

Urban Mobility Club – Inclusive Urban Planning for the Blind

Background

The Urban Mobility Club was founded by the Romanian NGO AMAIS (Asociația Metodelor Alternative de Integrare Socială) in Bucharest to co-design inclusive urban solutions with and for people with visual impairments. The club provides a safe, constructive environment for blind and sighted individuals, urban planners, designers, architects, and end users, to collaborate on projects improving urban accessibility.

Emerging from a clear need for participatory planning and representation of visually impaired individuals, the initiative focused on creative approaches like sensory mapping, urban walk audits, and collaborative prototypes.



Key Activities

- Regular interactive workshops to help persons with disabilities develop independent living skills and think critically about accessible urban design.
- Sensory-based urban walks to identify barriers.
- Co-creation of mobility and urban development solutions, with architects, urban planners, public administrators, and persons with visual disabilities.
- Public events promoting inclusive design thinking.

Impact

- Improved navigation for roughly 6,000 people with visual disabilities who live in Bucharest.
- Raised visibility of accessibility issues in Romanian cities.
- Generated collaborations between NGOs and municipal planners.
- Produced the first tactile maps of Bucharest.
- Promotes digital applications for accessible mobility.



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Challenges & Solutions

- Lack of awareness among various stakeholders can be addressed through immersive, experiential learning methods.
- Co-creation with persons with disabilities.

Tips for Similar Projects

- Build empathy through shared urban experiences (e.g., blindfolded walks).
- Include end-users in every step of design.
- Keep events informal to encourage creative dialogue.

Identified Limitations/Weaknesses

Impact may be limited to awareness unless tied to city-level policies.

Video

- Watch this [video - 'Clubul de Mobilitate Urbană Senseability'](#)

Video Description

Promotional video describing the key activities and successes of the Urban Mobility Club. Video available in Romanian, Romanian Sign Language and English subtitles.



Resources

- [AMAIS - Article](#)
- [Club CMU Facebook Page](#)
- [Article by Zero Project about the Urban Mobility Club](#)



Partners

