

Information system for visually impaired.

SUBJECT:

To facilitate access to public transport services for people who have difficulty seeing.

CONTACT:

The action has been co-ordinated by Marcello Dondeynaz (dondeynaz.marcello@libero.it), project manager of Mobilalp for the city of Aosta.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The action has been carried out by SVAP, the co-operative society in charge of regular public transport services for the city of Aosta and belt. Contact sed@svap.it

LOCATION:

The system is applied to a catchment area of public transport users numbering approx. 50,000 inhabitants.

CONTENT:

The intention was to install, on board 40 buses on the regular public transport lines, a pre-recorded spoken message, in addition to the already-existing visual message system, and to activate the following information services:

- a) Announcement on board the bus of the next stop. Thanks to the satellite tracking system, after each stop, a spoken announcement of the next stop is made on board the bus, in Italian and in French: "**prossima fermata piazza Chanoux**" / "**prochain arrêt place Chanoux**", indicating the name of each individual stop;
- b) External announcement of the bus line and the direction. Thanks to the satellite tracking system, as the bus approaches each stop, a spoken message is given, informing waiting passengers about the line number and direction of the bus. The message is as follows: either "**Linea tre direzione Montan**" ("Line three, *Montan* direction") or "**Navetta verde, direzione Chambéry**" ("Green shuttle, *Chambéry* direction"), indicating the correct number or name of the line and direction of each bus;
- c) Timetables of individual lines. In addition to the pocket-sized leaflets, with routes and timetables of all lines, the intention is to provide an appropriate quantity of timetables for each individual line, printed in characters that can be read by the visually impaired, and available to passengers on board the buses, at covered bus-stops and at least two of the information points in the city.

CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ACTION:

Completed during the second half of 2005.

FOLLOW-UP:

The implementation of the action is definitive, unless of course ways can be found to update and improve it.

FEED BACK ON THE DIFFICULTIES ANCOUNTRED:

The greatest difficulties have been of a technical nature, regarding the integration of the various systems and information equipment already existing, to be implemented on the buses: ticketing systems and monitoring of the service, satellite tracking system, visual display of next-stop announcements, sound equipment.

BUDGET:

The purchase and installation of the sound equipment alone cost the company approx. 35,000 euro. The Mobilap project contributed to the action by allocating a total sum of 12,000 euro (VAT inclusive).