

FEEL THE LIGHT! DISABLED PERSONS AND PUBLIC LIGHTING – SOUND BEACON

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WHAT IS A SOUND BEACON?



- Sound reproducing speaker, which guides visually impaired people to move safely in areas
- Before: the speaker that makes only beep-sound
- Nowadays: a "silent" speaker
 - Plays sound only when the sound beacon registers the target user's phone or remote control
 - Different sound options:
 - Jingle "inviting voice", e.g. bird song
 - Message about times
 - Guide message about the route
 - Sound adjustment feature, e.g. different volume levels at different times of the day



Photos: Juha Sylberg

HOW DID THE SOUND BEACON FOUND ITS WAY TO LUCIA-PILOT SITE IN PORVOO?

- Important objectives were accessibility, safety and comfort
 - Park plan: benches, pathway surface, smooth concrete slabs, accessible swings
- The vision workshop webinar in Spring 2020
 - Participant's idea
 - Cooperation began with Ramboll's lighting designers and Juha Sylberg, an accessibility expert of the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired



Photo: Yolanda Potrykus

HOW DOES THE SOUND BEACON WORK ON THE LUCIA-PATWAY?

- 10 sound beacons integrated in every other light pole
 - Okeenea Navigueo + Hifi
- The Bluetooth signal from the user's remote control or phone application activates a guide sound in the sound beacon
 - In the Porvoo case it's reversed nightingale song
 - Guide messages can be added as needed, max. n 3 different languages
- The sound travels with the user
 - The sound begins when the user approaches the light pole, when the user passes the light pole, the sound mutes
 - Sound flows through the whole pathway



THANK YOU!

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