



## Press Release

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### Publication / Release OCPI additions for accessibility of charge infra for disabled persons

The EVRoaming Foundation publishes an OCPI extension for version 2.3.0 with additional data fields to support accessibility of charging infrastructure by disabled persons. This can also be beneficial for elderly persons and others who face challenges using existing charging infrastructure.

The EVRoaming Foundation aims to support the accessibility of charging infrastructure for all users. Everyone should be able to find a charging station that meets their needs and is easy to use, including people with disabilities who may require additional accessibility and usability support. The EVRoaming Foundation partners with the European Commission, UK Department for Transport, and several other governments and regulators to improve this.

Last year an OCPI Task Group (TG) was set up to specify the additional required data that is needed to add to charging location and station information, so that less mobile persons know if they can use the charge station, what barriers there might be and what support they can get.

This TG was driven by UK Government organisations Offices for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) and the Motability Foundation alongside an international group of Charge Point Operators (CPOs) and Mobility Service Providers (MSPs). The Electric Vehicle (EV) team at Motability Operations also brought the perspective of disabled drivers into the Task Group, drawing on its day-to-day engagement with customers and the Scheme's insight into real-world charging experiences.

The **OCPI Accessibility Extension** aims to ensure that disabled people are able to determine whether a charging station can be used according to their individual accessibility needs. This extension is designed to be applicable across multiple OCPI versions starting from v2.3.0.

Because accessibility requirements vary, the usability of a charging station cannot be expressed through a single indicator. It depends on a set of data elements describing physical characteristics, usability features, and environmental factors that influence access and operation.

The purpose of this extension is to define and standardize those data elements at the OCPI level, enabling interoperability between market parties and supporting informed accessibility-related decisions by users and services.

**The EVRoaming Foundation OCPI Accessibility Task Group has considered the following classes of disabilities:**

- **Vision impairment:** affecting the ability to see
- **Hearing impairment:** affecting the ability to process sounds
- **Mobility impairment:** affecting the ability to move independently
- **Dexterity impairment:** affecting the ability to perform tasks that require fine motor skills



- **Cognitive impairment:** affecting the ability to process information, learn, remember, and manage emotions

The OCPI Accessibility Extension is available via: <HTTPs://www.evroaming.org/ocpi-downloads>

***“Charging stations should be accessible for all persons, including less mobile persons and persons with disabilities. This OCPI addition will give them the right information to determine if they can use it. It is a major step for the charging market and a huge step for many persons who had challenges using charging infrastructure.***

***Great that EVRoaming Foundation together with its members can contribute to this.”***

Michel Bayings - Director EVRoaming Foundation

#### **Next steps**

With the official release of this extension, it is now up to parties to implement it and use it, and up to governments to require this via their regulations. It is also input for the National Access Points that are obligated in Europe and for the coming revision of the AFIR and related implementing acts. That way maximum accessibility for all types of users is supported.

The EVRoaming Foundation will keep track of the implementations and will stay involved to get feedback for future improvements.

#### **Information about EVRoaming Foundation**

The objective of the EVRoaming Foundation is to facilitate accessibility services for charging electric vehicles and provide transparent information to EV drivers about charging locations and prices, by use of the open and independent Open Charge Point Interface (OCPI) protocol. The ultimate goal is to allow any EV driver to charge at any charging station in the EU: simplify, standardize and harmonize.

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