



Accessible events
& projects

Open view on disability



Intro

Guide for Accessible Events & Inclusive Projects



Intro is a non-profit organisation that strives to improve the accessibility of events, festivals, performances in cultural centres and sporting events for disabled people and realizes inclusive projects. The organisation uses specific material such as an induction loop system and audio-description. Therefore, she invokes various partners. Many Intro volunteers ensure a warm welcome and provide assistance where necessary.

Intro wants to draw attention to the importance of accessible events and inclusive leisure activities by means of several various projects. Intro works hard for equal opportunities for disabled people. Cooperation is of great significance to the non-profit organisation and it realises its goals by consulting the government, consumer organisations and others.

Feeling the need of accessible events for disabled people, Intro found its origin in an initiative taken by the KVG Group (an organisation for disabled people) in 1999.





TARGET GROUP

Organizers

Intro helps organizers to make their event more accessible. The organisation advises and supports on the practical part of constructing an event.

Disabled

When disabled have personal questions about visiting an event, they can always depend on Intro. The organisation pays due respect to the wishes and needs of people with a physical restriction, deaf people and people whose hearing is impaired, blind and bad-sighted people, people with a mental restriction and autistics.

Volunteers

With the help of many volunteers, Intro realizes the accessibility on events. Not only do they operate as a contact centre, they also take care of the welcoming and assistance on demand.

Therefore, the organisation is constantly in search of volunteers.

Society

Intro wants to work on the consciousness of our society and its policymakers. The organisation points out that there is a need for accessible events and an inclusive society where people - with and without restriction - can meet.

“Inclusive” also entails that we do not plead for a privileged arrangement, but strive for the best solution to practical problems.





ACCESSIBLE EVENTS

Intro is involved in the accessibility of several events:

- Music festivals such as Rock Werchter, Pukkelpop, Folkfestival Dranouter, Dour Festival, Sfinks, Rimpelrock, Cactusfestival and more than 150 others (in this matter Belgium belongs to the European top);
- Sporting events in stadiums such as the home games of the 'Rode Duivels' and the 'Memorial Van Damme';
- Activities at the start and arrival of cycling events, e.g. de Ronde van Vlaanderen, Gent-Wevelgem, ... and a lot of cyclo-(field)crosses (amongst others: de Koppenbergcross, de Grote Prijs Sven Nys, de Scheldecross);
- Indoor events and performances in cultural centres;
- Several other events such as the international building exhibition Batibouw, conferences, ...
- The complete Intro calendar of coming and yet-to-come events, you can find at <http://www.intro-events.be/nl/m/c5/overview>





INCLUSIVE PROJECTS

Accessible football

Intro promotes accessible football matches for disabled. In this context, Intro already started up different actions: a gallery where the blind as well as persons who are visually impaired can watch football (read more about it further on), an extensive research on the accessibility of the Belgian football stadiums (with Enter), an awareness campaign, a training for safety controllers and attention stewards, consultation with several bodies (agencies) involved in football. ...

...



Sun, See, ...Carefree

Intro ensures disabled persons a peaceful day at sea. Several adjustments are provided e.g. accessible toilets and showers, beach wheelchairs, hardening at the seaside, ... personal assistants helping disabled persons where and when they need it.

Intro realizes this project in cooperation with the province of Occidental Flanders and several local councils at the coast.



Accessible Films

Intro makes films in theatres accessible using sound chairs, induction loop systems, subtitles, audio description,... In the past, Intro has organised Cinema Senses, the first inclusive film festival in Belgium and it also ensured the accessibility of the International Film festival of Flanders.





Services

Intro offers a number of specialized devices.

Induction Loop System

A induction loop ensures that interfering background noises are filtered out for people with a hearing aid. By switching their hearing aid to the T position, they can enjoy a concert much more. Intro, together with the firm Veranneman, provides induction loops for several events. Thanks to Intro, a lot of extra induction loop systems are already being installed in Belgium.



Sound Chair

Together with Pioneer, Intro launches the Sound Chair in Flanders. The system consists out of a big pillow that can be placed in a chair. That pillow transforms sound into vibrations. This way, we can make music a tactile experience for those people whose hearing is impaired. The sound chair is exclusive in Europe.



ADL-assistance

Many Intro volunteers want to commit themselves as an ADL-assistant (activities of daily living). At events, they have to see to it that people with a disability are clearly informed about the facilities present, they are responsible for the welcoming of disabled people and assisting them in their activities of daily living (lending a hand with getting around on the event, getting food or drinks, accompanying people to the toilets,...).

Audio description and grandstand for blind people

Audio description gives a person with a visual disability additional information on what is being projected on the screen, but what is not clear from the dialogue. This commentary is available through headsets. This way, Intro makes theatre, film, concerts,... accessible for blind people and people with a visual disability. Since the season of 2008-2009, Intro has launched audio description together with the grandstand in Belgian football competition. Anderlecht was the first club with this kind of grandstand but many other clubs would like to follow their example and set it up.



To this adjustment, Intro got the support of Elan Languages and Duvall Conference Technology.



Interpreters of Flemish Sign Language

At several events interpreters of Flemish sign language are present to act as interpreters for people whose hearing is impaired. They are also often present at the entrance to welcome the deaf and to help them to find their way.

Intro offers interpreters of Flemish Sign Language to organisers in cooperation with the interpreter teams Sign Up, Deaf Event and Hand Made





ORGANISATION AND SUPPORT

Intro is a part of KVG Group (an association for disabled people) and is supported by Equal Opportunities in Flanders (a department of the government), the Cultural Decree for the Disabled of the Flemish Government (also a governmental initiative), the National Lottery, the Province of Limburg, the Province of Occidental Flanders and the Province of Flemish Brabant.

In addition Elan Languages, Veranneman Audiology, Cuvall Conference Technology and Pioneer Europe provide an important contribution to enforcement of Intro.

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