

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
ENAT – The European Network for Accessible Tourism
And
BITS – Bureau International du Tourisme Social

This Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up between ENAT and BITS to provide a framework for possible joint initiatives, with the purpose of supporting the common goals of both parties, enabling collaborative actions to be planned and implemented, and making effective use of the complementary strengths of both organisations.

ENAT

The European Network for Accessible Tourism, hereafter referred to as ENAT, is a philanthropic association under private law, created for an unlimited period with the aim of promoting accessible tourism on a non-profit-making basis.

ENAT was created in accordance with the Belgian laws of 25 October 1919 and amended by the law of 6 December 1954 and of 30 June 2000 which relates to the granting of legal personality to associations pursuing a philanthropic, religious, scientific or pedagogical aim.

ENAT was registered by deposition of its statutes at the Registry Office of the Commercial Court of Brussels on the eighth of May 2008, Company number: 0897.614.640.

The purpose of ENAT is to further the development of accessible tourism, as a means to greater social inclusion, at an international level.

Its objectives are: to coordinate actions in support of the tourism activities of its members; to inform them on any subject relating to accessible tourism, in terms of its technical, economic, social, legal and cultural aspects; and to disseminate information concerning accessible tourism to the wider community.

ENAT is represented by an Executive Board of six Members, which has the authority to establish contracts with third parties, including such agreements as the present Memorandum of Understanding.

ENAT maintains a website at www.accessibletourism.org where the ENAT Statutes and further information can be found.

BITS

The **International Bureau of Social Tourism (BITS)** is an international non-profit-making organisation set up in 1963 in order to promote social tourism at the international level.

BITS was created in accordance with the Belgian laws of 25 October 1919 and amended by the law of 6 December 1954 and of 30 June 2000 which relates to the granting of legal personality to associations pursuing a philanthropic, religious, scientific or pedagogical aim.

BITS was registered by deposition of its statutes in 1965. Its Company number is: 0408.300.021.

The purpose of BITS is to promote access to leisure, holidays and tourism for as many people as possible and to encourage the implementation of this objective and of the related means by the actors sharing this responsibility, namely States, social players and operators. The mission of BITS is also to promote sustainable tourism based on solidarity which ensures that the local populations draw some benefit and which respects the natural and cultural heritage.

The action of BITS essentially takes the form of representation activities involving the dissemination of information, participation in research, cooperation projects and expert missions, and the organisation of a biennial congress and of specialised seminars. The BITS also has regional sections. The European Social Tourism Committee (ESTC) of BITS is the body which coordinates action with partners and European institutions.

BITS is represented by an Executive Committee which has the authority to establish contracts with third parties, including such agreements as the present Memorandum of Understanding.

BITS maintains a website at www.bits-int.org where further information can be found.

Agreement

By this Memorandum of Understanding it is agreed that:

ENAT and BITS may act as collaborating partners in a number of areas related to **tourism, accessible services and standards and the implementation of tourism for all**, given that they have complementary aims, interests and, together, both European and global networks of members and contacts.

This Memorandum of Understanding serves to open possibilities for collaboration in the pursuit of common aims and activities, such as:

- To ensure open and effective information channels between the two organisations;
- To define area(s) of common interest where collaboration between the organisations would be of benefit to each set of members and for the wider good;
- To establish joint working groups, taskforces, commissions, and/or projects;
- To establish and declare/publish common positions on issues of common interest (e.g. policies directed towards tourism, accessibility issues);
- To open the possibility for mutual marketing opportunities for the benefit of the members;
- To inform the respective organisations' members about the activities of the other organisation;
- To coordinate, where possible, the dates and programmes of planned public events, members' meetings and other activities, so as to make effective use of resources and provide both the members and the wider community with opportunities to participate in these.

Collaboration Areas

In accordance with the aims and functions of ENAT and BITS, the following indicative areas for possible collaboration are proposed:

1. Cooperation in the international exchange of knowledge and experience;
2. Joint working groups to deliver policy White Papers to lay out common positions and an agenda for the wider implementation of social tourism which is accessible for all,
3. Joint actions or working groups to exchange information and explore the above, including sub-themes such as: "Accessibility Standards", "Staff Training", etc
 - On-line consultation with members.
 - Benchmarking / implementation / follow-up of actions by either party or third parties in the area of tourism and travel;
4. European Union proposals/projects, developed jointly by teams of ENAT and BITS members;
5. Regional- and National-level proposals/projects for clients in areas of the world where either party operates;
6. Mutual promotion and dissemination of membership and activities:
 - a). Exchange of banners/logos on each other's websites at no cost
 - b). Links to each other's Newsletter service on each other's sites.
 - c). Etc.
7. Coordination of timings of public international meetings and events
8. Other joint activities – to be agreed between the two parties.

The above list may be amended or extended, on the suggestion of either party.

Financial Conditions

This Memorandum of Understanding makes no binding financial conditions on either party, either explicitly or by implication.

Should any financial arrangements be made between the two parties in the future, these shall be subject to separate agreements entered into at such time.

Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding takes effect on 16th October 2009. It will continue in force in perpetuity, unless or until it is amended by the parties, or revoked by either party.

Agreement and Signatures

This MoU has been agreed by the governing Boards of both parties.

Signed in three original copies:

One copy to be held by BITS, aisbl. Belgium

One copy to be held by ENAT asbl. Belgium

One copy to be held by ENAT Secretariat, Greece

For ENAT

Lilian Müller
President

Date: 15.10.2009

Place: Malaga

For BITS

Norberto Tonini
President

Date: 15.10.2009

Place: Malaga

Attachments:

Annex 1. ENAT Statutes:

<http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.enatstatutes>

Annex 2. BITS Statutes:

<http://www.bits-int.org/en/index.php?menu=44&submenu=91>

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