

Wednesday, November 22
Medium
11:30 – 12:30

Student or Expert: Who Knows Best? Disability Services at HEIs

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Overview



1. Teiresias Centre
2. Important terms
3. Medical and social approach to service provision
4. HEI mobility challenges related to service provision
5. Feedback, wrap-up

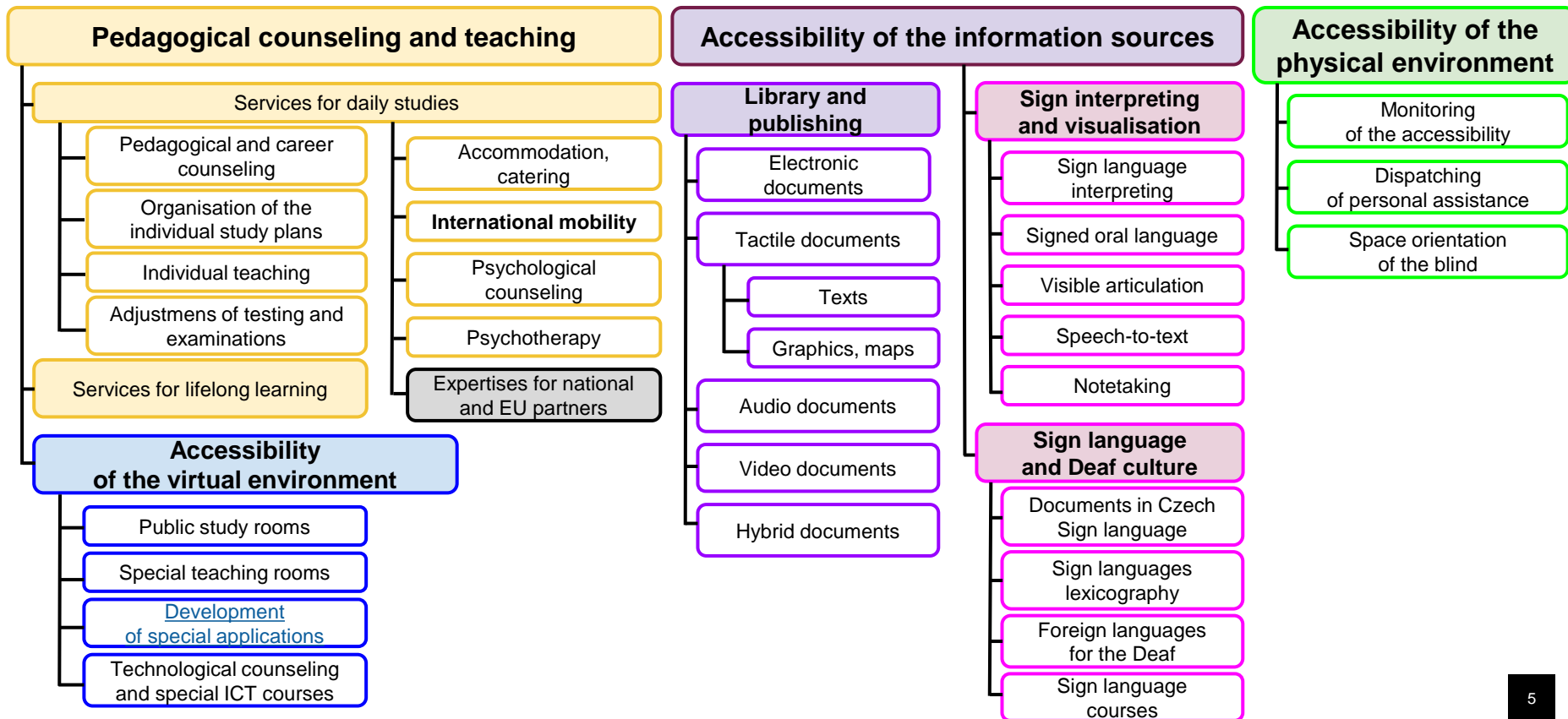
Teiresias centre at Masaryk university

- founded in 2000
- about 40 in-house staff members
- 770 students in evidence
- over 2500 students who received the Centre's support since 2000
- educational centre with a variety of instruction
- counselling and methodological support
- a range of services

