

Accessibility instruments in practice

A review of literature and case studies

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Introduction

- Are available accessibility measures and tools helpful for planners and decision-makers in making good plans and decisions?
- Do planning and communication processes benefit from these tools?
- Can planners / decision-makers understand and interpret different kinds of accessibility indicators with regard to these planning contexts?
- Are the available software tools helpful in the sense that they enable planners to make use of accessibility analysis techniques in their everyday work?

Assumption:

Instruments from the COST Action (which are further discussed in section 3) are not specifically analyzed in this chapter.



Outline

1. Introduction
2. Literature
3. Planning guidelines
4. Single cases
5. UK accessibility planning
6. Conclusions



Literature review

GEURS/VAN ECK:

- Interpretability
- data need
- usability

What is usability?

→ a measure's ability and validity in capturing and adequately representing certain aspects of the real world

“Trade-off between the ‘common-sense’ interpretability and methodological soundness of the measure.”



Literature review

ROSS:

An accessibility measure should

- “*communicate a trend of events, and simplify our understanding of these.*”
- “*it should be simple to use and understand; it should identify the means of improving accessibility; and it must be based on credible data with a convincing and rational method of calculation*”



Literature review

Summary:

The following criteria can be used to determine the usefulness of an accessibility indicator: it should be

- methodologically adequate,
- understandable / interpretable,
- solution-oriented and
- supportive of interdisciplinary communication.

→ These aspects can be in conflict with each other!



Planning methods/guidelines

- UK Accessibility Planning
 - Accessibility of basic services for people in risk of social exclusion
- Germany: RIN, Nahverkehrsplanung
 - Travel times to central places/cities, access times to public transport stops
- Stockholm Park Program
 - Walking accessibility from residential areas to parks
- TVISS
 - Cycling accessibility to services, schools etc.
- ATP model
- **Who knows more?**

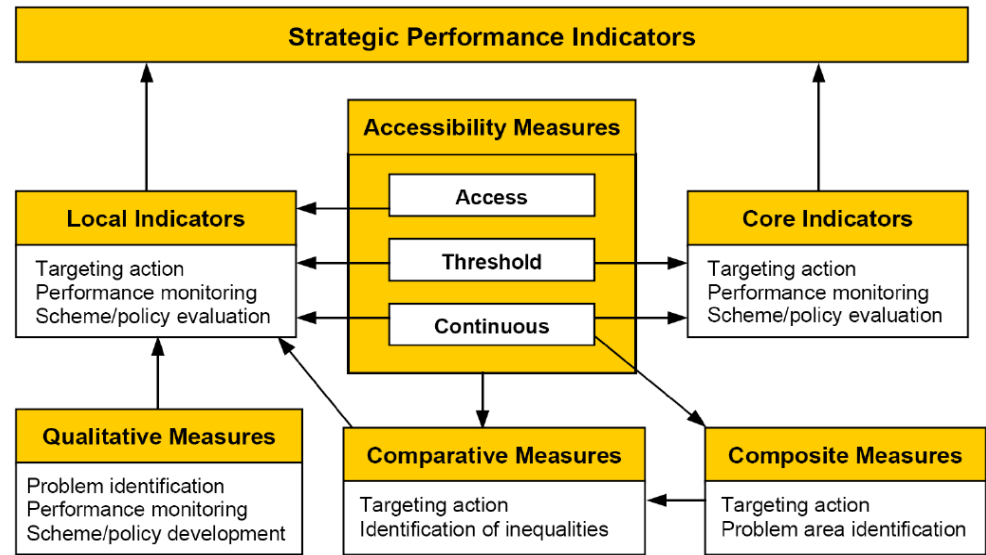
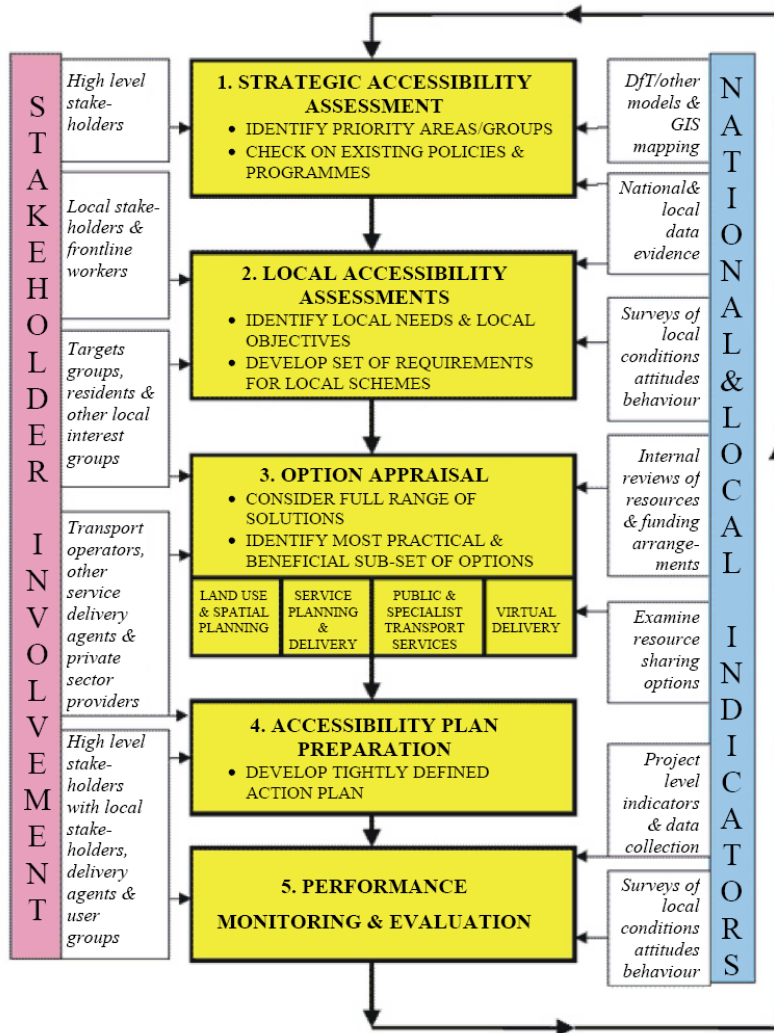


Single cases

- Naples 100 station program
 - Railway station accessibility, rail-oriented urban development
- Bahn.Ville 2 (St. Etienne, France – Frankfurt, Germany)
 - Railway station accessibility, regional accessibility by rail, Rail-oriented urban development
- Denser Stockholm
 - Redensification, park accessibility
- Space Syntax: Jeddah, Beijing, Rotterdam
 - Strategic urban development, sustainability
- Regional/National accessibility in Spain
 - Economic spillover effects of infrastructure projects (rail & road)
- **Who knows more?**



UK accessibility planning



UK accessibility planning

- Accessibility analyses are “*generally too transport-focused and [...] lacking a depth of understanding*”. [BISHOP 2007]
- Accessibility Planning is useful, but many think that the contents behind the approach were not particularly new [ENVALL 2007].
- “*there is a significant problem in specifying useful accessibility indicators*” [ENVALL 2007, S. 216]
- “*National measures are adopted by local authorities [...] without questioning whether the assumptions are relevant*”;
- “*Planning decisions have been made [...] without sufficient thought about what indicator might be relevant or useful*”;
- “*indicators have been used tactically, to make the case for a development look artificially strong or weak*”. [HALDEN 2011, p. 9]

→ Simple indicators do NOT guarantee good planning!



Thank you very much for your attention

