



Multidimensional Mobility

The contribution of paratransit services to equitable mobility, social inclusion, and human rights.

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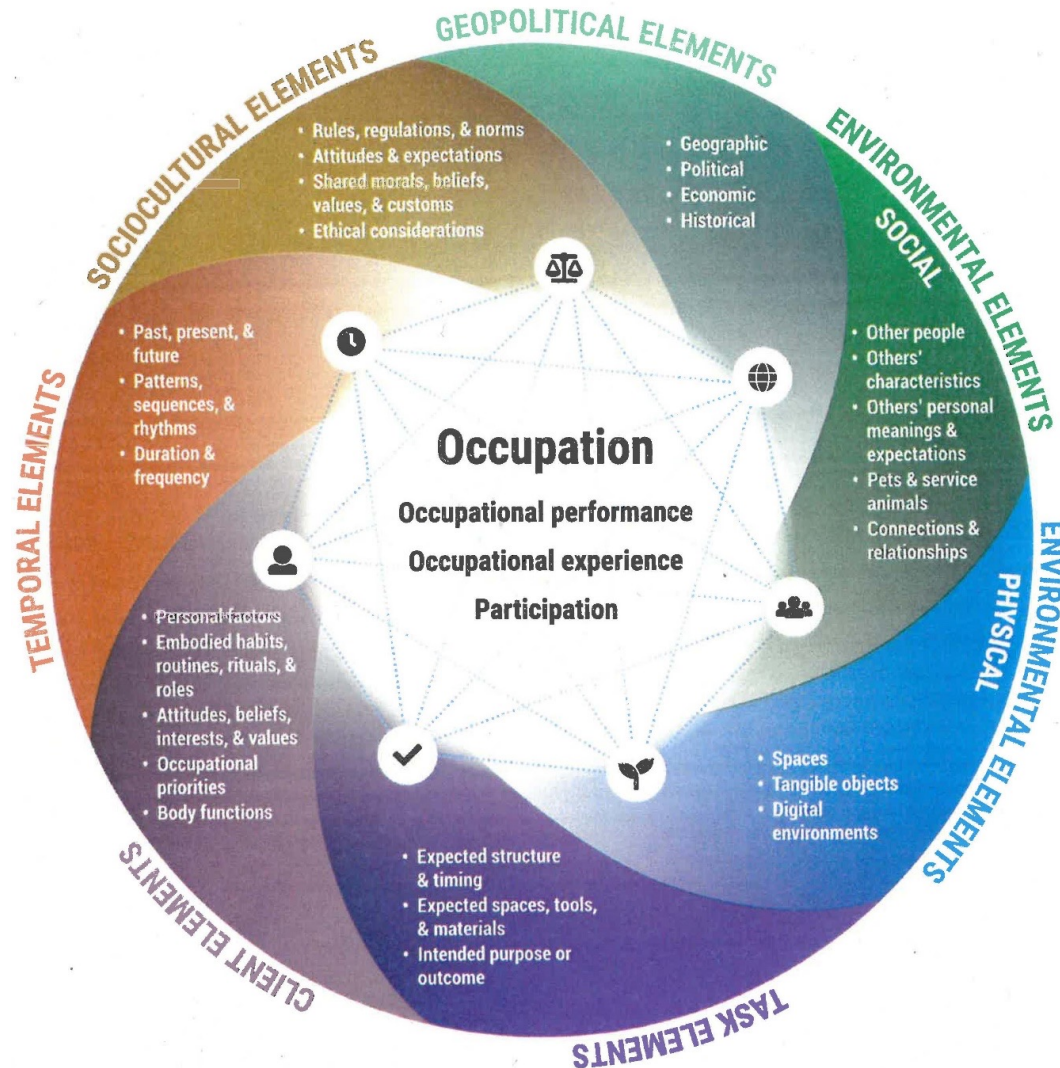
Mobility – Connecting People, Expanding Independence



“(...) In the previous years, I had used a manual wheelchair and a blue three-wheeled electric car that reached the speed of a slow cyclist and in which I sometimes, admittedly against the rules, took a passenger along. In California, we lived not far from campus in a house built in colonial style, and there I used an electric wheelchair for the first time. It gave me a considerable degree of independence (...).” (Hawking, 2018, S.40)

Stephen Hawking in October, 1979 in Princeton ©The Irish Times

Multiple Dimensions/Elements Interact



- Mobility as an occupation is in focus
 - of transactional relationships
 - of the organism in a holistic environment
 - that are constantly changing
- (Cutchin, 2004; Cutchin & Dickie, 2013; Dickie, et.al. 2006; Garrison, 2001; Palmer, 2004; Sullivan, 2001)