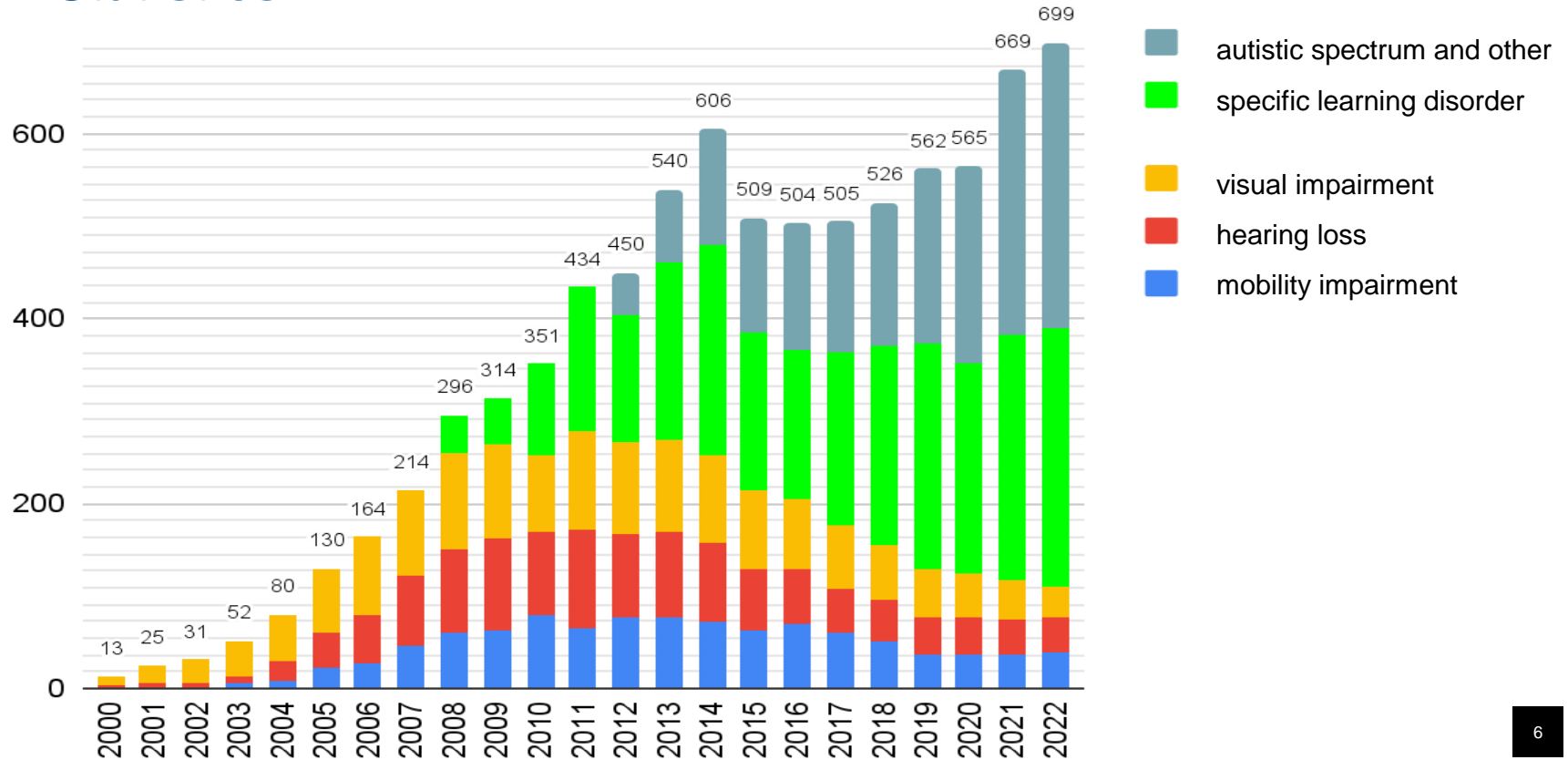


MUNI
TEIRESIÁS

Teiresias centre's activities



Statistics



Activity 1



**Do terms matter?
Come up with a definition of:**

- 👉 impairment
- 👉 disability
- 👉 special needs

Talk to the person next to you.



They certainly do...

- **Impairment:** any loss or abnormality of physiological, psychological, or anatomical structure or function, whether permanent or temporary, e.g. loss of a limb, memory loss
- **Disability:** functional impact of impairments that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities and interact with the world around them, e.g. movement disability
- **Special /individual needs:** much broader concept which in addition to health issues, includes barriers caused by racial or ethnic specificities; religious or political attitudes, economic status or social origin, gender and specific sexual orientation, specific legal status, etc.

Medical approach



Service provision influenced by the medical approach:

- the legislation in most countries assigns responsibility for securing the needed services on the student rather than the school (“*they know best*”)
