ENAT Board elections, June 2022

There are 11 candidates for 11 places in the ENAT Board for the next 4-year period, June 2022 to June 2026.

The candidates’ statements are shown on the following pages.

The candidates are listed here in random order:

Ivor Ambrose, Greece
Ana Garcia, Portugal
Spyros Michailidis, Greece
Katerina Papamichail, Greece
Rüdiger Leidner, Germany
Anna Grazia Laura, Italy
Mieke Broeders, Belgium
Jesús Hernández Galán, Spain
Emiliano Deferrari, Belgium
Marco Pizzio, Italy
Miguel Carrasco Hernández, Spain
ENAT Board elections, June 2022

Ivor Ambrose, Consultant. Manager, ENAT asbl.

Dear ENAT members,

ENAT has filled the largest part of my working life for the last 15 years, (and a good deal of my free time too). By working with and alongside ENAT members and partners, I feel that I have achieved far more than I could ever have done as a lone consultant, and I am grateful to the many good colleagues and supporters for their invaluable support and their role in the successes we have achieved so far in developing and promoting accessibility and inclusion in the tourism sector.

I declare my candidacy to stand for re-election to the ENAT Board of Directors in the hope that I can continue my work from another 4-year term, to contribute to fulfilling the plans we have made, to bring our current and new projects to a successful conclusion and to meet the new challenges we face because of the increasing uncertainties in Europe and the world.

I think we must reconsider the kind of tourism we want and need and, especially, as ENAT, we need to take a stand for sustainability and inclusion in every way we can. I believe that what we do, in the next 4 years, can be really crucial for people, for businesses, for destinations and for the planet. I would like ENAT to set out and implement concrete commitments, not only to each of our members but also to our policy makers and fellow citizens, so that we can develop a better Tourism for All through training, though innovation and by bringing forward the best examples for others to follow.

Ivor Ambrose, Athens, May 2022
Email: ivor.ambrose@gmail.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivorambrose/
ENAT Board elections, June 2022

Ana Garcia, President, Accessible Portugal.

I would like to attend the AGA online and I’m available to be in the board of directors of ENAT for the next few years.

Email: anagarcia@accessibleportugal.com
Web: https://accessibleportugal.com/
And: https://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.enatboardbiographies#Ana_Garcia
Spyros Michailidis | Managing Director, EWORX S.A.

Standing for re-election I would like to express my commitment to continue supporting ENAT technologically. During the next term, I would like to see Pantou.org being renewed, with fresh look & feel and functionality, and provision of an online space which will allow our community to stay in touch and engaged, boosting the dialogue and establishing new feedback mechanisms which will inform our strategy.

Navigating its exit from the pandemic in a significantly more fluid environment, the tourism industry, and especially SMEs, need help and support on all fronts. The need for ENAT is stronger than ever, supporting our partners and network during this time of recovery and realigning focus to accessibility. But to better respond to this need, our organisation needs to become more agile, extrovert and communicative.

Our short-term target for the coming year should be to refocus our strategy aiming to mainstream accessibility and reestablish it as an important pillar of quality of service and equal opportunities.

Thank you,

Spyros

a: EWORX SA | Athens, 66 Jean Moreas St. | GR-15231
e: sm@eworx.gr | w: www.eworx.gr
m: +30 694 793 99 22 | p: +30 210 6148380
TO ENAT:

With this letter, I wish to present my candidacy to the ENAT Board of Directors.

I am a Greek Architect. I have worked in the Greek Public Housing Organisation for 30 years, where in combination with my involvement in European projects I developed my expertise in accessibility and Universal Design. I was a co-author of the Greek Accessibility Guidelines. I was also privileged to work as Section Manager responsible for accessibility of the Olympic and Paralympic Village, Athens 2004, from design and building through to management of the facility.

ENAT has been a large part of my working life, since 2008, when I was one of the founding members and, even before that, as a member of the project team that conceived ENAT from the foundational work in OSSATE – One Stop Shop for Accessible Tourism in Europe.

