



TELESEICT – KA2 ERASMUS+

# “Teaching and Learning in Special Education with Information Communication Technologies”

Project Number: 2016-1-PT01-KA203-022950

# Definition of Disability

- During the last decades, the definition of disability has changed significantly, shifting the focus from the notion of “handicap” towards the restrictions that the individuals experience based on the environmental barriers, thus considering the disability as a “negative interaction between the person with disability and the environment”.
- According to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, persons with disabilities are defined as *those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others*”

- The definition of persons with disability in our country is based on the legislation and social protection programs. The Law No. 9355, Article 4, Chapter 3, defines the “Person with disability” as an individual who has become disabled due to physical, sensory, intellectual, psychic-mental impairments, either congenital or developed in the course of life as a result of accidents and temporary or permanent diseases, which are not related to employment.

- Due to the limitations of this definition, which considers the disability as related to the disease and inability of the person to work, The National Strategy for Persons with Disability has expanded the definition focusing on a more contemporary notion on disability, based on the barriers the individual faces everyday due to the social or environmental limitations. This strategy uses the following definition:
- “Persons with disabilities’ are the persons whose physical function, mental capacity or psychological health are highly likely to deviate for more than 6 months from the condition which is typical for the respective age, and whose participation in the life of society is therefore restricted”

- Law Nr. 93/2014
- “Persona me aftësi të kufizuara” janë individët që kanë dëmtime afatgjata fizike, mendore, intelektuale ose ndijore, dëmtime të cilat, në bashkëveprim me pengesat e ndryshme, përfshirë ato mjedisore dhe të qëndrimit, mund të pengojnë pjesëmarrjen e plotë dhe efikase të këtyre personave në shoqëri, në kushte të barabarta me të tjerët.

- Educational institutions- Number of children with disabilities attending pre-school and pre-university education is very low compared to the total percentage. Despite the important positive changes towards inclusive education of children with disabilities and quality of education in the country, as approved by the law “On the Pre-university Education” and the Normative Provisions of pre-University Education, more work should be considered in order to efficiently implement the new regulatory framework.
- Several problems were encountered by disabled children about their education: barriers, or hesitation, on the part of professionals to enrol their children in kindergartens and general schools; stigmatizing attitudes towards children with disabilities’ fear related to their vulnerability; or prejudice that children with disabilities cannot benefit from the general school program.
- As teachers disapprove having a child with disabilities in their class due to the greater amount of work that this process requires, complaints from other parents, lack of knowledge and capabilities to better address the educational needs of children with disabilities, lack of teaching assistants, etc.

## •DISABILITY AWARENESS

“Disability is the process which happens when one group of people create barriers by designing a world only for themselves, not taking into account the impairments other people have.”



- Disability relates to the interaction between the person with the impairment and the environment. It has a lot to do with discrimination, and has a lot in common with other attitudes and behaviors such as racism and sexism that are not acceptable in society.



# • PROFILE OF THE DISABLED POPULATION IN ALBANIA

Persons with disabilities in Albania are a sizeable vulnerable population group. The 2011 Census informs that 137,435 persons of the age 15 years old and over, of which 75,239 women, live with disabilities.

*1 in 5 youth (15-24 year-old) with vision restriction is looking for a job but cannot find one*

