The adjacent shopping centre’s first floor houses OASTh’s department of revenues. The employees reach the department through an open corridor which does not offer enough slip resistance.

Photo 45: Corridor at the first floor leading to the department of revenues

The department’s entrance is hinged glass, with two leafs leading to a total width of 1,65m (each leaf leaving around 80cm free width). The leafs
do not have sufficient colour contrast. The OASTh’s sign on them helps with their identification.

Photo 46: Entrance to the department of revenues

Inside the department there are counters for transactions with the public reaching 1,2m high as well as offices whose configuration can be altered depending on the employees’ needs. There is only one office inside a separate cubicle which is used by the department’s supervisor which, in its current configuration, cannot be easily used by a wheelchair user.

Photo 47: The department of revenues

In order for an employee to enter the second floor, or one of the floors above, he/she has to negotiate two consecutive doors forming a sort of vestibule. The free space among the doors is 1,4m wide and, since they
are consecutive hinged doors opening to the same directions, a wheelchair user may find this configuration troublesome.

Photo 48: The consecutive doors

The workspaces have different configuration at each floor, with most of them being large spaces with furniture that can be moved depending on the employees’ needs. The cubicles formed at some of the floors have entrances with a 90cm clear width.

Photo 49: Work spaces at the building’s second and fourth floor

The vestibule at the building’s 4th floor has different dimensions, being 1,4m long and 1,55m wide. The workspace has been divided into cubicles, with their entrances being 85cm wide.
Toilets

Despite the fact that toilets are located at each of the building’s floors, there is no accessible toilet available.

Signage

The building’s ground floor has signage informing visitors of the departments housed at each floor. The combination of glossy finish and wooden background leads to reflections which make reading the signs difficult.

Photo 50: Signs at the building’s ground floor

There is also signage installed at the shopping centre, part of which is the OASTH’s building. However, this is placed at a large height and may not be recognized by visitors.

Photo 51: External signage
There is also signage available at each floor and at the inside of the elevators, informing visitors on the various departments of OASTh.

Photo 52: Signage examples
Thessaloniki City Hall

The City Hall of Thessaloniki, which was completed in 2009, is an example of the effort to apply the principles of accessibility to the new constructions of the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

The interior of the City hall is an area of 14500m², including the underground parking.

Photo 53: City Hall surroundings

Parking space

The underground parking has 709 spaces, out of which 28 spaces are reserved for people with disabilities. 142 spaces are available for City Hall uses, out of which 15 spaces are available for the employees and the visitors with disability.

Photo 54: Parking space with signage for visitors with disability
Access to the underground parking space is feasible through entrances in the yard of the City Hall. Such a typical entrance is 80 cm wide, with an iron door leaf that requires particular strength in order to open. Automatic ticket machines exist at every entrance. The control buttons of these machines lie at 1,3 m. It is noted that an elevator leading to the basement is not available in all entrances, in some cases access is achieved exclusively through a staircase.

Photo 55: Entrance and automatic ticket machine

Photo 56: Staircase leading to the parking lot. The handrail has a cross section that is not easy to use. The riser has a typical height of 17 cm
Besides the underground parking, there is also an accessible parking space at the side of the building near the Field of Mars area. However, access to the pavement from this side is difficult due to the lack of ramps near the parking space.

Photo 57: Outdoor parking space

Access to the entrance

In the surroundings of the City Hall there are formations with water which lack any warning or signage, making them potentially dangerous for the visitors with restricted vision.

Photo 58: Surroundings of the City Hall
The gap between the plates forming the staircase created on water is approximately 6 cm. This fact, in combination with the lack of handrails, makes the use of staircase difficult.

Photo 59: Gap between the plates

**Entrances**

The City Hall has many entrances which are used by the public. The main entrance is level with automatic glass door leafs of sufficient width.

Photo 60: Main entrance of the City Hall

The entrance to the multipurpose hall “Manolis Anagnostakis” is also often used by both the City Hall’s staff and the building’s visitors. The same entrance provides access to the cafeteria of the building as well. The
access to this entrance is feasible through a ramp with 10% slope. The entrance to the cafeteria has automatic glass door leafs 1,7m wide.

