

# NEWSLETTER



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## SPORT AS A TOOL FOR INCLUSION

Sport plays an important role in our lives, it helps keeping good health and creates special bonds among those who participate in the several sports activities. SIMPLE project, Sport, Inclusion, Movement, Participation, Learning, Environment, funded by the Erasmus programme. The project started on November 1st, 2023 and will last till December 31st, 2024.

The aim of the project is to build a nexus between sport, social inclusion and environmental protection through physical activity, sustainable practices and a connection with local nature in Italy, Bulgaria and Greece. The key elements of the foreseen activities is to promote the inclusion of the youth and people with disabilities through sport activities and help building healthy habits and well being and increase the capacity of grassroots sport sector, social organizations and public authorities to achieve the expected results.



The consortium drafted a context analysis to develop the sport activities highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that each region has. The analysis was presented by IYII during the kick off meeting of the project in Vicenza, on March 19th and 20th, 2024. From the analysis it is confirmed that there is an extremely wide variety of sports offered in the partner regions Veneto, Varna, Volos and Strasbourg, also the number of registered clubs is significant: in total more of 4.900 sport clubs are registered on the pilot territories, representing more than 130 disciplines.

The predominant sports are: football, swimming, basketball, sailing, athletics, gymnastics, yachting / sailing, climbing, running and cycling.

An important prerequisite for the development of sports and sporting activities in the partners regions is the strong commitment of local authorities, strong community interest in sports activities, safe and well-organized local facilities, a dedicated pool of volunteers willing to contribute their time and efforts to organizing and promoting sports activities, existing partnerships with local schools, businesses, and organizations to support sports programs. The natural environment, available resources and public facilities suggest that events of the kind envisaged in the framework of the SIMPLE project are extremely suitable to be introduced in the partner regions as a good practice and to be held in the future periodically with the involvement of local authorities.

As a matter of fact, the development of the sport activities play a pivotal role in the success and result of this project, regarding the inclusion of youth and people with disabilities. Given the target, it is fundamental to design safety measures and inclusive strategies together with specific recommendations that will act as the guidance for the implementation of the local sport events.



Under the coordination of InnoveD, the partnership has completed three pivotal deliverables for the SIMPLE project in May 2024. The 'Design of Safety Measures and Inclusive Strategies' sets up comprehensive safety protocols and inclusive practices that ensure that sporting environments are safe and accessible to participants of all abilities. The 'Co-design of Activities' introduces collaborative ways to engage and make sports events sustainable and socially inclusive for young people under 15 years old and people with disabilities. Also, the 'Recommendations for Local Implementation' Report provides clear and concise advice to local authorities and sports organizations on a more accessible delivery of sporting venues and activities. All of these efforts together will enable the project to further its respective objectives towards social inclusion and community development, practically laying the ground for the sports activities and national sport events which will take place in Greece, Bulgaria and Italy.

Since the beginning of the project, Moana 60 has been actively implementing several events and activities within the framework of the SIMPLE project. In December, January, February and March local activities entitled "Discovering the territory" took place in several areas of the Veneto region. In detail: the Discovering the territory in Montecchio Maggiore of the 17th December, 2023; the Discovering the territory in Vicenza of the 28th January, 2024, the Discovering the territory in Lugo di Vicenza of the 25th February, 2024, the Discovering the territory in Monte Cengio - Tresche Conca of the 24th March 2024.

Moana 60 has been organizing also events at schools. One of these is the "Great Oak Meets the Sea" event organized in Thiene on the 4th of April, 2024, discussing future projects to raise awareness on the importance of environmental protection and social welfare.



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