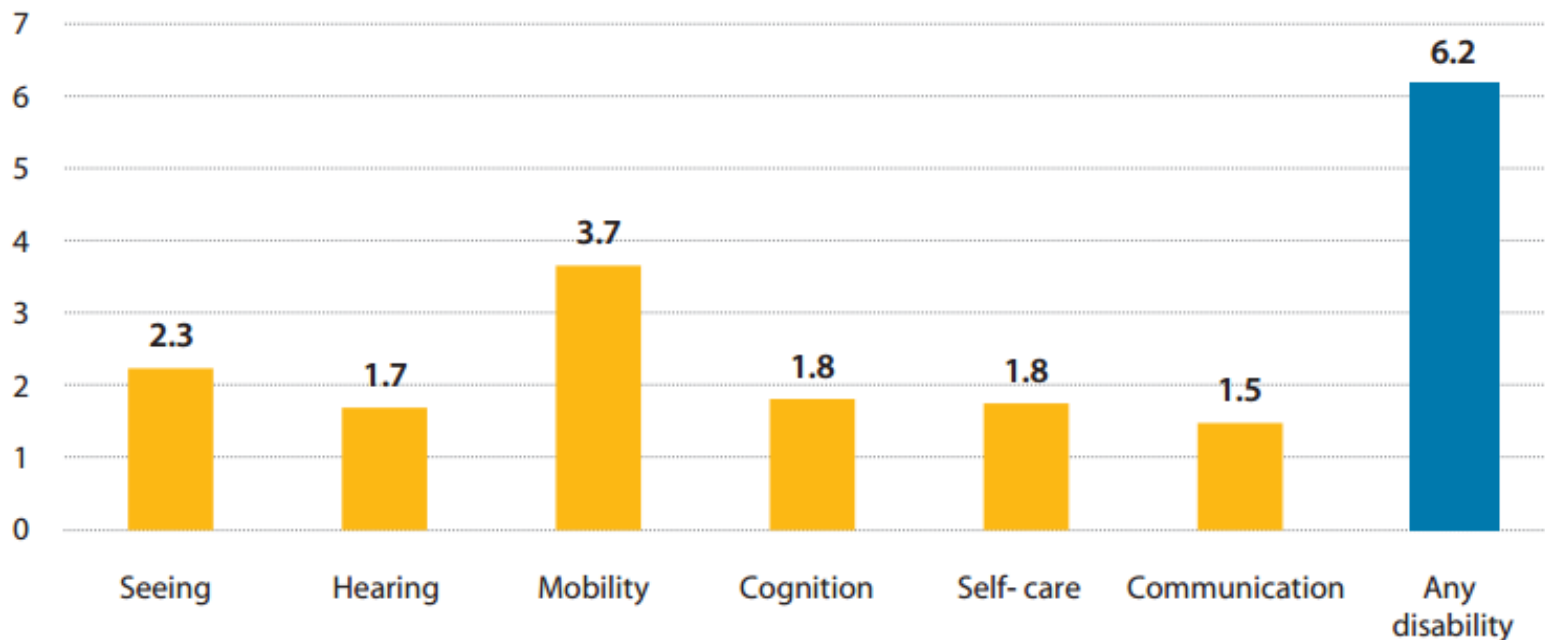
*6.2% of the adult population in Albania is disabled*

*Disabled working-age adults are 2 times more likely to be out of the labor force than non-disabled adults*

*Disability prevalence does NOT vary across income quintiles*

*Disabled persons from the bottom quintile are 2 times more likely to experience or more disabilities than the top quintile*