- university advisors:
 - give advice on how to arrange them (but not offer the services),
 - ensure the extra testing time
 - monitor if adequate working conditions for the service staff (if invited by the student) are provided
- institutions feel no responsibility for the type, range, and quality of the services booked by the student

Social approach



Service provision more compatible with the social approach:

- HEIs create *universal design for learning* and if needed, offer a *reasonable individual adjustment*
- services are provided **by the university itself**
- type & scope of services is controlled by the institution, not just the department or teacher, as some types of activities can only be provided with the help of other departments
- special training may also be arranged for students with disabilities to supplement/substitute regular teaching in some courses, if needed

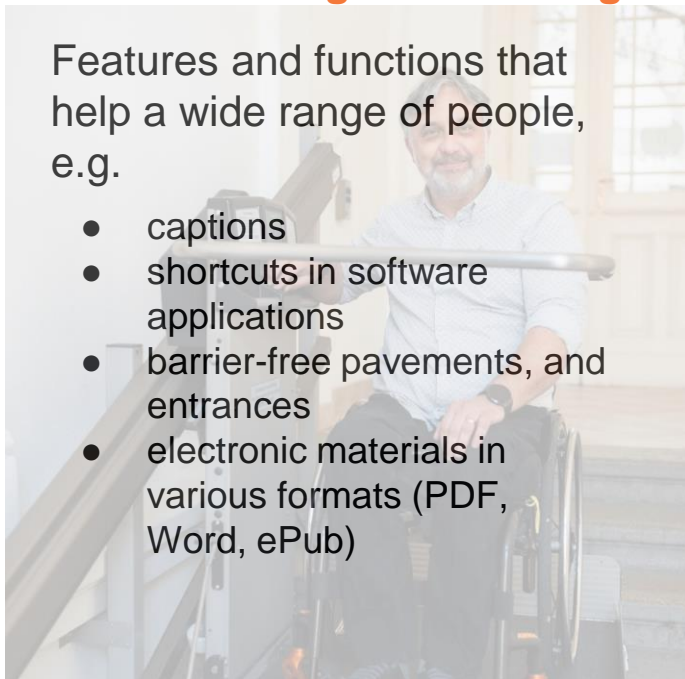


UDL vs individual adjustments

Universal design for learning

Features and functions that help a wide range of people, e.g.