Photo 61: The ramp and the entrance of the multipurpose hall

At the same side of the building there is an entrance leading to the “water hall”. The access to this hall is difficult due to the height difference reaching 7 cm

Photo 62: Entrance of the “water hall”

A ramp at the side of the building in near the Field of Mars area leads to the entrance which provides access to the Employment office of the
Municipality and to other uses. This ramp consists of two parts, the first one has a 8,5% slope and the second 5.1% slope.

Photo 63: Ramp which leads to the entrance of the employment office

The employment office’s entrance has a free width of 1,3m.

Photo 64: Entrance at the side of employment office
**Horizontal circulation**

The main entrance leads to a large area hosting events and exhibitions during the year. The area has a downhill slope reaching 6.8%, while the last part of the space has an uphill slope of 5.2%.

Photo 65: City hall interior

The working spaces inside the building differ depending on the activities that take place in each department. There are customer service departments with desks having a typical height of 105 cm.

Photo 66: Customer service desk
There is also an information desk 115 cm high.

Photo 67: Information desk

The layout of the spaces with typical furniture can change according to the needs of the employees.

Photo 68: Work spaces at the City Hall

The corridors leading to the offices have in general sufficient width. In some cases, their width is reduced due to non-fixed obstacles and equipment.
At the City Council room there is space reserved for wheelchair users. A ramp leads to the rostrum. However, the rostrum itself is not accessible.

Photo 70: Space for wheelchair users and ramp at the City Council room
Photo 71: The rostrum

**Vertical circulation**

The vertical circulation in the building is feasible through the elevators and staircases. The main elevator is 1,6m wide and 1,45 m long. Its door is automatic and 90 cm wide. The control buttons have a maximum height of 122 cm and provide Braille indications.

Photo 72: The main elevator of the building

At the back of the building there is another elevator which also facilitates access to the accessible toilet of the basement. The dimensions of this elevator is 1,5m long and 1,3m wide, while the maximum height of the control buttons is 1,2 m. There is an elevator near the Employment office, with similar characteristics with the rest of the elevators, having a width of 1,1m and length of 1,4m. There are also elevators leading to the
underground parking through the entrances in the outdoor space of the building. These elevators are 1,1m wide and 1,38m long.

Photo 73: Elevator leading to the underground parking lot

Toilets

At every floor of the building there is a toilet for people with disability. The toilets have in general the same equipment, however differ in dimensions and layout. None of the toilets examined was in accordance with the existing Greek accessibility guidelines.

Photo 74: Toilet at the basement of the building. The placement of the basin prevents the approach to the WC from the front. The dimensions do not allow unimpeded rotation of wheelchair users.
Photo 75: Layout with the basin opposite the WC. The restricted width of the space does not allow side approach to the WC. The layout does not allow the use of the basin by a person sitting at the WC.

**Signage**

A tactile surface indicator leads to the main entrance of the building.

Photo 76: Tactile surface indicator

The tactile surface indicator is not connected with all the crossings and the ramps around the building.

At the exterior of the building vertical signage provides information for the services of the City Hall. The exclusive use of capital letters makes the signs less legible compared to the case in which both uppercase and
lowercase were used. In some of these signs the diagrammatic maps have been destroyed.

Photo 77: Maps at the exterior of the building

Appropriate signage in the interior of the building provides information for the uses of its spaces. Because of rearrangement of services inside the building, the employees of the building put improvised signage correcting the wrong indications. In the case of the signage hanging from the roof of the building, pictograms have also been used.

Photo 78: Signage in the interior of the building

There is also signage at the exterior of the offices and inside the elevators of the building.
Photo 79: Examples of signage
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) administration offices

The building is located behind the new building of the Philosophical Faculty, next to the Faculty of Theology. It is open mainly during the public sector’s working hours, but it can also be working in special cases (especially the Ceremony Hall) and it is guarded day and night.

Photo 80: The administration office building

The main users of the building are administrative and technical staff since in this building the main technical and administrative services as well as the various Rectorates of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki are housed. It is also used by students, since there are Secretariats of several Faculties of the University, and also the public (especially the Ceremony Hall).

Photo 81: The ceremony hall
Parking spaces

The building has many parking places available, in four different lots, three of which are open and one underground.

The underground parking lot has numbered parking places which are used by the Rectorate, the directors and the supervisors of the services of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Moreover, one open parking lot is used for the cars owned by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

There are also parking places at the Ceremony Hall of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki that can be used also by visitors especially during ceremonies. At this parking lot, there is also a parking space reserved for people with disability with signage that nowadays is not clear due to lack of maintenance.