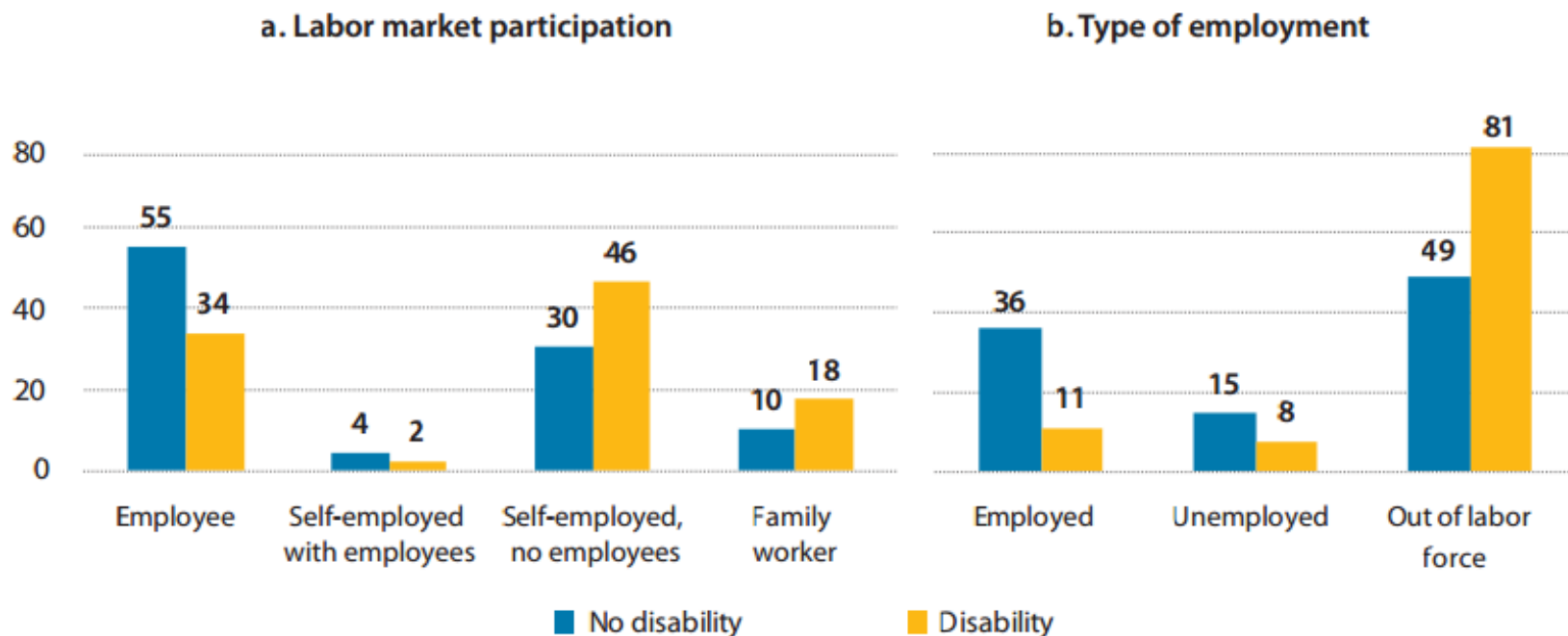
- Disability prevalence in Albania (%)



*Note: sample restricted to the population aged 15 years and above. The last column shows people with at least one of the six disabilities displayed in **yellow**.*

Source: 2011 Census.

