

## Virtual accessibility guide in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil

### Presentation abstract

The application of a "Virtual Accessibility Guide" is an easy instrument for the use of everyone. It is a tool with information about universal accessibility, which will aid people when choosing personal routes and help promote social inclusion.

The application is not only designed for persons with disabilities, but also for persons with reduced mobility (elderly, people with limited mobility, people with some permanent or temporary difficulty) as well as for the general population. The Guide can be extremely useful to everyone.

The lack of information is quite common for people with disability not to consider themselves as part of public spaces. This can sometimes causes them to reject spaces, resulting in a loss of contact with other inhabitants of the city. This Guide looks for reversing this situation in the City of Rio de Janeiro, and in general, other Brazilian cities.

The application with a platform compatible with Android, iOS, or general computers, involves mapping and diagnosing accessibility conditions to destinations tourist destinations, historic destinations buildings and cultural services. It can also be continuously updated with new information.

Underlying this work is the expertise of the "Pro-access" Research Bureau , which has developed - over the last twenty years - many methodologies for accessibility to urban places, and is a national and world reference in the field. We think this vast knowledge must be put to use by society. Everyone should have the right to access public places, tourist sites, recreational areas, museums, theaters, and cultural and historical buildings and sites, becoming Destinations for All.

**Lead speaker :** Regina COHEN

**Organisation :** Pro-access Group, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and ACCESS WITHOUT LIMITS

**City (Country) :** Rio de Janeiro(Brasil)

**Biography :** The Architect, researcher on accessibility, Regina Cohen coordinates the Pro-access group at UFRJ. Has been a Visiting Assistant Professor on the Disability Studies Center of Syracuse University Sept/Dec 2014 in (FULBRIGHT/CAPES). Cohen is master on Urbanism (2000) and Doctor on Psychosociology of Communities and Social Ecology (2006), both from UFRJ. Post-doctor in Architecture (scholarship from FAPERJ) with the theme "Accessibility of Persons with Disability in Museums". Nowadays, she is working with Assistive Technology in the "Virtual Accessibility Guide of the City of Rio de Janeiro" (CNPq - 2015-2018). Worked in the Project "Accessibility and Universal Design in the Brazilian World Cup 2014" (2013-2014), in the Accessibility Manual of the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games – RIO 2016 and also for Conference of Development and Sustainability RIO+20. Received the international award for the "Best architecture teaching methodology (2003-2004)"; many other awards and congratulations for the scientific projects realized. Has many papers, works and books published in the field of "accessibility for persons with disability. Has experience on Accessibility and Universal Design, with the following themes: accessibility, inclusion, museums, schools, urban spaces, teaching, university and Persons with Disability.



**2nd speaker :** Cristiane Rose de S. DUARTE

**Organisation :** ro-access Group, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

**City (Country) :** Rio de Janeiro (Brasil)

**Biography :** Full Professor at Architecture and Urbanism Faculty of UFRJ; Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urbanism from UFRJ (1981); Master's degree in Urbanism (1985); and PhD in Geography (Urban planning) Université Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne) (1993); Visiting professor at University of California- Berkeley (2014/ 2015); Wide range of experience in Architecture and Urbanism, with special focus on spatial exclusion and accessibility; Supervised around 30 graduate works; With Regina Cohen, she is the coordinator of the Núcleo Pró-acesso research group; Received international award from the European Association for Architectural Education for the best architecture-teaching methodology 2003-2004; Several award-winning publications; Several motions of congratulations by scientific works done; Member of the CNPq Advisory Committee to the area of Social Sciences (2009/2012).