

## Takketale til Access City Award 2018 i Bruxelles – den 5. december 2017

- On behalf of the citizens of Viborg I proudly accept this “mentioning prize”. Thank you.
- I guess, we all know the everyday obstacles, that especially a historical city centre like for instance Viborg is facing everyday as for the question accessibility for both citizens and incoming visitors.
- Since 2012 the city of Viborg has acknowledged this challenged by integrating several accessibility projects in the overall development of both historical and new modern part of the town, so that we make the city centre more accessible for Everybody - that means of course elderly with low mobility, parents with prams and people with disabilities - but also for he who must carry home 12 bottles of wine.
- The question is, how to do it in an aesthetic way? Not the carrying of the bottles, I guess that depends - no. The question is how to ensure accessibility in an aesthetic and natural way.
  - In Viborg steps in the city gardens have now been replaced by ramps; ramping slopes have been made on the steepest stairways, cobbled streets have been giving new and more accessible coating. Just to mention a few examples.
- This award is the result of a prioritized accessibility policy-initiative from Viborg - an initiative we today reap the benefits from. However, the task is far from completed.
- Together with the Danish Foundations; Realdania, Bevica Foundation, The Danish Disability Foundation and The Labour Market Holiday Fund, we put a lot of effort every day in improving accessibility and make et a natural picture of the city and thereby improve overall quality of life for everyone living or being guest in Viborg.

- We need inspiration and we need cooperation to extend expertise and further support continuing this journey.
- Allow me to take the opportunity to thank the Commission for acknowledging our common work – and last but not least let me pass a special gratitude to everyone involved in this project for the benefits of citizens of the beautiful city of Viborg.

Thank you for your attention.