

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Laboratory of Adapted Physical Activity/Developmental & Physical Disabilities of the SPESS/ NKUA, by Noriaki Kano Laboratories and CAFÉ of UEFA**

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on 13 November 2020 between the Laboratory of Adapted Physical Activity/Developmental & Physical Disabilities of the School of Physical Education & Sport Science/NKUA, the Noriaki Kano Laboratories, and the CAFÉ CSR partner of UEFA (Access Center on European Football).

The aim of this cooperation is to develop joint actions and initiatives on accessibility and inclusive experience in stadiums and sports events for people with disabilities.

The Cooperation Agreement includes a wide range of actions and cooperation in areas of common interest and fields of intervention, such as:

- Sport
- Education
- Exploiting research and research infrastructure
- Formulation of policy and institutional proposals on the support of people with disabilities.

This action expands further—and is in collaboration with—the development and establishment of the "ACCESo" (access official) institution, which is the Greek Laboratory's proposal at the United Nations/UN awards SDG action campaign 2020.

In this context, the Laboratory of Adapted Physical Activity/Developmental & Physical Disabilities shall administer for Greece the project titled **"Football and Spectators with Disabilities: Accessibility and Experiential Participation"**.

The project officially starts on 03-12-2020, symbolically on **World Disability Day**. It will address disabled spectators and fans, as well those without disabilities, escorts, friends, and people involved with individuals with disabilities or are engaged with the sport events of a team.

Disabled spectators, sport companions of people with disabilities, stadium visitors and sport events increasingly represent the wider European community. Additionally, the number of people with disabilities, who would like to watch live sport events and competitions with their families and friends are increasing significantly. Establishing standards for accessible participation and experience in sport events will improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, enabling them to experience a more independent and satisfactory sporting experience.

The objectives of this research will be:

1. to explore the level of accessibility in football stadiums in Greece
2. to investigate whether disabled spectators watch live football matches and
3. to understand existing issues, which may prevent people with disabilities from attending these games.

In light of the above, the Laboratory aims to create and establish in **UEFA's CAFÉ** the "Greek model of accessibility approach and experience in "match days football". **The results of the joint actions** will be communicated by the **Laboratory** and the **CAFÉ** Center in the context of the annual planned good practice actions (e.g. **CAFÉ week action 2021**). They will also be officially posted on the websites and social media of both institutions.

The project is coordinated by the Laboratory Director and Scientific Officer **Professor Dimitra Koutsouki** (Leader) in collaboration with **Michail Lolidis**, project partner (Noriaki Kano Laboratories/[mlolidis@phed.uoa.gr](mailto:mlolidis@phed.uoa.gr))/[mlolidis@nklabs.gr](mailto:mlolidis@nklabs.gr)). For further information contact the project coordinator Professor D. Koutsouki: tel. +30210-7276023/6021 /[dkoutsou@phed.uoa.gr](mailto:dkoutsou@phed.uoa.gr).

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- <http://www.apalab.phed.uoa.gr>
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