
Short concept for the project "Accompanied bus driving for elderly people and people with disabilities"

The following short concept deals with the implementation of a six-month project on an escort service for bus trips for elderly people and people with disabilities. The aim is to introduce older people to bus travel and to reduce possible uncertainties.

This is a side project of the three-year project "Stronger Combined" of the Interreg North Sea Region, in which the city of Rinteln is participating. The aim is to improve mobility in rural areas and create alternatives to the private car. In the town of Rinteln, the main project is concerned with improving mobility from the districts to the new hospital in Vehlen and to the Burghof-Klinik (former hospital in Rinteln).

Aim of the project

In order to get from the districts of Rinteln to the two clinic locations, at least one change with often long waiting times is necessary. Timetable notices at the bus stops are difficult to read and do not indicate where to change. In order to get exact information here, the electronic timetable information (EFA) of the public transport companies must be used. However, many older people have neither a computer nor computer or Internet experience. Therefore, bus travel is associated with many uncertainties for the elderly population and is therefore not attractive.

The aim of the project is therefore to reduce uncertainties and fears by providing an escort service for bus trips. The joint search for bus connections and the escort from home to the destination and back should create security and support a more self-determined life up to old age.

Description of the project

The project "Accompanied Bus Driving for Older People and People with Disabilities" starts on 31.08.2020 and is designed for a duration of six months. During this period, older people can register with the city of Rinteln, from Monday to Thursday 8.00 - 11.30 a.m. at the telephone number: 05751/403-260, at the latest one day before the start of the journey. On the day of departure, the bus connection is selected together with the person, at home, in the town hall or at the bus stop. The person will be accompanied to the destination and, if desired, back to the place of residence. The escort service for bus trips can be used Monday to Friday from 7.30 - 16.00 hours. The service is offered free of charge by the town of Rinteln, only the own fare has to be paid. The bus escort service can be used a maximum of three times per person. The service serves to reduce fears and uncertainties when travelling with public transport and to consolidate their independent use for the future.

Implementation

From mid-August 2020, various means of publicity will be used to implement the project. A press release will be prepared and distributed to the local press and existing e-mail distribution lists. There will also be a personal application of the project at events of the coordinator Generation 50+. Depending on the response, this type of project application will be maintained or passed on to the Generation 50+ coordinator.

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