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# Method to Evaluate Accessibility in Built Enviroment

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# The evaluation method ESKE

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- There were many different ways to evaluate accessibility of the built environment > the results varied
- A commonly agreed method and criteria were needed
- The method ESKEH was created in 2007–2009
- ESKEH provides factual information on accessibility, as accessibility is not an opinion

# The evaluation method ESKE

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It is question of:

- Understanding the needs of disabled people
- Understanding the building codes and guidelines
- Knowing what measures have to be taken
- Knowing each criteria
- How to take the measures
- How to write them down
- How to analyze them
- Knowing the tolerances...

# The evaluation method ESKE

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After creating the evaluation method:

- The model content for a training program for accessibility evaluators was needed
- The model content was tested in Helsinki
- Today three Finnish universities of applied sciences run this course

# Co-operation

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Wide co-operation was needed:

- Disability, elderly and cultural organizations as well as ministries, authorities and institutes joined the project
- The method was tested and commented by many more organizations

# Testing the forms



# Sari and her assistance dog



# A common agreement was needed

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## The basis of all criteria:

- Finnish building regulations
- More than 20 Finnish and several foreign guidelines and good practices

## An agreement:

- Each of the 1000 criteria had to be agreed on
- Wide knowledge and consensus was needed



# Accessibility can be measured

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- Every criterion can be measured
- Measuring methods were considered

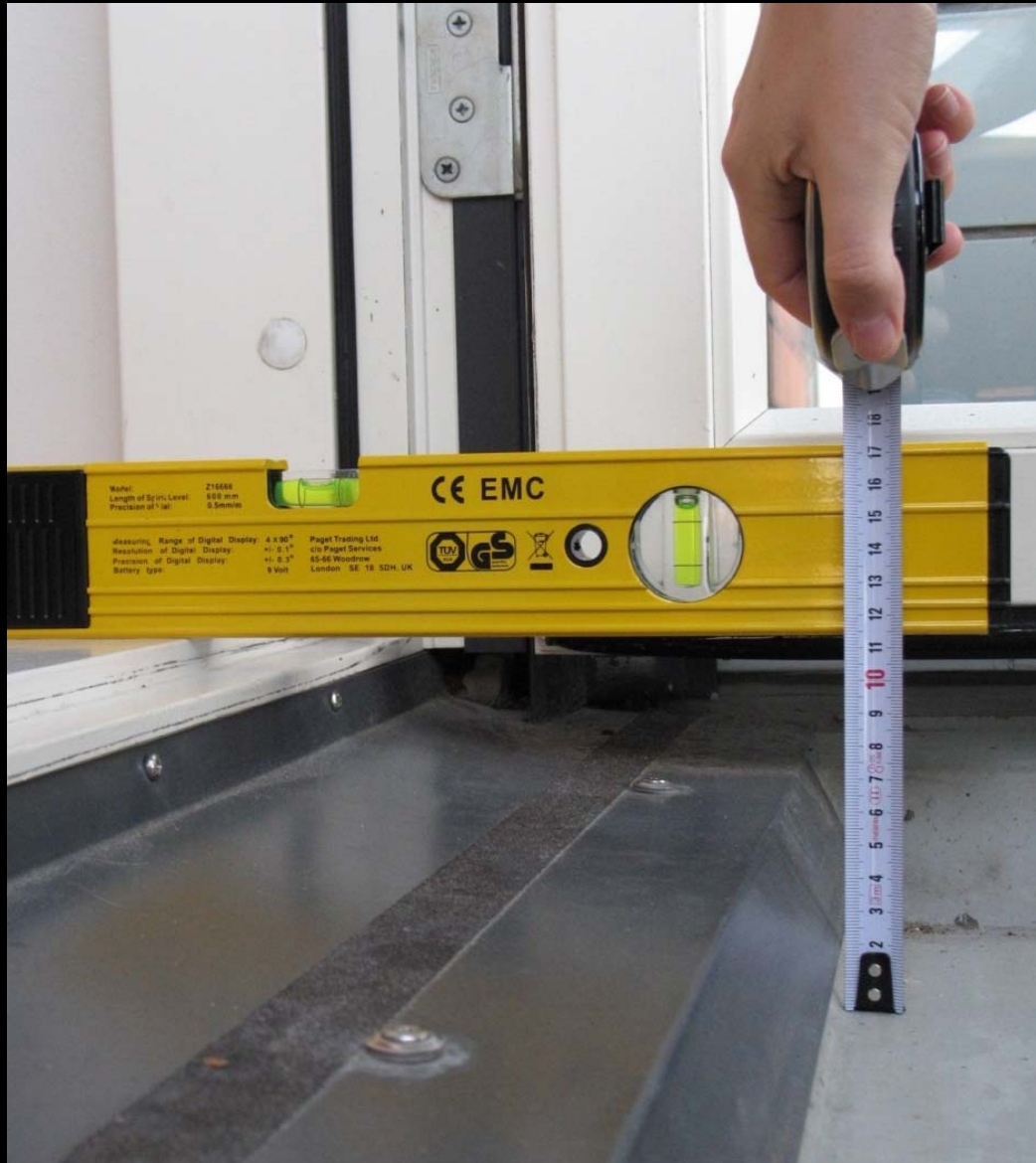
Exception:

- Sensory (visual and acoustical) environments are partly evaluated by observation in the method ESKEH

The door opening is easy to measure



# How to measure the threshold



# How much force is needed to open a door



The font size under control...



## A manual was needed

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- For both trained accessibility auditors and those who need accessibility audits
- Consists of: instructions for clients and for auditors, as well as a model report

### The measuring results are

- reported in tabular form, including proposals how to improve accessibility, what is urgent, are there any dangers...
- compared to each criterion

# ESKEH – continuing development

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- The criteria for sports facilities were added last year
- The criteria for accessible nature trails are under development

# An accessible nature trail in a Finnish forest





# Thank you

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