

Accessible EU: Developing Accessible Tourism in Greece 24- AW-GR-01

Working together to build a more accessible European Union for persons with disabilities

Typology: Awareness-Raising

Venue: Hotel Titania, 52 Panepistimiou Avenue, 106 78 – Athens, Greece

Date: 28th of June 2023 - Morning, 10:00-14.00. Registration starts at 9.15

Duration: 4 hours

Format: Hybrid

Language: Greek

Number of participants: 100 participants

Registration form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/054de976-5874-9d23-eb83-2f114c9008bd>

Consortium composed by:



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1. Context

This awareness-raising half-day event, co-organised by AccessibleEU and the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (NCDP), aims at facilitating the exchange of experiences and information between tourism policymakers, representatives from tourism organizations, and representatives of disability persons organizations/users of tourism services. The event intends, from the one hand, to serve as a common meeting point for stakeholders and, from the other, to inspire additional initiatives for promoting Accessible Tourism (or Tourism for All) at national level, contributing to several goals as follows:

- Combating discrimination and ensuring the enjoyment of the right to leisure for persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This will also benefit other individuals with similar needs such as pregnant women, elderly people, and parents/guardians with babies/toddlers in prams/strollers (***social perspective***).
- Strengthening the local and national economy and employment as well by attracting a greater number of tourists who were previously underserved (***economic perspective***).
- Enhancing the sustainability of the tourism product by encouraging travel during periods of low demand, which is often preferred by persons with disabilities and others with similar needs. This will contribute to a more balanced allocation of resources throughout the year, benefiting thus the environment (***environmental perspective***).

Additionally, during the event will be raised awareness about:

- the AccessibleEU Resource Centre and its role in promoting accessibility at European and national level,

- the AccessibleEU Community of Practice so that stakeholders to actively participate and benefit from the resources of the Centre,
- the importance of investing in accessibility in tourism sector.

Target audience:

- Public sector executives
- Tourism policymakers
- Tourism enterprises
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with reduced mobility

2. Agenda

09:15-10:00: Registrations

Coordinator: Dimitris Logaras, AccessibleEU National Expert and Policyofficer at the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (NCDP)

10:00-10:30: Official opening

- Olga Kefalogianni, Minister of Tourism
- Vasilis Koutsianos, Secretary General of the National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (NCDP)

10:30-10:40: Presentation of the "European Accessibility Resource Centre - AccessibleEU"

- Dimitris Logaras, National Expert

10:40-11:40: Panel 1-The Accessible Tourism as right/obligation and development lever: barriers, challenges and perspectives

- Marily Christofi, Accessibility Expert, NCDP Associate
- Sofia Panousi, Economist/Researcher - Research Institute for Tourism (I.T.E.Π.)
- Aggeliki Karagkouni, Institute of the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (INSETE)

11:40-12:00 Coffee break**12:00-12:50: Panel 2-Traveling in Greece-Experiences from users with disabilities**

- Konstantinos Simpsis, President of the Hellenic Federation of the Deaf (OMKE)
- Dimitris Sifakis, President of the Panhellenic Association of the Blind (PST)
- Korina Theodorakaki, Secretary General of the National Federation of Mobility Impaired People (EOKA)
- Ioannis Moscholios, President of the Panhellenic Federation of Societies of Parents and Guardians of Disabled People (POSGAMEA)

12:50 -13:10: Panel 3-Policies for the promotion of Accessible Tourism at national level

- Spyridon Parthenis, Focal point in the Greek Ministry of Tourism for monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

13:10-14:00: Panel 4-Good practices

- George Dimopoulos, Managing Director of “Himalaya” Travel (Athens)
- Social Cooperative Enterprise “Asklipiades” (RHODES Island)
- Alexandros Mourouzis, Accessibility Expert, NCDP Associate

14:00 End of the event

More information: <https://www.esamea.gr/el/article/prosklhsh-gia-symmetoxh-sthn-ybridikh-ekdhlwsh-enhmerwshs-eyaisthhtopoihshs-anptyssontas-ton-prosbasimo-toyrismo-sthn-ellada-sto-plaisio-ylopoihshtoy-eyrwpaikoy-ergoy-e>

Collaborating organisations, entities and projects

The collaborating organisations participating in this conference are:

- National Confederation of Disabled people (NCDP) - ESAMEA

<https://www.esamea.gr/el>