- Disabled individuals are less integrated in the labor market

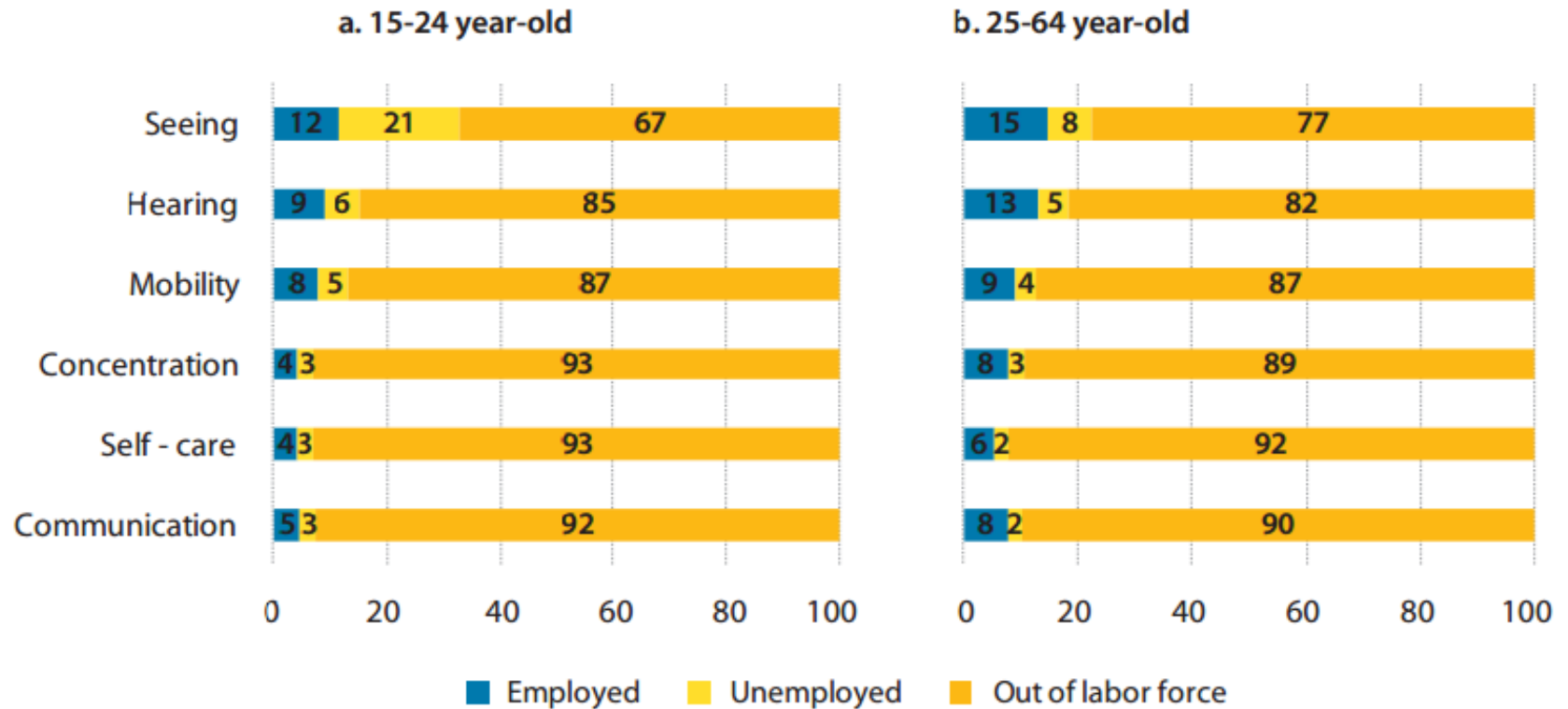


*Note: sample restricted to the population aged 15 to 64 years old.*

Source: 2011 Census.

- In Albania, disabled adults are much less likely to be participating in the labor market than their non-disabled peers. Disabled adults are 5 times less likely to be working than the non-disabled population.
- 8 in 10 disabled working-age adults are out of the labor force, i.e. neither working nor looking for work.
- Workers with disability are much more likely to be working as family workers or self-employed without employees than their valid counterparts.

- DISABILITY AND EMPLOYMENT



*Note: sample restricted to the population aged 15 to 64 years old.*

Source: 2011 Census.

## •LEGISLATION IN ALBANIA

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and according to NGOs there have been positive changes in legal provisions.
- The Law on Work Promotion of Persons with Disabilities
- Law on Economic Aid
- Law on Accessibility and Inclusion.
- Law "On inclusion and accessibility of Persons with Disabilities"



- Legal frame
- Disabled people officially are entitled to all human rights, (education, employment, health, etc.) and of the freedoms (opinion, expression, etc.).
- The constitution (article 1/f) stipulates that the state and the government must act in favor of disabled persons in fields of health rehabilitation, the special education, the social integration and living conditions improvement.
- According to these arrangements a certain number of laws and decrees have been approved, notably on legal statutes of various groups of disabled persons and on social and health care.



## •THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN ALBANIA

- The National Strategy on People with Disabilities in Albania represents the decisive will of all parties involved to harmonies the Albanian policy on people with disabilities with the international framework of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union.
- The Strategy is designed to improve the living conditions of people with disabilities in the fields of education, employment, support services and free access.

- FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE STRATEGY

1. The Principle of Civil Rights, Equality and Non-Discrimination
2. The Principle of Self-Determination that enables them to an independent life.
3. The Principles of Inclusion, Participation and Equal Opportunities
4. The principles of Free Access and Barrier Free Environments
5. The Principles of Prevention, Early Detection and Early Intervention
6. The Principle of Rehabilitation to eliminate a disability or prevent its aggravation
7. The Principle of Finality according to which the necessary assistance must be offered to every disabled person and persons who are in danger of becoming disabled

- The overall objective of the National Strategy on People with Disabilities is to ensure significant improvement in the status and life quality of people with disabilities in the Republic of Albania in accordance with UN Standards and Equal Opportunity Acts.

**Objective: Provide opportunities in employment and economic development for people with disabilities**

- Provide education and training opportunities
- Support options to achieve employment.
- Educate employers about the abilities and capacities of people with disabilities.
- Provide information about career options and assistance available.
- Adjustment of working places
- Provide communication services, resources and flexible workplace options.
- developing more flexible income support benefits
- Etc

**“HOW A SOCIETY TREATS ITS DISABLED IS THE  
TRUE MEASURE OF A CIVILIZATION.”**

## •EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

Regarding employment policy, MoSWY has continued to implement the measures of the action plan strategy of the National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2014-2020 in collaboration with implementing institutions, National Employment Service (NES) and other institutions of dependence.

