

# **BALKAN MUSEUM ACCESS GROUP (BMAG)**

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**Balkan Museum Network (BMN)  
Balkan region**

**Access to Arts and Museums**



**February 22, 2018; 17.00 cet**



## Who we are?

- Peer-learning group
- Six countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, FYR of Macedonia and Serbia)
- Developing accessibility knowledge
- Implementing accessibility features in own museums
- Supported by two disability consultants
- Three-year training programme





## Our practice essence

- Disabled persons often find it difficult to enjoy museums in the Balkan region.
- Lack of accessibility features.
- Inadequate budgets.
- Low level of knowledge and skills on the part of museum staff regarding accessibility and inclusion.





## Innovative aspect

- The desired change is taking place internally from within museums.
- The learning is streamlined from an individual to the institutional level.
- The museums are motivated to include disabled people by providing examples of successful accessible museum practices.
- Sharing among colleagues is crucial for learning and testing ideas in the practice.





## Impact created

- Museums have opened up.
- Embracing disabled people as partners and experts.
- Revising disabled people approaches to planning and strategy.
- Since 2015, BMN member museums implemented 11 small projects.
- Each project included accessibility features.
- Most of projects included disabled person as co-creator.





## Success factors

- Reducing isolation.
- Having more information about activities of museums in wider Balkan region.
- Inspiring others for new activities.
- New partnerships and participation in international projects.
- Sharing educational tools and methods enables BMN members to adopt new approaches for working with disabled people.





## Funding and sustainability

- BMAG is funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, a Greek-based philanthropic organization that provides hundreds of grants around the world on topics including arts and culture.
- Sustainability of results is ensured by embedding the results in the museums who own the results of actions.





## The next steps

As of late 2017, BMAG started conducting:

- Accessibility surveys to identify, prioritize and remove barriers.
- Thereby, increasing accessibility in each museum.
- Improved accessibility measures include production of 3D models of exhibits at Zenica City Museum, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Touch tours and handling sessions at the National Historical Museum of Greece.







## One of our stories...

Mirsad Đulbić ,A board member of the Association of Paraplegics and Poliomyelitis from the Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina:

•“I am retiree, local history and culture lover from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Average in everything, not special in anything. Not so long ago, I wasn't able to get in many institutions and go over a City without obstacles. And me and my friends love socializing, sports and cultural programs. One of my friend institution is Zenica City Museum.The building of this museum is accessible in full with all amenities. Accessibility is such that no companion assistance is required. I often go there with my friends and our spouses.**They removed barriers for us, and let us live the culture in our everyday life”.**





**Thank you from BMAG!**

