



Hilfsgemeinschaft
der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs



The Hilfsgemeinschaft Austrian Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired



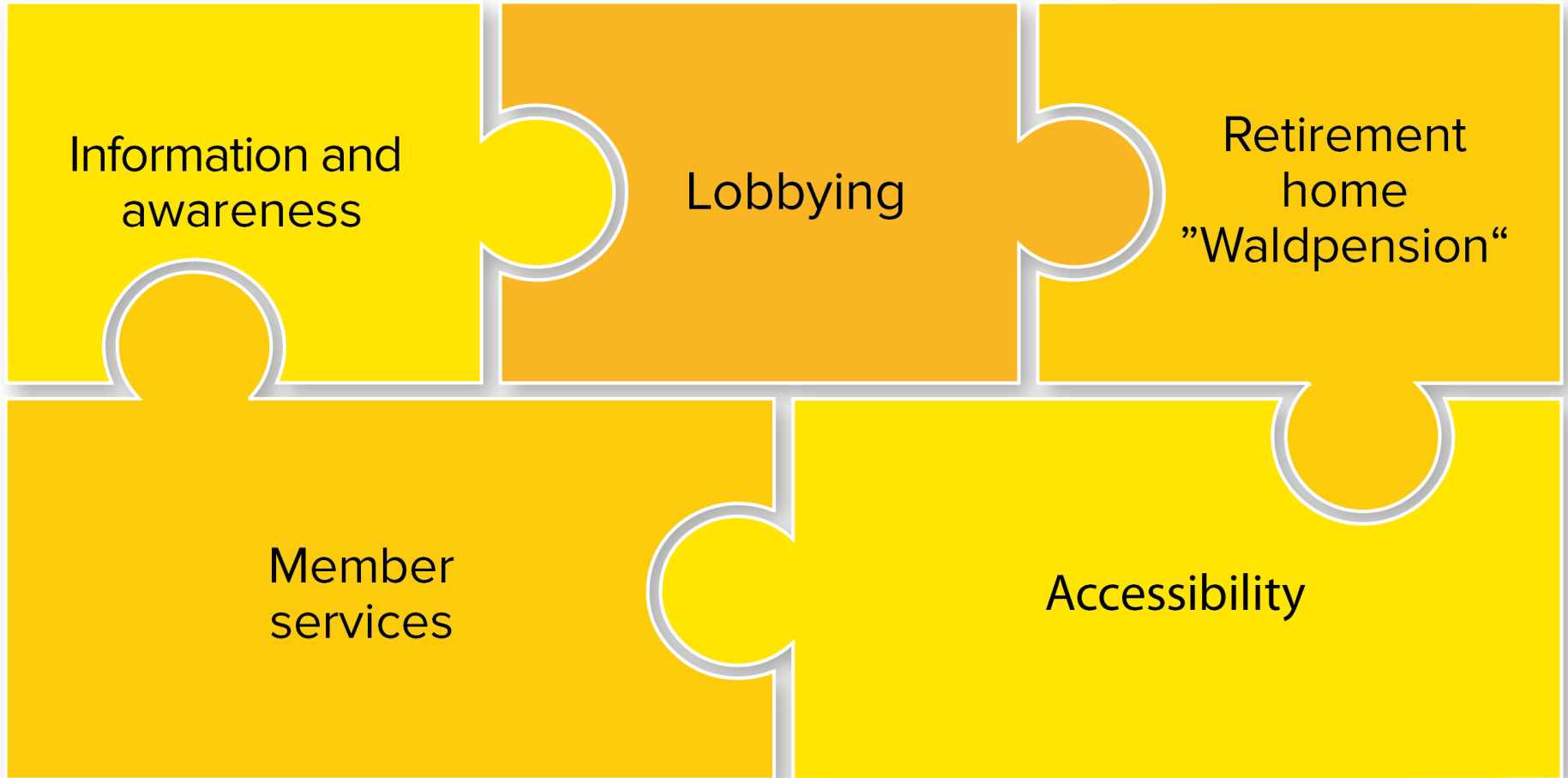
About Us

Our Goal: We are committed to securing equal rights and a life of self-determination for visually impaired and blind persons.

- Non-profit organization
- Founded in 1935
- 4,300 visually impaired and blind members
- Membership free-of-charge
- Financing: private donations
- Official Austrian seal of approval for donations: since 2001



Tasks of the Hilfspgemeinschaft



How

Working on different levels

- National:
 - Austrian Umbrella Austrian Disability Forum,
 - Austrian Standards Institute
 - National Projects with FFG, FSW and other local authorities
- European:
 - European Disability Forum, EASPD
 - Standardisation: CEN, CENELEC, ETSI
 - High Level Group on AI at the Commission
 - Erasmus+, Horizon, AAL-Europe
- International
 - IAAP, G3ICT, m-enabling
 - ITU, ISO
 - Zero Project, Essl Foundation
 - Access Israel together with Austrian Chamber of Commerce
 - UNO CRPD New York



How

Examples

- Certification
 - CPACC, WAS with IAAP-DACH
 - CWAE local in Austria
 - WACA – www.waca.at according to WCAG 2.1 AA
- Projects (Examples)
 - WADcher - Web Accessibility Directive Decision Support Environment – www.wadcher.eu
 - 3D-Print for VIP
 - Training for UNO-Staff in Vienna
- Conferences
 - ICCHP – www.icchp.org
 - AAATE – www.aaate.eu
 - CSUN - www.csun.edu/cod/conference/sessions/
- etc





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Visual Impairment and Blindness



Definition

A visually impaired person is someone who despite optimal correction, e.g. glasses or contact lenses, cannot achieve “normal” vision.

