ACT4DYS
Cyprus

ACT4DYS

Empowering youth workers, young people, and young persons with disabilities to become active advocates, using creativity and leadership to make their cities more inclusive & sustainable!

We are developing an e-portfolio featuring 40+ good practices from across Europe, offering adaptable, practical ideas. As part of this process we conducted national research and focus groups to inform the development.

Desk Research Snapshot

Cyprus is engaging with inclusive and sustainable urban development through legal frameworks and pilot projects, though weak enforcement and a dominant car culture continue to limit accessibility and green progress.

Key Insights

- Accessibility laws and policies exist, but enforcement is inconsistent and often reactive.

- Focus groups called for the early involvement of persons with disabilities in urban design processes.

- Sustainability efforts lack vision and integrated planning, often seen as superficial. Some projects exist, but cities like Limassol still lack sufficient green space.

- A strong educational, cultural, and behavioural shift is needed to drive long-term change.

Focus Groups

Two (2) online and one (1) in-person focus groups.

Who took part?
24 participants in early 2025, including youth workers, young people, and persons with disabilities. Two disability-focused NGOs were involved: YPARXO and OPAK, and one youth-led organisation: OPU

Key Findings
Enforcement gaps, poor infrastructure, and cultural attitudes limit accessibility. Participants expressed frustration with "on paper" compliance that doesn't match real-world conditions. Participants also reported impassable pavements, poor public transport access, and inaccessible old buildings.

Insights
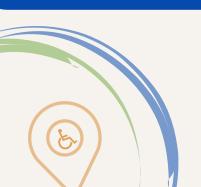Greater awareness and advocacy efforts have started, but change is slow

Recommendations
Establish a national body to enforce accessibility standards and use EU funds to improve neighbourhood infrastructure and access.

Good Practices
Limassol Marina's full accessibility, redeveloped avenues in Nicosia, inclusive beach ramps, and international models from Tokyo, Freiburg, Switzerland, and Thailand.

Over 90% of trips in Cyprus are by private car.

Visit the website to learn more!