- DCM No.248, date 30.04.2014 “On employment promotion program for persons with disabilities” amended with DCMNo. 460, date 9.07.2014.
- Law Nr.93 / 2014 dated 25.07.2014 "On Inclusion and Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities";

- **SOCIAL HOUSING STRATEGY**
- Ministry of Urban Development adopted by the Decision of Council of Ministers no. 405, dated 01.06.2016 the Strategy and its Action Plan.
- The main goal of the strategy is to: "Provide solutions available, accessible, affordable and quality housing for vulnerable groups in particular, e.g. Roma and Egyptian communities, orphans, persons with disabilities, women who are victims of domestic violence etc.

▪

- **EXISTING SITUATION IN ALBANIA**

Persons with disabilities are not yet fully integrated in the Albanian society. During the recent years, a range of legislation and policies relevant to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities has been approved in Albania.

- **The National Strategy on Persons with Disabilities (2005) and the associated action plan**
- **Social Protection Strategy (2007)**

**DISABILITY**  
**DOES NOT MEAN**  
**INABILITY**

- **DISABILITY, POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**  
**ALBANIA**

Disability may lead to lower living standards and poverty through adverse impact on education, employment, earnings, and increased expenditures related to disability. Stigma associated with a health condition may lead to activity limitations and participation restrictions given a particular social and cultural context and it might be worsened by the stigma associated with poverty.



## •Future steps shall also be undertaken:

1. Building up structures to enable people with disabilities to take part in all sectors of social and cultural life.
2. By abolishing information-, communication- and transportation-barriers
3. By implementing disability issues

If There's  
A Wheel,  
There's  
A Way

The Fresh Quotes

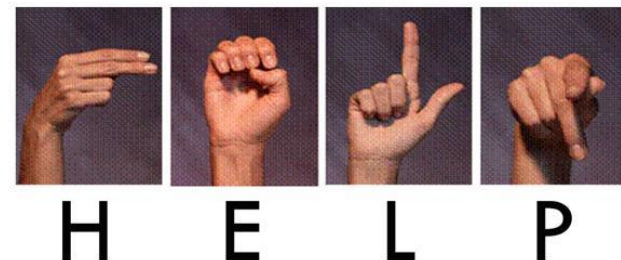
## • NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS IN ALBANIA TO ADDRESS

- Bad quality services, not accessible, geographically limited with untrained staff;
- Weak access to information (on rights, services, procedures, etc.);
- Isolation and solitude, self-denigration, weak family cohesion, stigmatization;
- Unemployment and poverty,
- Unsuitable education system, using obsolete methods;
- Limited physical accessibility (displacements, transportation, etc.).

## • FIELDS OF INTERVENTION / ACTION PLAN

- 1. Accessibility
- 2. Services
- 3. Employment, Education and Vocational Training
- 4. Capacity Building
- 5. Legal Framework and Research

- **Measures to be taken**
- universal design features such as elevators, ramps, and clear signage.
- international symbols in materials, on websites