Photo 82: The accessible parking space. The adjacent ramp has inclination more than 8% in its first part and almost 10% in its second part.

Photo 83: The underground parking lot. The route leading to the elevators is not accessible.
Photo 84: External parking lot for visitors and employees. Despite the presence of the International Symbol of Access there is no space reserved. A security guard opens the bar at the lot’s entrance.

**Access to entrances**

Access to the building’s entrances is hindered by lack of maintenance, illegally parked vehicles as well as lack of ramps bridging height differences.

Photo 85: Lack of ramps at the sidewalk leading to the ceremony hall

**Entrances**

The building has 6 entrances, the following:
1. The main entrance at the eastern part of the building.
2. The entrance at the canteen at the northern side of the building.
3. The entrance at the southern part of the building, to which the Tactile Ground Surface Indicators leads.
4. The entrance from the southern part of the building to the ground floor.
5. The main entrance of the Ceremony Hall.
6. The secondary entrance of the Ceremony Hall.

Photo 86: The building’s entrances
Regarding the accessibility of the entrances the following should be noted (the entrances are numbered from left to right):

1. Entrance 1: Entrance offering level access, leading to the building’s elevators.
2. Entrance 2: Entrance offering level access, leading to the building’s elevators and staircases.
3. Entrance 3: Entrance offering level access, near the accessible parking space.
4. Entrance 4: Entrance at the end of a long staircase. The staircase is equipped with double handrails and Tactile Surface Indicators.
5. Entrance 5: The main entrance of the ceremony hall, not accessible for wheelchair users. Access to the ceremony hall is achieved through entrance 6.
6. Entrance 6: Entrance offering level access to the ceremony hall. The presence of stone tiles that have wide joints may cause problems to wheelchair users.

The staircase leading to entrance 4 bridges the accessible parking space with the building’s ground floor. It has double handrails as well as Tactile Surface Indicators.

Several administration services, such as the environment office, the parking office and the Aristotle University Property Development and Management Company are housed at separate offices located at the first floor of the building. Access is also achieved through external ramp of large inclination, reaching 13%.
Photo 87: Entrance at the separate offices outside the first floor

Photo 88: Ramp leading at the external offices of the first floor

**Horizontal space**

The accessible main entrance (Entrance 1) leads directly to a large public area. Three elevators are very close to the entrance and they are directly visible facilitating their use.

The space in front of the elevators is sufficient, however the elevators themselves are not compatible to accessibility standards due to restricted dimensions.
In general, horizontal circulation is comfortable, since the width of the main corridors is about 175cm.

Access to the canteen, placed on the ground floor, is direct through Entrance 2 and also from any point of the ground floor.

The floor of the ground floor does not have patterns or variations of colours that could create problems to people with restricted vision. It is covered with marble which, by nature, does not offer sufficient slip-resistance. There is no Tactile Surface Indicator available.

Photo 89: The building’s ground floor

The corridors leading to the building’s offices have sufficient width, however temporary obstacles may pose problems to the building’s users.

Photo 90: Corridor leading to the level of the external accessible parking space and the underground parking space.
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Photo 91: Corridors leading to the work spaces with temporary obstacles.

The working spaces differ at each floor, depending on the departments they house. In general, they are typical office environments, with various dimensions and configurations.

Photo 92: Work space

The building’s sixth entrance leads directly to the ceremony hall’s podium, where existing ramps can be used by wheelchair users to access the first row of seats. However, there is no space reserved specifically for them.
**Vertical circulation**

The building has 8 floors, a ground floor and a basement which are used mainly for the central administrative and technical services of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, for the Rectorate and also for the Secretariats of some Faculties of the Aristotle University.

As mentioned before, the building has 3 elevators directly visible from the building’s main entrance. The internal dimensions of two of them are 1.10 X 0.90m and of the third one 1.35 X 1.10m. They have hinged doors and internal automatic door leafs that restrict their clear length.

Unfortunately the width of the elevators’ doors is not according to disability standards (it is just about 70cm) and as a result wheelchair users, especially motor wheelchair users, have difficulties entering the elevators.

The elevators’ buttons are at a height of 120cm from the ground. There is audible floor announcement available. Braille system is utilized at the buttons the dimensions of which are 3 * 3 cm.

