

Group participant reflections – conclusions & recommendations

GROUP 1 – INFRASTRUCTURE

Naturpark Amager – good roads, but made during army period, not nowadays. Accessibility is not representing the budget of the organisation (too poor compared to the relatively higher budget) and WC outside was not accessible. The central area, though, nice and works well for accessibility.

Geomuseum Faxø (trail, viewpoint and museum) – impressive view, accessible trail, accessible toilet. Exhibition room, though, too dark, might cause difficulties for people with visual impairment.

Cliffs of Mon (stairs, boardwalk, museum) – stairs do not represent a good accessibility example – too narrow step, too steep, steps situated underneath each other, too dangerous. An example of how not to do. Boardwalk, instead, really well done, 10 points. Though some cleaning up should be done depending on the season – to clean up the leaves or snow. Exhibition at the museum was nice because of its interactivity. However, lighting might also be a problem for some people, a little too dark at some rooms.

Liselund park – beautiful place, but path surface too soft for wheelchairs. Some of the houses were not reachable, but that is not always required.

Camp Adventure Forest Tower (path, info centre, tower) – tower really impressive, but not accessible for all – only can be accomplished by electric wheelchairs or assistance. Path surface before reaching the boardwalk too soft. No borders on boardwalk, too steep in some stretches. Metal net was good, though – laid down in some boardwalk stretches, for example, at those with steep slopes. The path within the tower is too steep for a normal wheelchair. Invatoilet – though marked as accessible – in reality is not really accessible (assistance needed because of the uneven surface (stones) to get into the building and because of the door stils).

Nationalpark Skjoldungesrien – trail was accessible, fireplace raised questions if it is really safe to have it inside the shelter, the metal construction to help people in wheelchairs to get onto the sitting/sleeping area – seemed too complicated to use.

Trail in Lejre – guiding was not too good taking into account the rainy weather conditions, accessibility clearly not the priority for the guide, the trail itself was not accessible, as part of the trail goes along the grassy area and one stretch required walking along quite a busy asphalted road with no pedestrian walkway and no traffic signs.

Disabled People Organisation Denmark (DPOD) – construction planning process rightly done. As to budget – though claimed by DPOD to be of the same cost as for a usual building, is still questionable can the costs be really the same compared to normal office.

National Accessibility Scheme God Adgang – the access Denmark label, covers both, accessible spots inside (all types of buildings) and outdoors (nature), as well as several countries (Denmark, Iceland, Sweden). Serves as a quality sign for certifying accessibility, have their certified sites published on web. Participants have to pay the entrance fee, membership fee and the revisiting fee (for repeated inspections every 3-4 years). The fee gives access to free consulting. Overall, a very good scheme, gives lots of usable and reliable information for disabled, so that they can prepare for visiting the site in question.

University of Copenhagen – a bit of a puzzling impression, as the research group challenges the recommended measurement system for accessibility. Idea of having different types of accessible paths and their impact on health is really something to learn about and follow the result of the studies.

Overall – Denmark is considered to be one of the leading countries in Europe in terms of accessibility for all. The visit proved that in the area of accessible nature tourism they struggle with the same issues as the other Baltic countries and Finland.

GROUP 2 – TOURISM

Naturpark Amager – close to city, man-made park, though the visitors' centre as info point is located too far from the entrance. The area is noisy because of the airport nearby. Would not market it for tourists, but is very suitable for locals.

Geomuseum Faxe – accessible for wheelchairs, but not very good for other movement impairment types, as well as people with visual impairment. Works well for marketing.

Liselund park – beautiful place, but would not market, quite similar to a usual city park.

Cliffs of Mon – an interesting centre, which works really well for marketing.

Camp Adventure Forest Tower – location seemed wrong, view was not great from the top. Not all services were accessible either, e.g. food and WC. Yet, quite impressive itself, serves as a good spot for marketing.

Trail in Lejre – not accessible, even for normal people, as the road was too dangerous (not regulated road lights).

DPOD – one of the most accessible buildings in the world. National Accessibility Scheme God Adgang – excellent scheme, gives lot of useful and reliable information to disabled people.

University of Copenhagen – really good idea on relation between human health, nature and accessibility, would be useful to visit the testing garden itself as well. University itself not accessible for disabled.

The city of Copenhagen as such is quite accessible, both for wheelchairs and persons with visual impairment.

GROUP 3 – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Naturpark Amager – excellent site and facilities for environmental education, close to the city.

Geomuseum Faxe – positive that the open mine is right next to the museum. Good local infrastructure from nature education point of view – fossils can be studied inside and outside of the museum.

Cliff of Mon – more information boards might be useful along the trail to learn about trees etc. Inside the museum – lots of useful information available.

Camp Adventure Forest Tower – more information boards might be useful along the trail to learn about trees etc.

University of Copenhagen – interesting study, unfortunately only in Danish, but the Estonian Environmental Board will be in contact regarding the senses toolbox to be developed under the NatAc project. The researchers have good ground work behind the study on what conditions make people to relax, to learn etc.

Nationalpark Skjoldungesrien – nice idea to learn inside the shelter and then go outside to see the area. Toilet, though, too far from the shelter, yet – accessible.

Liselund park – great resource of nature education – trees, plants, pond, cultural spots etc.

Lejre trail – great Viking village, trail could be better marked though.

Overall – better marking and signing applies to all areas visited – they have great potential for nature education to be exercised by people on their own, but signs could be better.

GROUP 4 – NGOs

Knowledge and experience on accessibility is pretty much the same level as in our countries. Very many places are suitable for wheelchair, but not often for the blind and people with visual impairment.

Last day was the most interesting particularly for the NGOs group. The National Accessibility Scheme God Adgang is a really good source for nature trails. Was really useful to travel around and see places in reality. This stimulates good cooperation, allows to discuss what happens in each country, share the best practices. Would have been good to meet also some Danish people who actually go to nature to share the actual experience. The key point to learn from – start with accessible information, trail is just a point in an accessible trail nature pack, as lots of services come around it and they all matter whether the disabled person will go on this trail or not.

