

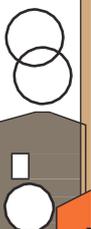
THE ROCCARASO CHARTER

The participants in the Small Towns for All conference, organised in the “G. Spataro” Council Chamber in Roccaraso on 1 November 2014 by Inclusivo, a spin-off of Gabriele d’Annunzio university of Chieti-Pescara, with the patronage of the Council of Europe, of the Region of Abruzzo, of the Province of L’Aquila, of ANCI, of Federculture, of EIDD - Design for All Europe and of Design for All Italia:

- Adopting the broad definition of tourism coined by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation as “the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited”;
- Reiterating the right proclaimed in Article 27.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, which reads: “Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits”;
- Considering the European Council Resolution on the Accessibility of Cultural Infrastructures and Cultural Activities, adopted on 6 May 2003;
- Quoting the Faro Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe on 27 October 2005;
- Stressing the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in 2006, with special reference to Articles 30, “Accessibility”, and 30 “Participation in cultural life, recreation and sport”;
- Expressing their agreement with the Manifesto of Culture Accessible to All, promoted by the Round Table for Accessible Culture, held in Turin in December 2010;
- Drawing inspiration from the Europe 2020 strategy, which promotes an integrated approach to ensuring that local development is smart, inclusive and sustainable;
- Adhering to the Matera Manifesto, adopted on 28 September 2014 at the Zero Barriere conference organised in support of the city’s successful candidacy to be European Capital of Culture 2019;

DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

- The current lasting economic crisis is a sign of epochal change and as such constitutes only one aspect of a more general crisis of our metropolitan and post-industrial society, in search of innovative solutions;
- The world’s populations are affected by demographic and ethnographic change that also brings new profiles of abilities, calling for a holistic approach of inclusion of human diversity to keep up with, and one step ahead of, the developments in these phenomena;



- Culture, traditions, travel and tourism constitute one of the main sources of Gross Domestic Product and a major source of employment, income and thus economic prosperity and socioeconomic sustainability in many countries;
- Everyone has an inalienable right to freedom of movement and this human right is unquestionably enriched by the opportunity to experience other ways of life, with their respective social, cultural and economic conditions and traditions;
- Small towns, in Italy and elsewhere, constitute an incomparable reserve of sustainable lifestyles, traditions, values and experiences, providing the potential raw material for tackling today's socio-economic challenges: facilitating and encouraging the decision to visit, remain in or return to these places is a high-priority requirement;
- There are already several instruments at European level that favour various ways of enhancing aspects of urban settlements (Access City Award, ECoC...), but these are mostly reserved for larger agglomerations;
- There is a pressing need to favour, recognise and reward the excellence of planning and strategic design in small towns;
- The social inclusion of human diversity, a basic tenet for enhancing human settlements, can be achieved by means of holistic accessibility, both physical and mental, which has the capacity to generate a sustainable return on investment and improve the quality of the places, products, information, services and systems, and so of life, for everyone;
- This accessibility is achieved by means of Design for All, the approach and methodology based on human diversity, social inclusion and equality for the dignity of every human being, according to the principles enshrined in the EIDD Stockholm Declaration dated 9 May 2004;

AND THEREFORE PROPOSE:

- 1) To recognise the strategic role played by the Design for All approach and methodology in enhancing small towns and territories with a vocation for tourism, in terms both of designing places, products, information, services and systems, and of training economic, social and cultural actors and personnel and staff in the broad sense;
- 2) To plan an annual event of national (and subsequently international) stature, taking place in Roccaraso, to compare and showcase progress made in these issues;
- 3) To institute an annual award, the "STfA Award" (Small Towns for All Award), to present to those towns that have adopted a commitment plan consequent on the Roccaraso Charter and have taken steps to put them into practice;
- 4) To seek the active collaboration of authorities, organisations and associations at international, national and district level to achieve this programme.