The doors of the elevators have sufficient contrast with the adjacent walls.
The building’s staircase covers all the floors. It is straight and made of concrete covered with marble. There are no handrails available, however, from the ground floor to the first floor, there are non-skid tapes installed at the treads’ edges.

The illumination of the staircase is sufficient. The height of the riser is 17cm.

Toilets

There is an accessible toilet available at the building’s ground floor, which also covers the needs of the ceremony hall.
The width of the entrance door is 90 cm while its dimensions allow a free space of 1.50m diameter that facilitates the movement of wheelchair users inside the room. It is equipped with an emergency warning system, an automatic hands’ dryer and automatic soap dispenser, handrails and anatomic type wash basin. The ceramic tiles have colour contrast between the wall and the floor.

Photo 96: the building’s accessible WC. The third photo depicts the emergency warning system.

**Signage**

Signage is available at each of the building’s floors describing the various services housed at the specific floor. The signs installed do not use a common template.

Photo 97: Examples of signage
There is a tactile surface indicator available outside the building, at the staircase leading to the building’s main entrance as well as near the accessible parking space. Tactile surface indicators are also installed at the staircase near the ceremony hall.

Photo 98: Tactile Surface Indicators
Olympion

The Olympion cinema, one of the most characteristic buildings of Thessaloniki, is located at the centre of the city, at Aristotelous Square. A radical renovation of the building took place in 1997, and, since then, the building also houses the administration offices of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

The building houses two screens, the “Olympion” and the “Pavlos Zannas”.

Access to the building is achieved through public transport or private car, with no accessible parking space being available for the building’s users.

Photo 99: The “Olympion” cinema

Services outside the main building

As part of recent accessibility improvement interventions, a low desk in order to facilitate wheelchair users was created at one of the building’s ticket houses, which are located at the outside of the building.
Photo 100: The low desk outside the building

Entrances

The only entrance to the building without a staircase is located at the left side of the main entrance. The height difference between the pavement and the building’s interior is bridged by a ramp with steep inclination (more than 20%) that makes its negotiation extremely difficult for wheelchair users.

As part of the accessibility improvements that were realized at the building, a double handrail was installed (70 and 90cm high).

Photo 101: Ramp leading to the building’s interior
An external staircase leads to the building’s main entrance. This is covered with marble which does not offer sufficient slip-resistance and does not offer sufficient colour contrast with the environment. The staircase lacks handrails. A proposal for the installation of handrails was rejected by the Ephorate of Recent Monuments which, due to the building’s historical value, is responsible for approving any interventions to it.

Access to the building is achieved through hinged door leafs of sufficient width.

A separate entrance at the right of the main entrance is used by staff of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

Photo 102: The external staircase of the building and the entrance to the Film Festival’s offices.

**Horizontal circulation**

A second staircase, with similar characteristics to the external one, is located inside the main entrance. This is also covered with marble which does not offer sufficient slip-resistance and does not offer sufficient colour contrast with the environment. As part of the accessibility improvements that were realized at the building, a double handrail was installed (70 and 90cm high).
In order to reserve space for wheelchair users at the "Olympion" screen, existing seats were removed at the last row of seats. The room’s inclination did not allow the creation of wheelchair space near to the screen.

Photo 103: Staircase with handrail inside the building

Photo 104: Area reserved for wheelchair users
Access to the “Pavlos Zannas” screen

Access to the “Pavlos Zannas” room, and all other services located at the building’s fifth floor, poses many obstacles. In its current state the room is not accessible to wheelchair users, since access to the building’s elevator is achieved solely through staircases leading to them. The building’s visitor also has to negotiate a second staircase at the fifth floor in order to access the room.

Access to the Film Festival’s offices

Access is achieved through an entrance located to the right of the main entrance. Access to the offices is achieved solely through a staircase that leads to a separate elevator in order for the personnel to gain access to the building’s fifth floor, where the Festival’s offices are located. The work space itself has various height differences bridged through spall staircases.

Photo 105: Festival’s work space

Toilets

An accessible toilet is available at the building’s ground floor. Its dimensions are restricted, however, as part of the recent accessibility improvements, its equipment was replaced with anatomic type wash basin, new handrails, mirror with inclination, automatic hand dryer and soap dispenser as well as emergency alarm system.

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Photo 106: Accessible toilet