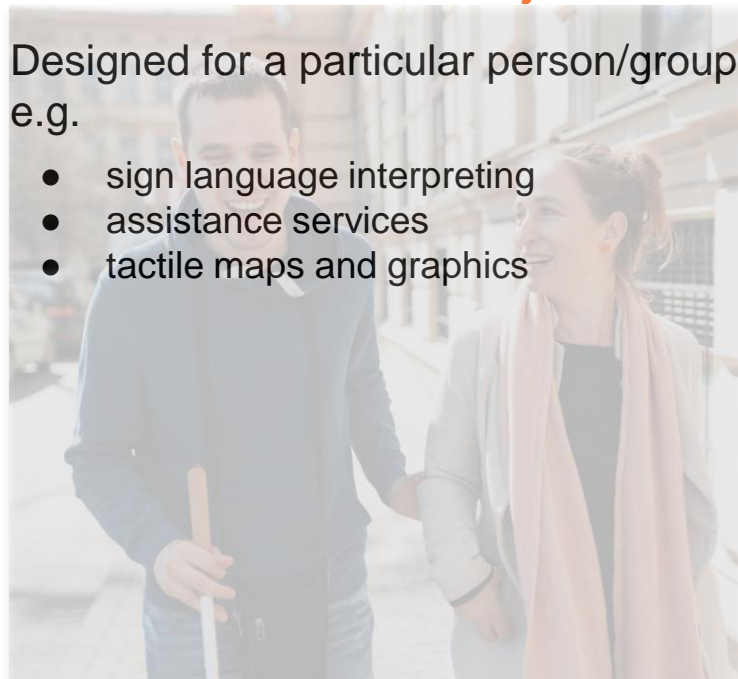
- captions
- shortcuts in software applications
- barrier-free pavements, and entrances
- electronic materials in various formats (PDF, Word, ePub)



Reasonable individual adjustments

Designed for a particular person/group, e.g.

- sign language interpreting
- assistance services
- tactile maps and graphics



Activity 2



— **What are the pros and cons of these approaches?**

Talk to the person next to you.



Pros and cons

Medical approach

- +
 - more common
 - each person carries the information with them
 - responsibility lies with the student, not the university
- - cost inefficient in the macro perspective
 - difficult to control the quality
 - responsibility lies with the student, not the university

Social approach

- +
 - transparency
 - standardisation
 - repeatability
 - cost efficiency
- - services differ depending on...
 - takes time & efforts to establish

Impact of these approaches on HEI mobility





Mobility challenges related to service provision

Student

- fear of the unknown
- overprotective family
- language barrier
- services students are **used to** vs. services available abroad
- financial requirements