The visual acuity is reduced and/or the field of vision is limited.



Classifications

Visually impaired:

Visual acuity: 0.30 to 0.05

Severely visually impaired:

Visual acuity : from 0.05 to 0.02

Blind:

Visual acuity : under 0.02



Facts and Figures

- Visual impairment: About 3.9 % of the population is affected, that is about 318,000 persons in Austria
- Over the age of 60: About 10 %
- With increasing age, the proportion of persons with visual impairment rises significantly!



Causes

- Premature birth (multiple disabilities)
- (Inherited) eye diseases
- (Brain) tumor
- Accidents, injuries, illness



Differences

- Blind or visually impaired from birth
- Sudden blindness
- Slow transition to blindness as a middle-aged adult
- In old age: visual impairment/blindness



Normal Vision



**Experiencing and Understanding
Visual Impairment and Blindness**

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)



**Experiencing and Understanding
Visual Impairment and Blindness**

Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP)



Diabetic Retinopathy



**Experiencing and Understanding
Visual Impairment and Blindness**

Glaucoma



Cataract



Differences

- Learning braille
- Orientation at home and in public spaces
- Use of residual vision
- Networking opportunities
- Enhancement of other senses (touch and hearing)
- Dealing with the disability



Can I help?

Never hesitate to offer assistance.

Always ask if you can help!



Leading Correctly

Offer your arm
and we will take
it; not the other
way around!

You continue at a
normal tempo
next to us or at a
slight diagonal in
front of us.



HURGE



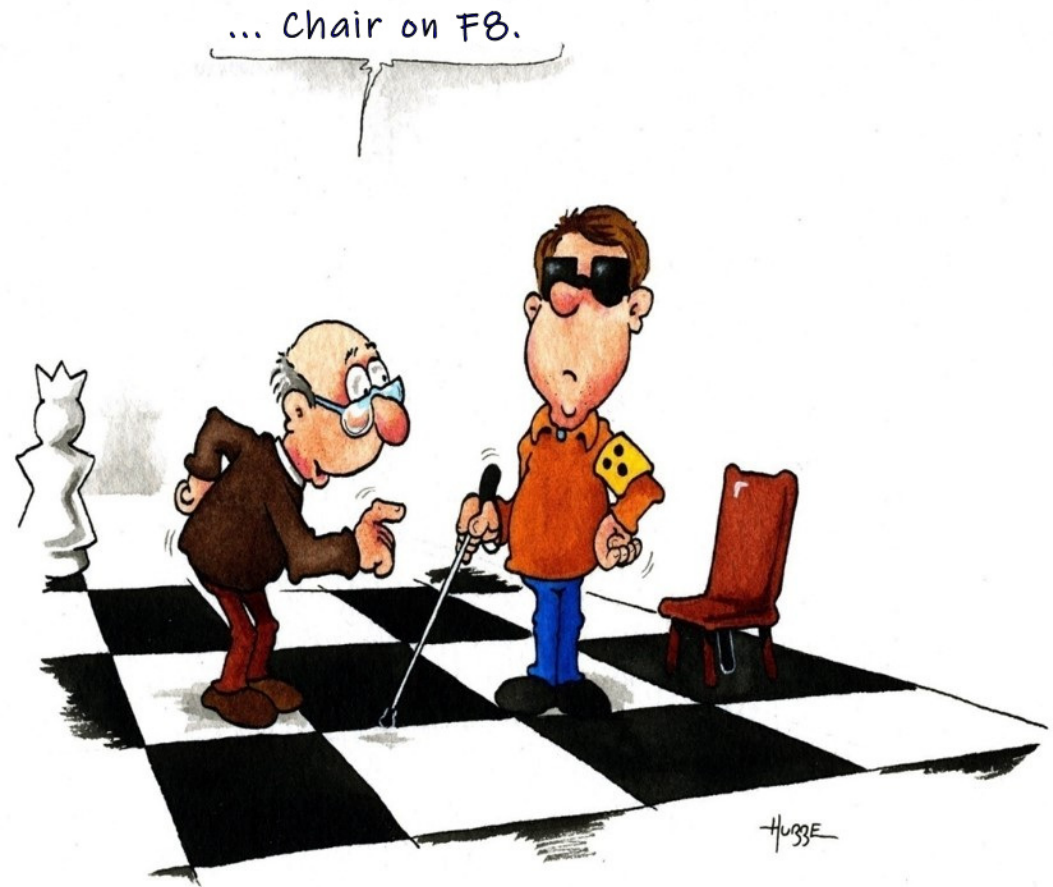
Escalators and Stairs

If an escalator and stairs are available, then ask which is preferred.



Indicating a Seat

It's enough if you place our hand on the back of the chair and inform us that this is our seat.



Talk to us!

You can speak to us at a normal volume and tone of voice...



What should you describe?

Describe what there is to admire all around us, so that we can get an idea of our surroundings.



Communication is Everything

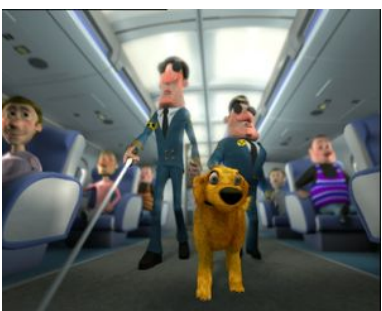
If you leave the table or the room, even if just for a short while, please say so. Also announce when you have returned.



Language Use

Don't be afraid to use normal everyday language. There are no linguistic taboos, such as "See you later!"





VEED.IO



The Blind Pilots



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Thank you for your attention!

www.hilfsgemeinschaft.at

