SESSION 2: 12:10 – 13:10
Round up by the Access Angels partners

Positive outcomes for stakeholders

Diktyo Thematikon Kentron Troodoys-Troodos Network, Cyprus

Training Volunteers to Support Visitors with Access Needs in Rural Accessible Tourism

Sustainability of the Project

Troodos Network of Thematic Centers- Cyprus
Access Angels - Who we are Makes a Difference

- **Local volunteers** can play a vital role in supporting visitors to rural areas by meeting and greeting the tourists, providing information and offering practical assistance in a friendly, welcoming and competent way.

- Whether a visitor is looking for a walk in the countryside, a trip to the beach or attending an open air festival, **well-trained volunteers** are able to make the difference between taking a risky gamble in unknown surroundings or having an enjoyable, uplifting experience that can give the visitor happy memories for a whole lifetime.

Troodos-The Green Heart of Cyprus
Tourism Attractions in Troodos

• 100 unspoiled villages
• Mountain gastronomy
• Waterfalls
• Hiking
• Forest Bathing
• Festivals all year round
• Yoga Retreats
• 674 Herbs and herbal remedies
• Warm hospitality
• Bird watching
• Accessible Botanical Garden and Troodos Information center
• Accessible Lavender Thematic center

Beaches accessible for wheelchairs-30 km from Troodos - Double Destination Tourism Packages

• LEMESOS (LIMASSOL) (6 beaches) Lemesos:
  • Akti Olympion A’ (Seatrac and Floating Wheelchair).
  • Akti Olympion B’ (Floating Wheelchair).
  • Parekklisia: Municipal Beach (Floating Wheelchair)
  • Germasogeia : Dasoudi /CTO (Floating Wheelchair).
  • Agios Tychonas: Vouppa (Floating Wheelchair),
  • Kastella (Floating Wheelchair)
Accessible Tourism in Troodos - Stakeholders

- Regional Authorities/ Municipalities
  - AA Management Responsibility
  - Access Angels
  - Access Angels Regional Authorities/
  - Municipalities
  - Access Angels Accessible Rural Tourism
  - National or International organisations dealing with Accessible Tourism
  - Troodos Network
  - Cyprus Tourism Organisation
  - Accessible Tourism travel agencies
  - Red Cross & Organizations dealing with people with special needs

Regional Authorities/ Municipalities
Roles & Social Responsibility

- Awareness
- Short & long term development plan for accessible tourism
- Accessible public toilets
- Accessible restaurants
- Accessible Forest paths
- Accessible playgrounds for children
Cooperation with National & International organisations dealing with Accessible Tourism

• Increase of the inflow of accessible tourism
• Cyprus is a new developing destination for accessible tourism
• Accessible Cyprus- Cyprus Tourism Organisation

• A number of facilities are available to visitors with special access needs who wish to visit Cyprus. For further information, you can download the guide ‘Accessible Cyprus’, or contact the Cyprus Paraplegic Organisation on: (+357) 22 496 494, or visit their website www.opak.org.cy.
Troodos Network

- New awareness about Accessible Tourism through, all stages of the program from the Research to the training
- Cooperation with other organizations - Red Cross-Friends of the visually impaired - School of children with special needs
- Cooperation with 1000 Miles First Step
- Cooperation with Cyprus Tourism Organisation- Short Escapes Program- Platres’s Lavender Experience

Cyprus Tourism Organisation

- Accessible Tourism packages-Short escapes-Full day to the mountains with activities.
  Sunday Escapes
- Leave the fatigue of everyday routine behind you and relax in the cool forests, the lush mountain slopes and the picturesque stone-built villages of the countryside.

- The programme offers Sunday excursions (except on religious or national holidays) from September 2018 to June 2019. Each month will have a theme round which the programme of the excursions will revolve.
Long Term Cooperation with the Cyprus Red Cross Society for Accessibility Issues

• Direct Benefit from the project
• Simplification of logistics and new places and activities for people with severe problems
Cooperation with Accessible Tourism travel agencies

1000 Miles First Step is a Tour Operator company based in Larnaca, which specializes in Accessible Tourism and give services all year around in Cyprus. Our Accessible Holidays provide everything that visitors might need during their trip to Cyprus.

- Accessible hotel accommodation
- Accessible transportation
- Accessible activities and excursions
- Rental equipment
- Daily care
- Accompaniment

We are very excited to be part of this project, as part of Troodos Network Team proposing to any accessible traveler a free of charge service of accompaniment. Our aim is to promote Cyprus as an Accessible Destination and with the help of Troodos Network who are involved and sensitive on this field we believe that we are able to do a very good job.

Expanding our Team with Experts

Access Angels Sustainability

- Capacity Building & Active Involvement in the project from the training to the Multiplier Event

My name is Stella Gavriel and I have been working in the Tourism Services sector for the last 20 years.

After a serious health problem I had in 2007 which stacked me on a wheelchair for 7 months and my attempt to walk again for 3 years traveling to Germany for rehabilitation made me realize the difficulties these people were experiencing and I decided to offer services for disabled traveling to Cyprus for holidays.
Since 2015 I am specialized on Accessible Tourism in Cyprus and joining this project “Access Angels” as part of Troodos Network made me more confident that Cyprus will be more specialized and ready to welcome visitors with disabilities from around the world.