Mobility challenges related to service provision

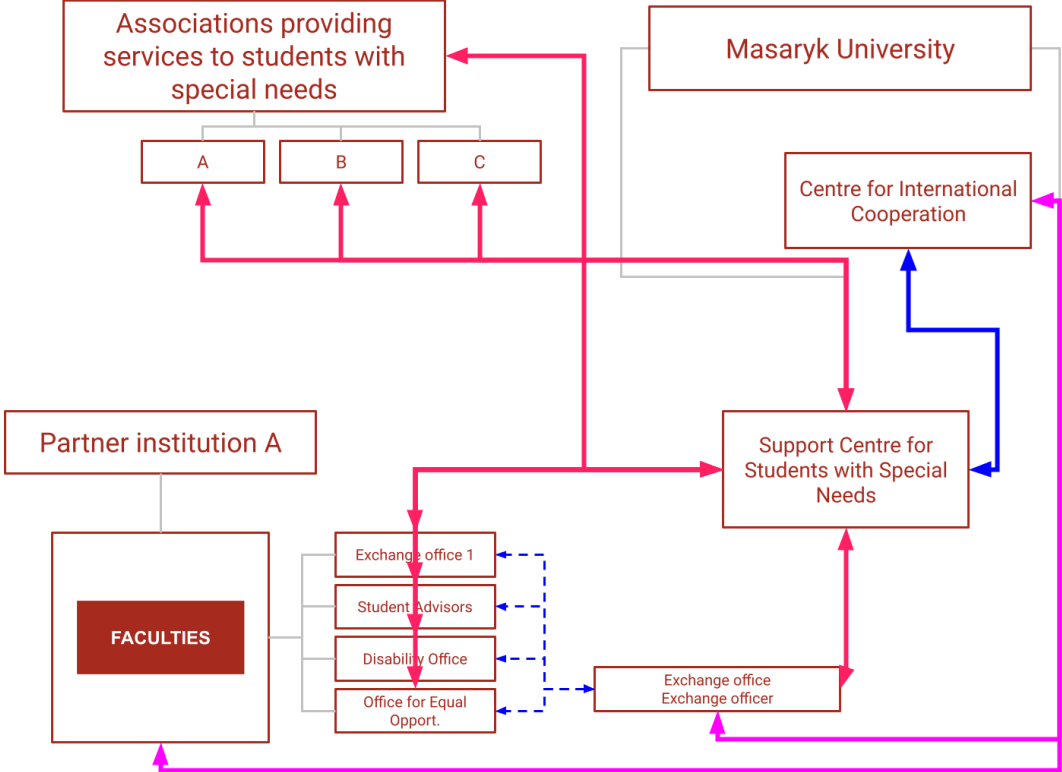


Institution

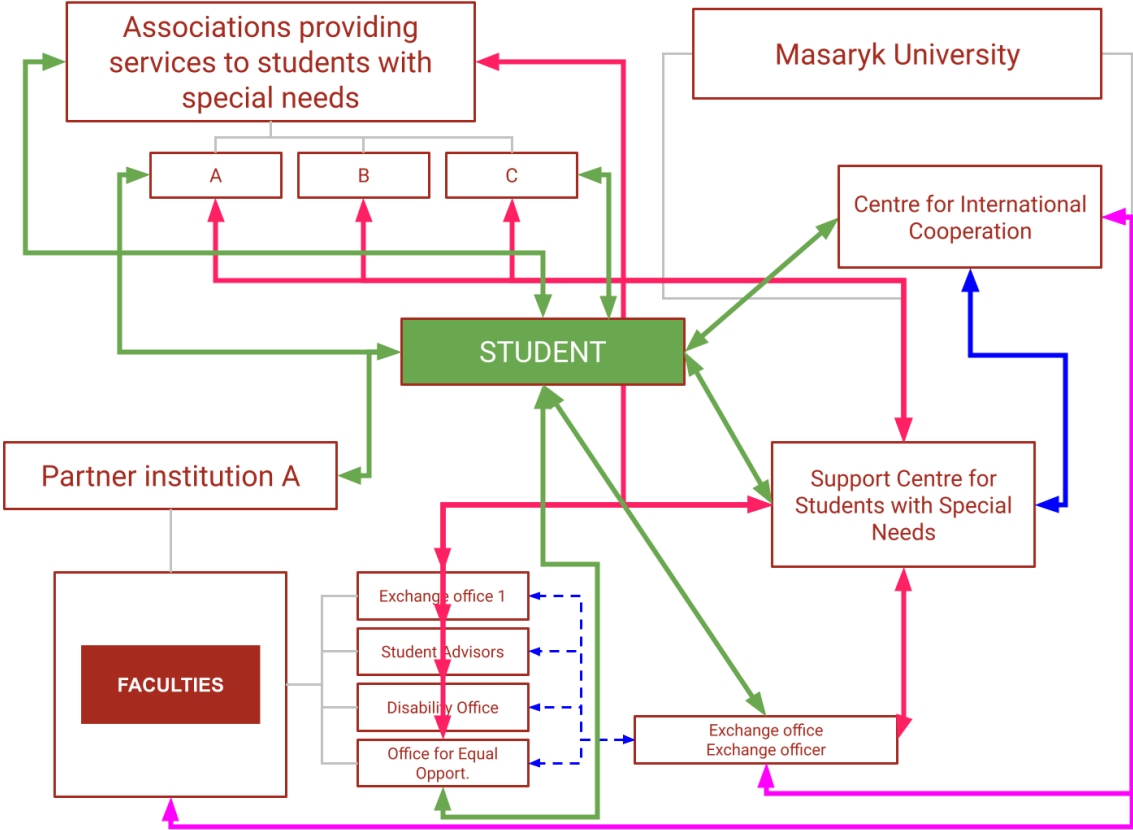


- lack of clear accessibility definition
- lack of unified system for services
 - Who's responsible for what?
- contact person issues
- time-consuming negotiations to administer the mobility
- finding the service provider
 - NGO
 - External providers (fees apply)