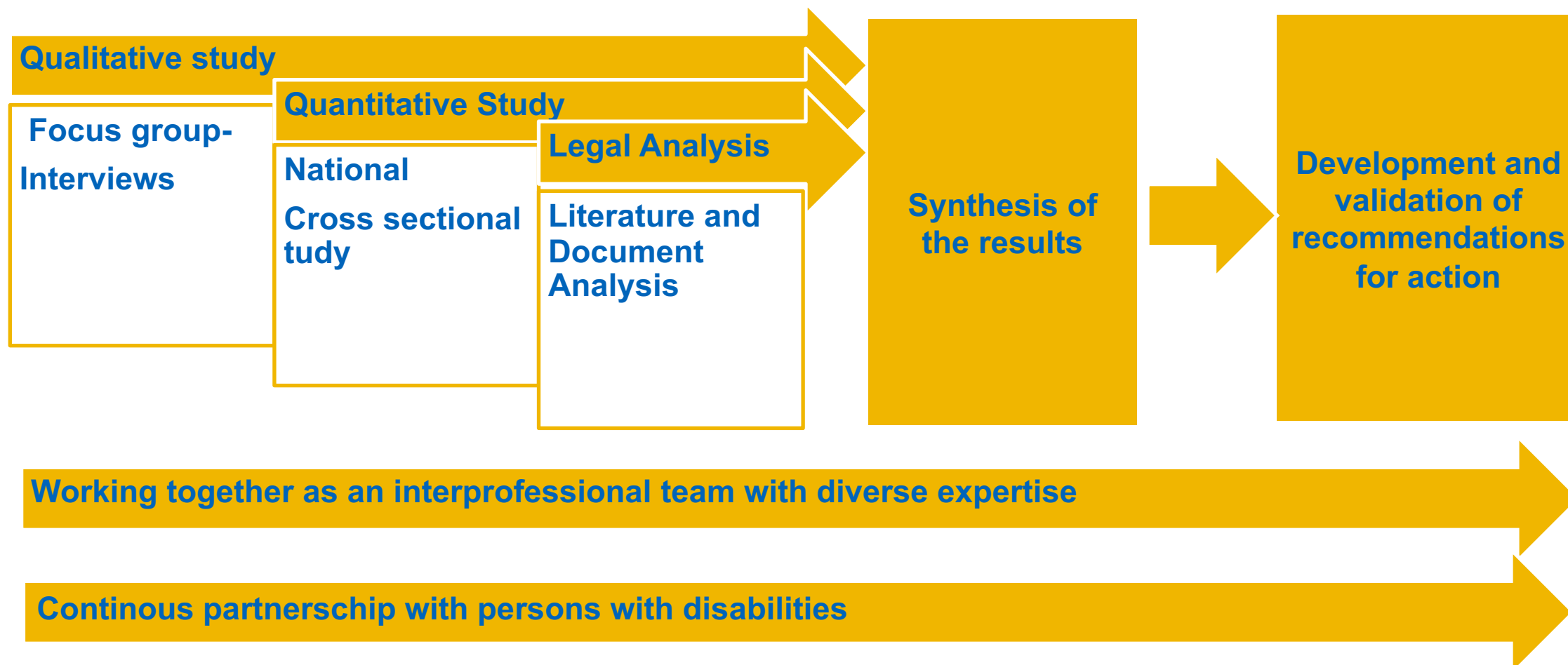
Objectives

Investigating and analyzing

- How persons with disabilities experience:
 - paratransit services and what are the needs
 - the impact of paratransit services on participation
 - the impact of per-trip costs and financing schemes on participation
- the legal situation of paratransit services

Formulation of recommendations for action

Methods



Overview of the participants in this project

Demographic characteristics of the number, age, gender, language region of the participants							
Study	Qualitative study		Quantitative study		Legal analysis	Validation of recommendations for action	
Characteristics							
Total	31		536		0	27	
Age (years)							
Range	25-99		18-103			26-64	
Average (SD)	56.4 (20.2)		63.6 (19.4)			48.6 (12.8)	
Gender	n	%	n	%		n	%
Female	13	41.9	312	58.2		11	40.7
Male	18	58.1	222	41.4		16	59.3
Other	0		2	0.4		0	0
Language	n	%	n	%		n	%
German	31	100	501	93.5		26	96.2
French	0	0	31	5.8		1	3.8
Italian	0	0	4	0.8		0	0

Main Reasons for Using Paratransit Services

- 72% for short distances
- 14% due to inaccessible public transport
- 11% due to poor weather
- 10% to reduce reliance on others
- Mainly for travels to health services and for work

(Egger, et al, 2024, 2025; Gantschnig, et al., 2023)



Advantages and Disadvantages of Paratransit Services

Advantages

- **All appreciate the possible of accessing paratransit services**
- Good personal support
- High safety
- Reduced travel time
- Saves energy for other daily activities

(Egger, et al, 2024, 2025; Gantschnig, et al., 2023)

Disadvantages

- 80% perceive restricted transport access
- High per-trip costs
- 44% pay privately; 26% subsidized rides
- 60% miss availability and spontaneity
- 21% limit daily and leisure activities
- Missing national coordination
- Loss of participation (mainly leisure)

Results of the legal analysis

Financial Barriers

- Complex, opaque funding rules
- Limited coverage for **leisure trips**
- High costs and quotas restrict spontaneous mobility

Human Rights Implications

Current system fails to meet UN CRPD and the DDA obligations.

