

Mobility experiences of blind and visually impaired road users in Northern Italy

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BACKGROUND

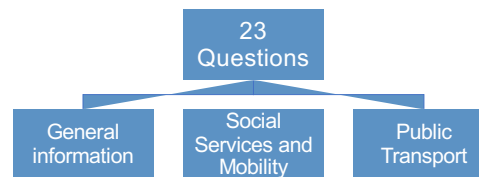
- The presence of blind and visually impaired people (ISTAT, 2013)
 - Italy 129,220 (0.22% of the global population)
 - Lombardy 14,972 (0.15% of the population of the Region)
 - Province Monza and Brianza 1,300
- Architectural barriers, inadequate means of transport, structural obstacles in the use of vehicles themselves, can compromise the right to mobility, making the ability to move freely a difficult objective to achieve.
- Measures that can improve mobility and thus quality of life do not always require costly infrastructure interventions.

AIMS

- At the request of the Rotary Club Monza Villa Reale, UCSC Traffic Psychology Unit of Research UCSC carried out a survey to explore the various modes of mobility of blind and visually impaired people in the province of Monza and Brianza.
- A better understanding this reality and focusing on critical elements in order to improve the services of the territory.

METHODS

- A questionnaire was distributed between February and March 2019 to 331 associates of the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired (UICI) – Provincial Section of Monza and Brianza (UIC Monza)



RESULTS

General information

- Age
 - 15% under 30
 - 62% 31- 65
 - 26% over 65
- 86% have lost their eyesight over the years and of these, 96% recall using the road and 36% had a drivers license with different mobility experiences than the current one.

Social Services and Mobility

- 90% walk in their city
- 99% do not own a guide dog

Public Transport

- 80% of subjects use train, metro and bus
- Subjects consider Province's network very well served and close to Milan's metropolitan area.

DISCUSSION

Suggestions/improvements Social Services and Mobility

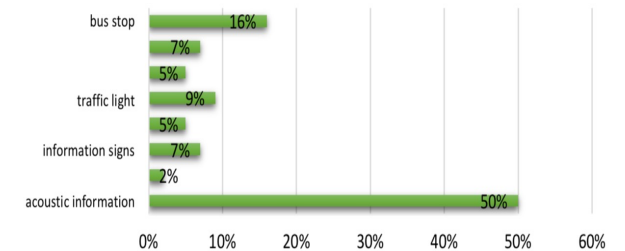


Walking is easier and safer, but more than a third of the sample moves only if accompanied.



The introduction of traffic lights with audible signals to indicate when to cross the road with the green light (for 25%)

Suggestions/improvements Public Transport



CONCLUSIONS

- Need to adequately support the spatial perception of the environment in which one moves.
- Lack of important reference points for the subject (landmarks) and general maps (relief).