

Purple Light Up Day 2021

Siemens Real Estate pushes accessibility in new and existing buildings

- **More than five million euros for barrier-free upgrading of existing buildings in the past two financial years**
- **Accessibility in new construction projects beyond the legal requirements**
- **Inclusion guideline with global validity under development**
- **Participation in today's Purple Light Up Day with a total of 47 illuminated Siemens locations in 20 countries**

Siemens Real Estate (SRE) is driving accessibility worldwide. Both in new construction and in existing buildings, the company strives for accessibility, in some cases beyond the legal requirements. In the past two fiscal years, more than five million euros have already been spent on barrier-free upgrading of existing properties in Germany alone. As a matter of principle, SRE plans and develops new buildings barrier-free - about one to two percent of the construction costs are invested for this purpose.

To mark today's "Purple Light Up Day," which sets an example worldwide for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, Siemens is lighting up a total of 47 locations around the globe in purple.

"The built environment regularly presents persons with disabilities with sometimes insurmountable challenges - not least in the workplace," says

Dr. Zsolt Sluitner, CEO at Siemens Real Estate. "Against this background, accessibility is a basic prerequisite for the inclusion of all employees. We are therefore pushing it both for our existing properties and in our new construction projects."

Systematic upgrading of the stock

A particular challenge for the inclusion efforts in terms of construction is posed by existing properties, which form the largest part of SRE's portfolio and were built in early years, in some cases without taking accessibility into account. SRE has been continuously upgrading the existing buildings to make them barrier-free for several years. As a matter of principle, there is a close exchange with the local representatives of the severely disabled. In the past two fiscal years, a total of more than five million euros was invested in Germany alone. This is paying off: Currently, of 220 properties in Germany, around 80 percent already have parking spaces suitable for the disabled, 72 percent have barrier-free access and just under 60 percent have suitable toilets for persons with disabilities.

"Inclusion in the workplace starts with accessibility, and in this respect real estate management plays a crucial role," says Marina Zdravkovic, Chairwoman of the General Representative Council for Employees with Disabilities at Siemens AG. "The goal must be a completely barrier-free working environment. The local and structural requirements differ depending on the property, which is why there needs to be a continuous exchange between SRE and the local representatives for the severely disabled."

Barrier-free new buildings from planning to completion

Accessibility is generally considered in new construction projects by SRE and is an integral part of the planning and approval processes as well as part of the general contractor contract. SRE also involves the representatives of the severely disabled and complies with the legal requirements (DIN 18041). For example, new buildings are equipped as standard with pre-fittings for automatic door openings, suitable lifts, barrier-free toilet rooms and tactile elements for persons with visual impairments.

Accessibility beyond the legal level

"Taking accessibility and the inclusive guiding principle into account right from the planning stage is certainly the most effective solution and, for us, an integral part of every building project," says Sluitner. "The measures we implement in terms of accessibility ultimately make our buildings better for everyone: they make orientation easier, reduce the risk of accidents and make it more pleasant and easier for all of us to stay and work."

A current example of this consistent approach is the office ensemble "The Move" in Frankfurt's Gateway Gardens district, which SRE is currently building. From the very beginning, it was planned with accessibility in mind and developed in constant exchange with the local representatives of the severely disabled. The process also included employees with disabilities from Siemens' Frankfurt branch, who will one day have their workplace in The Move. This made it possible to identify neuralgic points and prevent potential obstacles as early as the planning stage. The list of measures, which were jointly defined and are part of the GÜ contract, includes handicapped parking spaces, wheelchair-accessible traffic and movement areas, tactile path systems and handicapped-accessible showers. "With this comprehensive package of measures, we are going far beyond what is required by law and what is common in the market," says Zsolt Sluitner. "The Move is thus clearly setting an example in inclusive construction."

Other current new construction projects of SRE, such as the Siemens Campus Erlangen or the emerging Siemensstadt Square in Berlin, are also planned under the guiding principle of accessibility and exceed the legal framework. The same applies to recently completed projects such as the corporate headquarters in Munich, the new Siemens branch in Warsaw or the visitor center "The Impulse" of the Siemens plant in Amberg, which will soon be awarded the signet "Bavaria barrier-free" by the Bavarian State Ministry for Family, Labor and Social Affairs.

Global Inclusion Guideline

SRE developed its own inclusion guideline for barrier-free project development several years ago. So far, it has been applied to the Group's new buildings in Germany. The special feature: The guideline not only addresses persons with disabilities, but all relevant areas of inclusion, for example with regard to age or gender. Now SRE is going one step further. The Inclusion Guideline is currently being revised and internationalized. In the process, nationally applicable regulations will be taken into account. After publication, expected in the fall of 2022, it will apply to all new Siemens projects worldwide. Accessibility is also an important decision criterion for leases.

Purple Light Up Day: 47 locations in 20 countries take part

As a visible expression of its commitment to inclusion, Siemens is once again participating in the international "Purple Light Up Day" on December 3. The day sets an example worldwide for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. On this day, 47 company locations in 20 countries will be lit up in purple, the color of the initiative, including the corporate headquarters in Munich, the national headquarters in Moscow, Mumbai, Sao Paulo, Beijing, Mexico City, Vienna and Prague, as well as several plant locations. Around 30 locations were already illuminated last year.

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Siemens Real Estate (SRE) has business responsibility for Siemens' global real estate portfolio and is responsible for all real estate activities at the company's approximately 1,500 office and production locations in 180 countries. This makes SRE one of the leading corporate real estate companies worldwide. On behalf of Siemens, SRE manages the portfolio, optimizes the use of space, regulates the operation of the properties, is responsible for leasing and utilization, and carries out all of the company's development and construction projects. SRE offers external companies consulting services in the fields of new working environments, sustainability and portfolio strategy. With projects such as Siemensstadt Square in Berlin, Siemens Campus Erlangen, "The Move" in Frankfurt and the Siemens Technoparks, SRE is currently expanding its position as a major developer, portfolio holder and landlord. In doing so, SRE not only actively supports its customers in their business, but also creates value and assumes social responsibility. SRE is also setting standards in terms of the most efficient, sustainable and future-oriented use of entire locations, individual buildings or spaces, is actively shaping the working world of tomorrow and is regarded as a driver of digitalization in the real estate sector - all the way to shaping entire city districts of the future. You can find more information on the Internet at www.siemens.com/realestate.