The European Conference of Ministers of Transport and the European Disability Forum are pleased to announce that the 2003 ACCESS AND INCLUSION AWARD FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE has been awarded ex aequo to the:

Syndicat Mixte des Transports en Commun de l’aggomération grenobloise (SMTC), Grenoble (France) and VAG Verkehrs-Aktiengesellschaft Nürnberg (Germany).

Helsingin kaupungin liikennelaitos (HKL), Helsinki (Finland) was runner-up to the winners.

The competition was launched in the context of the 2003 European Year of People with Disabilities, the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Disabled People and the UN Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Disabled People as well as the 50th anniversary of the ECMT. The prize was designed to promote recognition of examples of good practice in improving accessibility to transport, to reward approaches in the field which are inclusive of all people with disabilities, as well as to recognise the importance of consulting with representative disability organisations.

Criteria for the award

Candidates were expected to follow the guiding principles of both the European Year of Persons with Disabilities 2003\(^1\) and the ECMT views on accessibility to transport, in particular:

- Respecting the diversity of disabled people;
- Delivering equal opportunities for disabled people;
- Promoting accessible transport provision within an accessible environment;
- Promoting independent living.

Candidate dossiers had to demonstrate:

- a concrete record of achievement in the field of accessibility in transport and the pedestrian environment.
- a real working partnership with all key stakeholders and, in particular provide clear evidence of involving and consulting with disabled users and disability organisations in the development of their transport systems and other access improvements. A letter of support and endorsement from a representative organisation of disabled people was required.

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\(^1\) European Year 2003 website - [http://www.edf-feph.org/en/events/year/year.htm](http://www.edf-feph.org/en/events/year/year.htm)
Grenoble and Nürnberg: Winners of the ECMT-EDF Prize

Both winning organisations, selected out of 56 qualifying candidate dossiers, demonstrated long-term commitment to improving the accessibility of their transport systems, having introduced accessibility initiatives for the first time approximately 30 years ago. Grenoble was particularly noteworthy in its successful co-ordination and coherence achieved among stakeholders in the 23 municipalities of the Grenoble region. Also remarkable was its forward-thinking, proactive approach, having, in fact, initiated actions on a local level that pushed forward the national regulatory context.

Nürnberg demonstrated an exemplary long-standing commitment to fully integrating accessibility considerations into the planning and operations of its transport system. With an Accessibility Commissioner overseeing the accessibility aspects of the transport system, Nürnberg’s outstanding achievements in making the system more accessible to disabled users – most notably blind and visually impaired travelers on the system – brought it to the top of the list of candidates.

Nürnberg and Grenoble both showed commitment to ensuring the seamless, door-to-door nature of travel for disabled persons, and their commitment to regular consultation and co-ordination with disabled persons and disability organizations was clear.

Whilst the runner-up Helsinki started later than the two winning cities to increase accessibility in its transport system, it has had considerable success in bringing widespread improvements to its system as a whole. Of particular note is the important service rendered to disabled travellers by the neighbourhood bus service, which operates in the suburbs of Helsinki.

Candidates ranked 4 through 10 were highly commended for the quality of their overall accessibility initiatives in their transport system. And 10 additional candidates were given special mention for specific aspects of their systems that were particularly commendable.

The ECMT and EDF plan to disseminate this outstanding practice along with the experience of the other dossiers in an updated ECMT Guide to Good Practice, preparation of which will begin in the coming months; the December 2003 seminar on accessibility to be organised with the French Ministère de l’Equipement and the European Commission; as well as on ECMT’s and EDF’s respective web sites.
ECMT-EDF ACCESS AND INCLUSION AWARD
FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
RESULTS OF THE JURY

CATEGORY 1: TOP THREE CANDIDATES

First place winners ex aequo
Syndicat Mixte des Transports en Commun de l’agglomération grenobloise (SMTC), Grenoble (France)
VAG Verkehr-Aktiengesellschaft Nürnberg (Germany)

Runner-up
Helsingin kaupungin liikennelaitos (HKL), Helsinki (Finland)

CATEGORY 2: PROJECTS HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR OVERALL QUALITY

4. Entitat Metropolitana del Transport (EMT), Barcelona (Spain)
5. Münchner Verkehrsgesellschaft mbH, München (Germany)
6. Üstra Hannoversche Verkehrsbetriebe AG, Hannover (Germany)
7. APAMEX, Badajoz (Spain)
8. Dresdner Verkehrsbetriebe AG (Germany)
9. Telford & Wrekin Council (U.K.)
10. Grazer Stadtwerke AG, Verkehrsbetriebe (Austria)

CATEGORY 3: RECIPIENTS OF SPECIAL MENTION FOR SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THEIR PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANDIDATE ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>ASPECT MERITING SPECIAL MENTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dopravni podnik hl.m Prahy, Prague (Czech Republic)</td>
<td>Innovative system to help blind and partially sighted people to use public transport services; long-standing effort in a CEE country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamburger Verkehrsverbund GmbH, Hamburg (Germany)</td>
<td>Campaign week Mobility for Everyone, notable particularly as concerns focus on journeys made by disabled people and HVV employees; journey planning system with information on transport and site accessibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ferrocarrils de la generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona (Spain)</td>
<td>Ticketing machine designed to meet the needs of all disabled people, including blind and vision-impaired travellers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Leeds (U.K.)</td>
<td>Leeds Buddying Scheme; training and support for disabled people to use public transport, including those with learning difficulties</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Belgrade, Traffic Department (Yugoslavia)</td>
<td>Improvements to street environment; beginning of initiatives to adapt public spaces for better accessibility based on available resources.</td>
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<td>City of Jyväskylä (Finland)</td>
<td>Street heating and winter maintenance of pedestrian and cycle routes; tracking of individual pedestrian accidents.</td>
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<td>Syndicat Intercommunal des Transports Urbains de l’Agglomération Mâconnaise, Macon (France)</td>
<td>Comprehensive approach to planning accessible transport in a small city with rural interface.</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Kaiserslautern (Germany)</td>
<td>Systematic, holistic approach to accessibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Edinburgh, Larbert (U.K.)</td>
<td>Thistle Travel Card Scheme, highlighting learning disabilities.</td>
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