



MUNICIPALITY OF PAVIA: MAPPING THE CITY'S ACCESSIBILITY FOR TOURISTS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

People with disabilities can plan trips to and in Pavia using satellite navigation.

The City

Pavia is a city in the Northern-Italian region of Lombardy. Though a relatively small city, with a population of approximately 71 000 people, Pavia has a significant historical and cultural heritage; it hosts one of the most ancient European universities, and welcomes thousands of tourists every year.

The Challenge

Its architectural features make Pavia's city centre, where most sites of interest are located, difficult to access by people with reduced mobility. After an initial effort to map some tourist areas accessible to the disabled, the Municipality sought to go further in its efforts to foster tourism for all, notably by providing accurate, up-to-date information on accessibility.

The Satellite Solution

Since 2009, MapAbility provides an interactive online service offering accurate and up-to-date geo-localised information for the disabled, with regard to the level of accessibility of sidewalks, squares, crossroads, public buildings, car parks and tourist attractions in general. The map allows people using wheelchairs to plan their trip according to both accessibility criteria and touristic interests. MapAbility also allows citizens to take geo-localised pictures and update the map, thus ensuring the accuracy of the information. The project was promoted by the civil society organisation "MapAbility" and supported by the Tourist Information Office of Pavia.

LRA SUPPORT INITIATIVE



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Promoting social inclusion

The Results

The interactive map represents a valuable tool for disabled people wanting to visit Pavia, and has received numerous appreciations since it was first made available. In the future, MapAbility will not only allow users to visualise itineraries, but also to download them on their GPS and be guided in real time. The map is also useful to the city authorities in better targeting efforts to improve accessibility for the disabled.

The MapAbility service has proved so effective in Pavia that it has been implemented in 9 other Italian cities since the beginning of 2011.

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