

The first 6-days excursion organized for people with disabilities

In the framework of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007, and based on our will to prove that people with special needs have a right to tourism, if only it is accessible, this summer a small group of ENAT members from Greece, under the leadership of Mr. Paraskevas Kokkinides from Sidirokastro in Serres and Ms. Smaragda Paximada from Athens, organized the first major accessible excursion, specially designed for people with special needs, to the Prefecture of Serres. The excursion's program included an overnight stay at an accessible hotel, accessible eco-tourism activities and many other accessible activities, a presentation of the targets and activities of the European Network of Accessible Tourism (ENAT) and of the accessible hotel search website: www.EuropeforAll.com. The excursion's success relied greatly on the personal effort of the organizers.

Below we present photographs with some of the activities participants and their assistants had the opportunity to enjoy during the excursion.



The whole team at the place we stayed. With us, the owner of the Ecoperiigitis guesthouse, Mr. Ioannis Reklos.



The excursion members on a boat, on our course towards the protected wetland of the lake Kerkini.



A snapshot during our picnic at the west bund, watching the flora and fauna in the area of Kerkini through telescopes.



A snapshot from the team's guided tour at the village where Spiroulina is produced. At the centre of the photograph, we can see the excursion's organizer, Mr. Paraskevas Kokkinides.



A snapshot from the team's guided tour at the hermitage of Timios Prodromos of Akritochori. At the centre of the photograph, we can see the monastery's dean, a member of the holy brotherhood of the monastery of Xenofon on Mount Athos.



A snapshot from the team's ascension of the mount Beles with jeeps.



The excursion's end at the cave, in the best possible spirits. At the exit, the cave's manger, Nikos Kartalis, poses with us.



Curative horse-riding at the only Curative horse-riding Centre of Northern Greece, at the Prefecture of Serres.

We see the excursion's co-organizer, Ms. Smaragda Paximada, on horseback, assisted by the center's manager, Ms. Maria Liga.



A snapshot from the team's guided tour at the Rupel Fort.



The team visits the Big outlet center in Promahona of Serres. We are joined in this photo by the center's manager, Mr. Constantine Caberis.



Transportation of the team by a fully accessible tourist van.