During all these years, I have enjoyed strong relations with the ENAT “family”, with great colleagues and friends. I have been following all the steps – the many projects and achievements and I am thankful to all my ENAT colleagues who have shared their knowledge and experience with me in this long journey.

As an architect, I have shared my knowledge to help develop two major ENAT “products”: the Pantou Accessible Tourism Directory and the ENAT World Tourism for All Quality Programme. I have also had the privilege to be a representative of ENAT in many international conferences and events and as a trainer on Accessible Tourism and Universal Design for students and professionals in the tourism sector.

On behalf of ENAT, I have worked in the Team of Experts which developed the CEN Standard EN 17210 on ‘Accessibility and Usability of the Built Environment’, and as Liaison member for ISO 21902 ‘Accessibility Requirements and Recommendations’. Currently I am a Liaison member of ISO Technical Committee 59-SC16 Working Group 4. ‘Accessibility of Immovable Cultural Heritage’.

My motivation to stand for election to the Board comes from my previous work and experience with ENAT. Now, I feel I would like to offer more in the direction of decision-making and leadership of the association, supporting the Board to achieve our organisational goals, spread our messages and enhancing benefits to all our members. I would also like to work on bringing new and young people to “our family” who will treasure ENAT’s legacy and share our vision in the future. I see this as a priority because it is the young generation who will take accessibility forward.
ENAT Board elections, June 2022

At this time, as we finally meet again after the long period of isolation due to Covid-19, I am so pleased to be with you at this very symbolic General Assembly. I see this as a fresh start and an opportunity for the association to strengthen the role of accessibility and inclusion as a “mark of quality” and key factor for the development of sustainable tourism.

Our world faces continuous and new, difficult challenges but I keep my vision and I feel that through the principles and unity of ENAT members, we together, can continue our mission to make the world and tourism accessible for all.

With my best regards,
Katerina Papamichail

Katerina Papamichail, Architect,
Accessibility Expert-ENAT

Email: katerina.papamichail@gmail.com
LinkedIn: https://gr.linkedin.com/in/katerina-papamichail-34187348
ENAT Annual General Assembly on June 28th 2022 – Motivation of the Candidate Board Member

My professional experience in the field of tourism policy began in 2002 when I moved to the tourism unit of the German Ministry of Economics. On behalf of the Ministry I commissioned the study on the economic impact of accessible tourism in Germany 2003. In the same year I moved to the tourism unit of the European Commission (until 2007).

During the years in Brussels I attended the first conferences of ENAT. This was the beginning of a close cooperation.

At the same time the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (DBSV) asked me to become its representative for accessible tourism, for example, as member of the advisory board of the German Federal Agency on Accessibility and in the ›PRM Dialogue‹ that was established by the German Aviation Association to improve the travel conditions for disabled passengers. The members (representatives of airlines, airports, disability organisations and organisations for older people) worked out recommendations that disabled air passengers should regard before booking.

My main goal has always been to establish and intensify the dialogue between disability organisations, the tourism industry and policy makers. When I was elected president of NatKo in 2010, I initiated the Tourism Accessibility Day that takes place annually during the International Tourism Fair Berlin.

My experience in the area of accessible tourism always led me to the conclusion that we must cooperate across national borders. That’s why I support the goals of ENAT and would be glad to do even more as active board member.

Rüdiger Leidner
Email: ruediger.leidner@gmail.com
Web: https://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.enatboardbiographies#Ruediger%20Leidner
ENAT Board elections, June 2022

Anna Grazia Laura, ENAT president

ENAT member since 2010. In the same year, invited and elected to join the Board of Directors. In 2013, elected for her first term as ENAT president and re-elected in 2017.

On the occasion of the renewal of the Board of Directors, at the next AGA in June 2022, I would like to submit my candidacy to be elected in the new board.