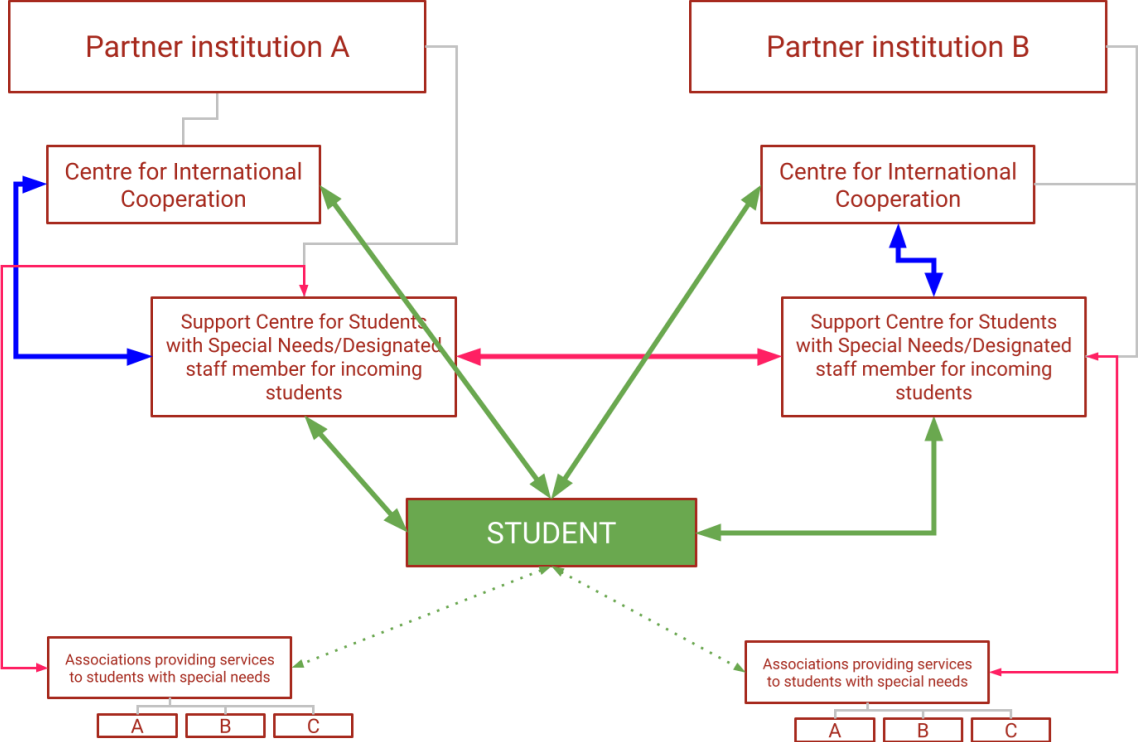
Visualization of the medical approach in HEI mobility



Visualization of the medical approach in HEI mobility



Visualization of the social approach in HEI mobility





perníčky)

Teiresias's Titbits (Teireziáškovy



a series of podcasts that focuses on **international mobility** and **studies** of persons with special needs at MU

Goals

- motivate students with special needs to take part in internationalization activities
- spread awareness of the needs of outgoing & incoming students and the services and accommodations that can lead to accessibility for their studies
- open up debate on the accessibility of educational activities



Activity 3



- **What is your experience when it comes to HEI mobility of persons with disabilities?**

Talk to the person next to you.

Question time...