Lack of national strategy perpetuates inequality.

(Filippo, 2023 ; Gantschnig, et al., 2023)

Recommendations for Action or Can Research Move Mountains?

Paratransit services are vital for persons with disabilities, yet the current situation in Switzerland infringe upon their fundamental rights.

Key recommendations include:

- 1) Extending antidiscrimination law to cover paratransit services
- 2) Integrating paratransit services into public transport legislation
- 3) Ensuring nationwide coordination of all transport services

(Gantschnig, et al., 2023)

Conclusion

- **Mobility is a key enabler of community participation** (Chaudhury et al., 2021; Margot-Cattin et al., 2022).
- **Mobility and participation are deeply intertwined, shaped by dynamic and often invisible layers.** (Orain, et al, under review)
- **Paratransit services are important when public transport is inaccessible or independence is limited.**
- **Integration of paratransit services into public transport and reliable financing could reduce mobility inequalities and promote health, well-being, and equal opportunities** (Filippo, 2023, Gantschnig, et al., 2023).

Key message

Community mobility matters for participation, social inclusion, health, and well-being. It is shaped by **person-related, environmental, and occupation-related factors** that are **deeply intertwined**. (Gantschnig, 2025)

QR Codes to national and international mobility projects



Equal Mobility through
Paratransit Services

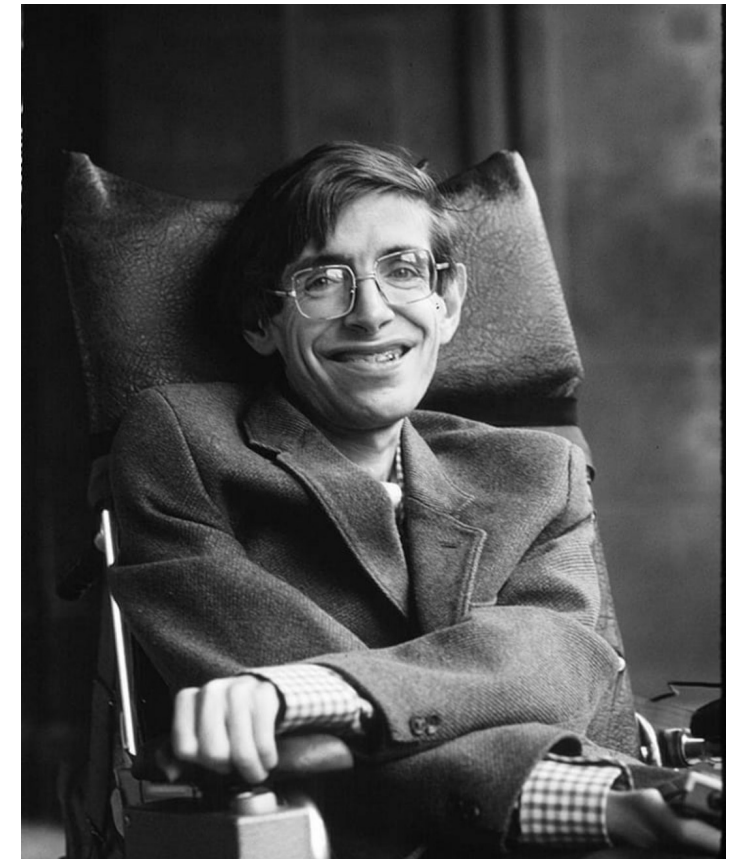
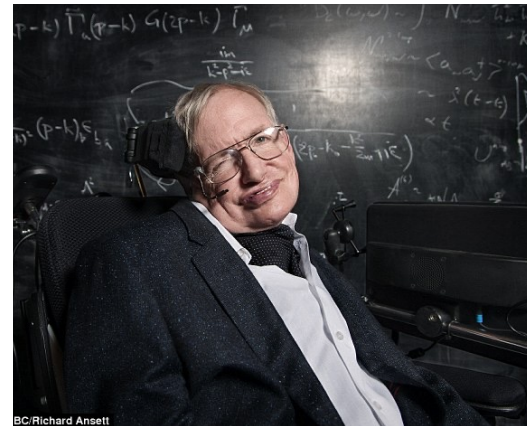


Mobile Project



Cost Action BOPALiM

Many thanks listening to me
Looking forward to an inspiring conversation!



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Die Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen
Les organisations de personnes avec handicap
Le organizzazioni di persone con andicap

Stiftung
Behindertentransport Kanton Bern
Fondation transports-handicap du canton de Berne

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