My experience in Tourism for All dates back to 1992, when I started cooperating with the Italian Consortium COIN. COIN had, as its main goal, the inclusion of people with disabilities in the job market, giving them the opportunity to contribute to society and gain a living, fighting prejudices which considered persons with disabilities as individuals needing only assistance and to be cared for.

After having given them an income, the other major step was to develop a whole concept of tourism activities which could be enjoyed, on the same level, with everybody, guaranteeing inclusion and equal opportunities.

I was directly involved in this activity since the very beginning and, since then, all my working efforts were devoted to the promotion of Tourism for All at all levels, public or private, in Italy and internationally.

I could also improve my effort after having joined ENAT, since the mission of the Network and that of my activity in Italy were highly coincidental.

Just a personal reflection: only after having met colleagues who were wheelchair users, I realised that also my mother-in-law was a wheelchair user. For me she was and has always been only my mother-in-law.

This attitude has been with me ever since and I always consider the person first and then the rest, whatever it may be. It is with this vision that I have approached the issues of inclusion and human relations, of human diversity and its value.

Rome, May 2022
Email: president@enat.eu
Web: https://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.enatboardbiographies#Annagrazia_Laura
ENAT Board elections, June 2022

Mieke Broeders, ENAT Executive Secretary

I was one of the founding members of ENAT and have been working for over 30 years as director of the expertise center of accessibility and design for all in Flanders in different fields such as built environment, mobility, tourism and culture.

I was active in a lot of European projects, networks and European advisory groups.

I offer my support and experience for eventual legislative and organisational items which may occur since ENAT is a Belgian organisation.

Hasselt, May 2022.

Email: mieke.broeders@enat.eu
Web: https://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.enatboardbiographies#Mieke_Broeders
Dear members,

I am Jesús Hernández, Director of Accessibility and Innovation at the ONCE Foundation, and I would like to present my candidacy for Vice-President of the ENAT Association.

The ONCE Foundation is a Spanish non-profit organisation whose aim is the inclusion of people with disabilities in all sectors and areas. Just as important as access to education or a job is access to tourism. We work so that people with disabilities can be tourists, regardless of their abilities, and of course, so that they can also work in this sector.

We have always considered that surrounding ourselves and working with more entities that have the same objective makes us go further. That is why in 2008 we took part in the project to create ENAT, with the common goal of achieving accessible and sustainable tourism for everyone. We have been full members ever since.

It is in our interest to continue contributing to the network, from the position of Vice-presidency, to continue contributing and sharing our experience in accessibility and disability.

I hope that my candidature will be taken into account.

Sincerely,

Jesús Hernández Galán, PhD

Director de Accesibilidad e Innovación
@Fundacion ONCE
Jesús Hernández-Galán @JHernandezGalan
Tel: 91 506 88 73/42
Calle Sebaslán Herrera 15. 28012, Madrid
Dear ENAT Full Members,

With this letter I would like to stand for elections of the board of directors. As you all know I second president Annagrazia Laura since 2015 and I have been involved with ENAT’s life since its beginning.

My experience in accessible tourism dates to 1999, designing one of the first tourism mobility services in Europe, in Genoa, with Social Cooperative La Cruna. We developed an access scheme, conducted hundreds of access audits, realised accessible tourism itineraries and cooperated to Genoa’s first plan for the elimination of architectural barriers, in 2003, deploying innovative IT solutions to collect information.

In 2004 I moved to Rome to work for Consorzio COIN under Annagrazia Laura’s lead, on the development of European funded projects, which is up to now my main expertise, having since then worked on 28 projects centred on inclusion and accessible tourism, as researcher or manager. These experiences made me an expert trainer and researcher, a public speaker and advocate of accessible tourism at local and international level, working as a freelance after leaving my job in Italy.

In 2015 I moved to Brussels, increasing my involvement in ENAT’s activities as a seconder to the president, doing lobby work at the EU Commission and Parliament, following the work of the European Tourism Manifesto, meeting NGOs and international members delegations in Brussels, being part of the ENAT EU project proposals committee, writing successful project proposals, and being appointed to 8 EU funded projects as ENAT senior researcher or manager, spanning from training, to tourism SMEs development, to innovation in destination management.