## ACCESSIBILITY means:

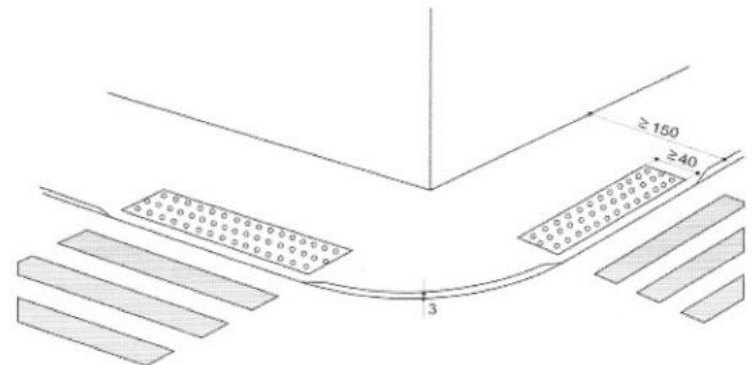
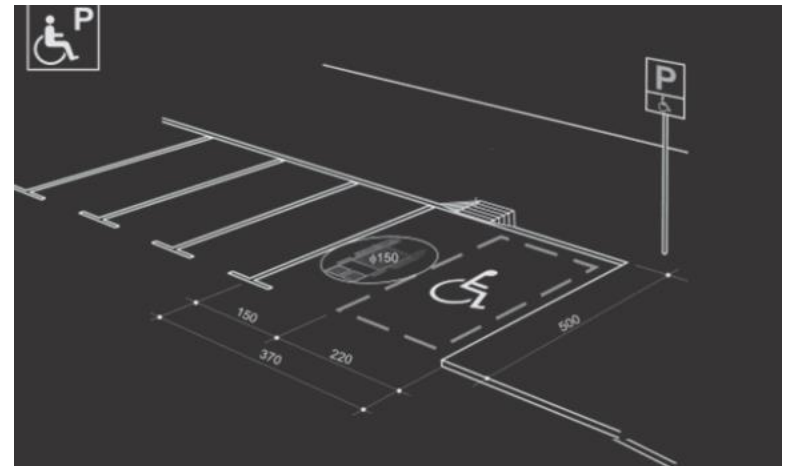
- accessible path to enter the building
- accessible parking
- accessible common areas
- accessible to move around
- accessible meeting, learning and conference spaces
- automatic doors
- accessible emergency plan
- etc

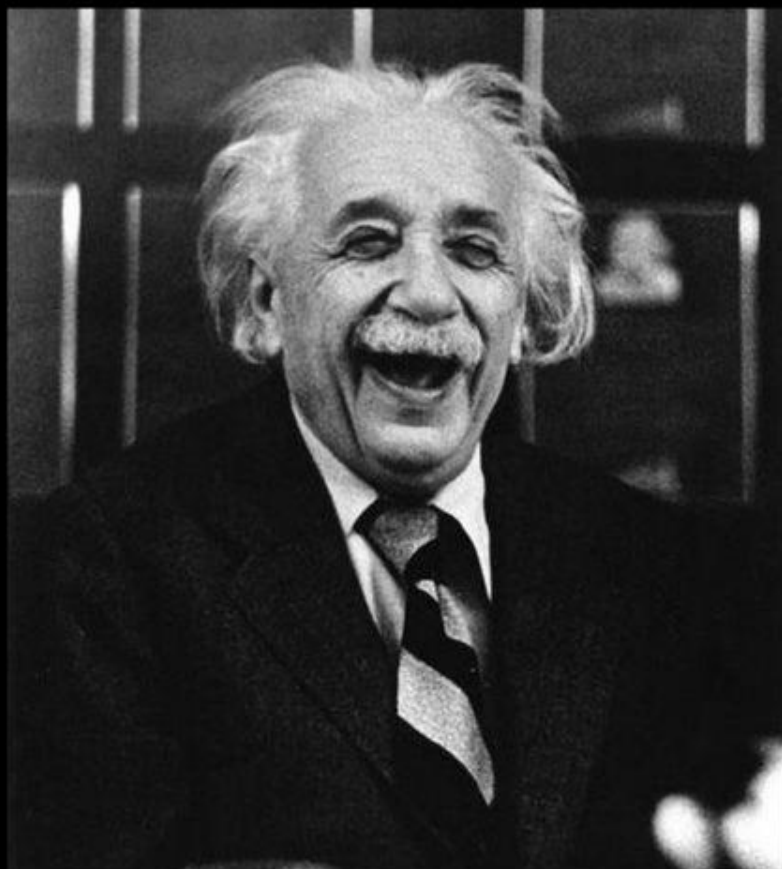


# •MANUAL FOR DESIGNERS

Based on Regulation "For the use of the facility by persons with disabilities "

- Road crossings
- Parking
- Ramps
- Stairs
- Building entrances
- Elevator
- Houses
- Hygiene services
- Studying and Working Environments
- Recreational and entertainment facilities





"Everybody is a genius.  
But if you judge a fish  
by it's ability to climb a tree,  
it will live its whole life  
believing that it is stupid."  
— Albert Einstein

**THANK YOU !**