

Relief model A-Z of the public transport networks in Île-de-France

There are two prototypes, both of which will be published in 2006 :

These A-Zs are available in two versions :

- **One version for blind people** with 500 relief-maps of the Paris metro, bus and RER networks, 100 maps of regional bus routes (north-east, south-east, south-west, north-west) and 1000 audio CDs.
- **One version for partially sighted people** with 1000 colour maps of the Paris metro, bus and RER networks, 300 maps of regional bus routes (north-east, south-east, south-west, north-west) and 2000 audio CDs.

The Île-de-France Region and STIF (Île-de-France transport Federation) are funding the printing
Initiated by IVM, the design phase of this prototype production project was jointly funded by the Île-de-France Region.

The €400,000 cost of the second phase – printing, evaluation and distribution – is shared equally between STIF and the Île-de-France Region.

The large-scale evaluation will be carried out by the expert committee established by STIF and by a network of partners (municipalities, various associations, transport firms) who will help to publicise and implement the new system.

This A-Z and its methodology could also be useful to older people and to some people with mild learning difficulties.

The aim is to offer blind and partially sighted people living in or visiting the Île-de-France Region a source of information and assistance in route planning. Before travelling, people not only need information but also to know how the transport systems work and an ability to visualise transport networks and geographical areas. The project required research on the way blind and partially sighted people think about travel, how they image maps and transport networks and how they plan their routes.

They will be able to consult the A-Zs at home or in public facilities (town halls, libraries, associations, etc).

Technical description of the A-Z

The transport networks are broken down into a set of maps, images and graphic codes, either embossed or in large print, so that blind and partially sighted people can assimilate and order information.

Each 30 x 34 cm map is designed with two or three levels of relief, depending on the complexity of the information. The printing technique is relief embossing, using paper which can take several levels of relief and allows very precise tactile discrimination. The quality criteria can be defined as: sharpness of edge definitions, precision of point and line profiles, progressiveness of roughness and textures.

Instructions for use

The booklets are divided into themes: metro, bus, regional rail, Paris and its region

- A “legend” page explains the graphic codes.
- A “transport lines” page provides examples of the different embossed or coloured lines.
- Finally, one page shows the stations and connections on each line, and possible transfers to other transport lines.

Recorded information (on CD) explains the routes and provides tourist information on the areas around the main stations.