With my candidacy as member of the board of directors I would like to show my renewed commitment in the organization, offering my experience and “European point of view”, aware of the difficult challenges we have to face, making tourism suppliers and destinations more accessible and resilient in times of crisis triggered by climate change, pandemics, and setback of globalisation due to political instabilities. Tourism is changing but the right to inclusion as well as the market opportunity of tourism for all cannot fall off the radars of decision makers, the industry, and the communities.

With my Best Regards
Emiliano Deferrari Brussels, 20/05/2022

Emiliano Deferrari, Consultant Expert en Tourisme Accessible N. entreprise
0719247377 - Rue des Hellènes 52 1050 Bruxelles, Belgique
Email: emiliano.deferrari@gmail.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/emilianodeferrari/
Genoa, May 12th 2022

Subject: Candidacy for Board Membership (AISM - Marco Pizzio)

To ENAT Board of Directors and to whom it may concern,

As a Full member and Board Member of ENAT since June 2016, we would like the ENAT General Assembly to consider our candidacy as a Board Member for AISM (Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla), represented by Marco Pizzio.

We strongly believe in the mission and the importance of ENAT in fulfilling the development of Accessible Tourism and to promote social inclusion at an international level and therefore, we also believe that our presence in the ENAT Board could be of support considering the experience of our candidate in the tourism field for the following reasons:

- a large experience in the **mainstream tourism**, both in Europe and United States, which could support the new challenges that ENAT and Accessible Tourism are facing;
- a large experience in **marketing** activities, also in international corporations. With the reduction of public funds will be important to search for new and alternative ways to reach economic sustainability;
- the support of an important non profit organization in Italy (AISM), with 100 branches (practically one in each Italian province) and a network of over 10 thousand volunteers in Italy;
- the experience in euorpean projects, having also two projects in partnership with ENAT:
  - o EWB-Europe Without Barriers, which has become a **tour operator**, specialized on accessible tourism and legally authorized by Italian Law;
  - o In-Tour, which is still running and leading to the creation of an european Curricula dedicated to the creation of two new professions at european level, the Inclusive Tourism Manager (ITM) and the inclusive Tourism Frontline Staff (ITFS).

For the purpose of the candidacy we’re together with this letter providing additional information about accessible tourism activities at AISM and its representative, Marco Pizzio.

We remain at your disposal for any additional information you may need.

Cordially,

Marco Pizzio
Head Social & Accessible Tourism AISM
Ph: +39 393 810 7100
Email: marco.pizzio@aism.it
Dear Ivor and ENAT Board Members

I would like to stand on behalf of PREDIF for re-election to the ENAT Board. It would be a pleasure for us to continue to work closely with an association that does so much for the equal rights of people with disabilities in accessible tourism. For PREDIF, continuous learning and the development of new projects for and for inclusive tourism and culture are signs of identity for us and a daily work in which more than 2 million people with accessibility needs in Spain benefit, in our 25 years of experience.

In my professional experience I have worked for 10 years in the tourism sector, starting in the hotel industry, continuing as a destination manager in an important multinational tour operator, to continue developing my professional career as a sales and business development manager creating proposals and market strategies for clients, tourism administrations and marketing and representing hotel companies at a European level.

Currently as Director of the Accessible Tourism Area of PREDIF I supervise and develop the strategy and new projects of the area, as well as the modernization and development of the internationalization of the TUR4all platform, I actively participate in national and international working groups on accessible tourism, I give trainings and represent the entity on a social and political level and chairing the commission of accessible tourism and inclusive leisure of CERMI.

Therefore, and with the aim of continuing to contribute with our experience and sharing our projects, PREDIF thanks you for your interest and trust in our organisation to continue being part of the ENAT Board.

Best wishes,

Miguel Carrasco Hernández
Director of the Accessible Tourism Area of PREDIF