



# Universal design for more accessible environment

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# Why do we talk about universal design?

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Since 2010. May the Lithuanian Parliament approved a law passed legislation

Article 2, Definitions

“Universal design” means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. “Universal design” shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

# Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Art.4, Part 1 (f))

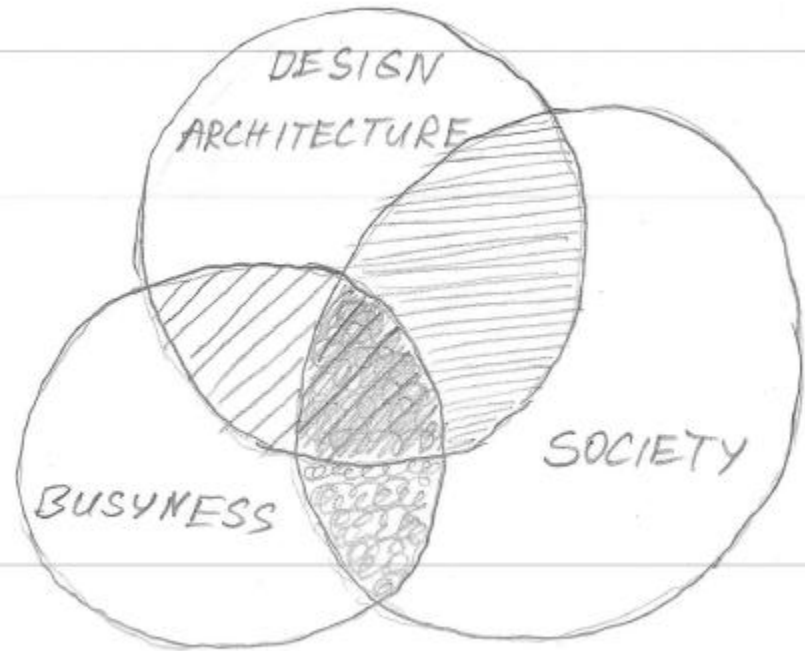
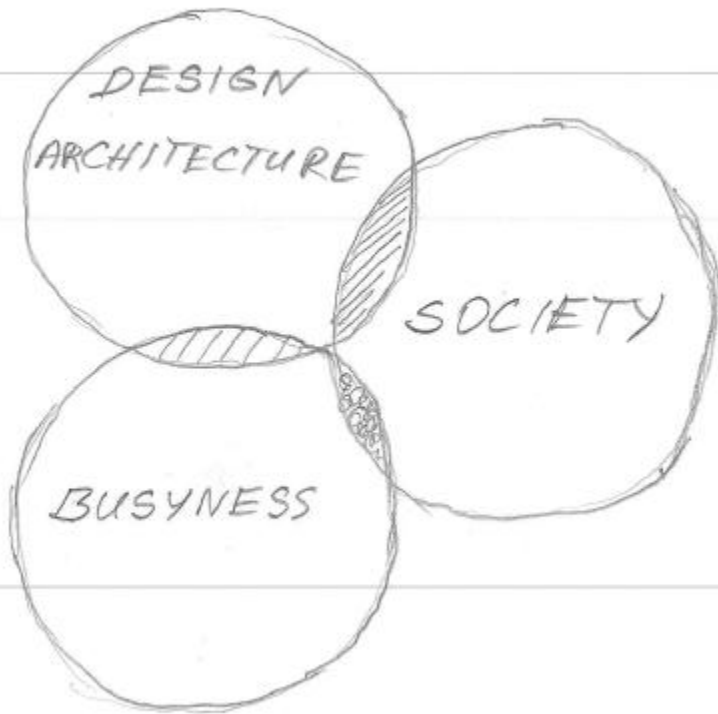
General obligations of the State:

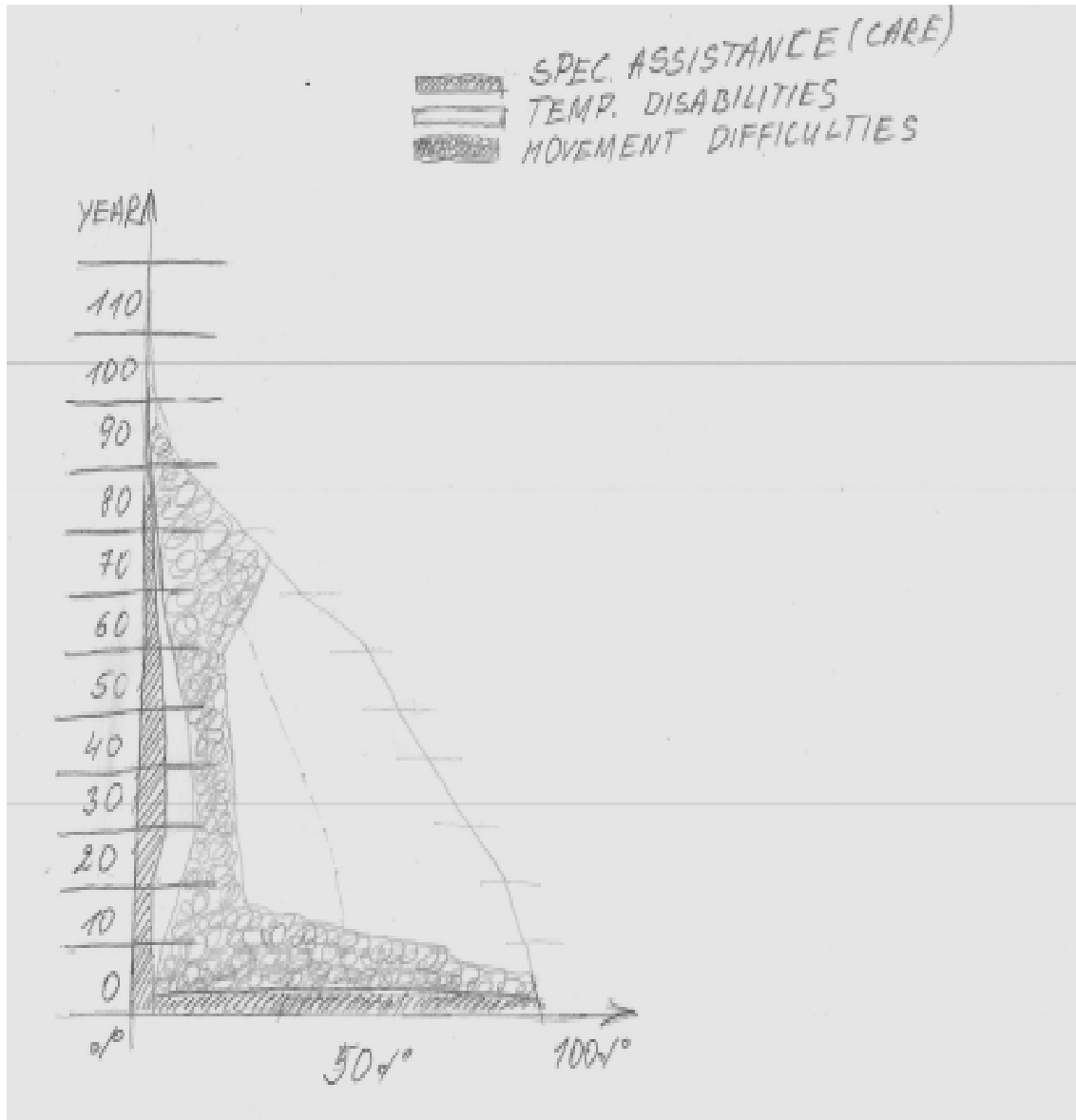
- To undertake or promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities, as defined in article 2 of the present Convention,
- which should require the minimum possible adaptation and the least cost to meet the specific needs of a person with disabilities,
- to promote their availability and use, and
- to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines

# Other international law

- In 2001. Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Resolution ResAP (2001) 1 (Tomar resolution) on the universal design principle, subject to the inclusion of all the professions involved in the shaping of the environment, programs
- In 2006. Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation Rec (2006) 5 on ET action plan to encourage people with disabilities, right to full participation in society: people with disabilities quality of life in Europe 2006-2015
- In 2009. Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation to Member States on active participation in ensuring the implementation of universal design strategy CM / Rec (2009) 8

# Why is this important?





## Society

In 1896

life expectancy rate in Lithuania  
32 m.

In 2008

life expectancy rate in Lithuania

women 77,57 m.

men 66,30 m.

In 2050 every third inhabitant  
in Lithuania will be age of 60  
and above

Universal design  
increases amount of  
users by 40 %

tourism 20 %

# Universal design principles

- **Equatable use** - can use very large circle of users, there is no segregation, stigma, accessibility  
“invisible “
- **Flexibility in use** - the same products or the environment easy to use and meet the different needs of individual



# Universal design principles (2)

- **Simple and intuitive** - easy and intuitive to understand how to use the product or the environment regardless of their ability, knowledge, literacy, mental abilities
- **Perceptible information** - provides effective information from the user's sensory abilities (hearing, vision), language knowledge
- **Tolerance for error** - minimum damage if the environment and products have been used incorrectly
- **Low physical effort** - using helps maintain a neutral body position and use a minimum of physical effort



# Principles of Universal Design (3)

- **Appropriate size and space** - enough space to use assistive mobility tools, baby strollers, suitable heights (eg door handles height, etc.).



# What does the Disability Affairs Department?

- National program for social integration of disabled of 2010-2012

Task: To spread the idea of universal design, organize seminars, training universal design for professionals working in environmental planning and design, integration of disabled persons'

In 2011. November - December 4 seminars in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda and Molėtai,

86 participants

Organized training seminars for local professionals: local architects, construction and environmental designers, architects organizations, for strategic planners from municipal administrations, public transport management representatives, associations protecting the rights of disabled, elderly, youth, students, families.

# Seminar Topics

A brief demographic and environmental applications in Lithuania Review (Lithuanian Blind and Visually Impaired union representative Indre Bitinaite)

Universal design in international law: the concept and application (Jolanta Šliužienė)

Environmental sustainability and universal design (Vilnius Academy, Architecture Department, Prof.. Marius Šaliamoras)

Planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (Jolanta Šliužienė)

Other topics

# Seminar participants at the reviews?

Seminar participants evaluations - „very good” and „good”.

Seminar participants' reactions: „The idea of universal design is excellent”

Requires: Regulation

# Universal design idea spreading

Prepared and placed 4 articles about universal design:  
Builders Association newspaper „Statybų žinios”  
Construction New”  
Web sites: Geroszinios.lt („good news”, Veidas.lt (a  
face, Farmer)

About universal design said:  
National TV program „Good Morning “08-11-2011.  
National Radio programmes „Classics programme”,  
„Closer to me” 20-11-2011

- In 2012 the funding for preparation and improvement of Recommendations to STR, accessibility of buildings in accordance with the principles of universal design have been cut.

# Proposals for National program for social integration of disabled

- to **spread the idea** of universal design, organize training for professionals and prepare recommendations for construction technical regulations
- evaluate the application of the principles of universal design environment, construction, transport, manufacturing and procurement of regulation and, if necessary, to **develop appropriate regulations** on the application of the principles of universal design and to **provide designers certification**
- to initiate the **establishment of Universal design methodological centre** (may be multiple founders, it is possible to provide for his life, for example. 5 years, the centre fulfils UD methodologies, training, advising planners, exercise training, certified, control principle of UD)
- to promote the development of **financing regulations and to provide funding of projects** to promote universal design

# Thank you for your attention

