



Deliverable 5.1 Report of the Event



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Executive Summary

The Par-OLYMPIA Event, held from September 27 to October 04, 2023, at the O.A.K.A. Athens Olympic Stadium in Athens, Greece, was a resounding success in promoting inclusivity and diversity through parasports. This executive summary provides a concise overview of the event's key highlights and outcomes.

Event Overview:

- **Purpose:** The event aimed to foster diversity and inclusivity through sports, bringing together *more than* the initially planned 250 participants from 12 European countries, including 100 youths with disabilities.
- **Participants:** Athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, and spectators all played vital roles in making the event a success.
- **Keynote Speakers:** Prominent figures in the field of inclusivity and sports delivered inspiring talks, setting the tone for the event.

Program Highlights:

- **Sports Activities:** A wide range of sporting activities showcased the talents and abilities of youths with and without disabilities, emphasizing the importance of equal opportunities for all.
- **Educational Activities:** Coaches, volunteers, and facilitators had the opportunity to enhance their skills in promoting inclusion through informative workshops.
- **Cultural Performances:** The event featured cultural performances, including a mesmerizing dance performance at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's alternative stage.
- **Youth Engagement:** The participation of more than 100 youths with disabilities highlighted the event's commitment to nurturing the next generation.
- **Educational Outreach & Community Engagement:** The closing festival also provided an excellent opportunity for educational outreach. Involving schools in the closing festival encouraged parents, teachers, and the community at large to actively support and engage in initiatives promoting inclusivity. It fostered a sense of community where everyone can come together to celebrate the achievements and potential of all young individuals.

Outcomes and Impact:

- **Promotion of Inclusion:** The event successfully promoted the values of respect, dignity, value, and a sense of belonging for every individual, regardless of their role.
- **Networking:** Participants forged valuable connections, fostering future collaborations and partnerships in the field of inclusivity and sports.



- **Awareness:** The event raised awareness of the importance of inclusivity and diversity in sports, inspiring ongoing efforts in this direction.

Recommendations:

- Continue organizing similar events to promote inclusivity through sports.
- Expand outreach to involve more countries and regions in future editions.
- Strengthen partnerships with organizations that share the same goals.

In conclusion, the Par-OLYMPIA Event was a remarkable testament to the power of sports in promoting diversity and inclusivity. It united individuals from various backgrounds and abilities, fostering an environment of respect and equality. The event's success serves as an inspiration for future endeavours in creating a more inclusive world through sports.



"In Par-OLYMPIA, we're all about breaking down barriers and showing that everyone can play. It's not about what you can't do; it's about what you can achieve together."- Participant of Par-OLYMPIA Sport Event



Overview of Par-Olympia Project

Par-Olympia is a recreational and informative Sport Event to realize a diverse and inclusive society through Sports. During the Event youths with disabilities from all over Europe had the opportunity to come together with peers from Europe and enjoy, learn, and connect under the Olympic spirit in Olympic premises, develop and practice physical, behavioural and mental skills by challenging themselves and each other in physical activities, movement, games and sport and learn to live in a multicultural world, accepting and respecting diversity and practice peaceful personal behaviour. The event hosted more than 250 participants (100 Youths with Disabilities) from 12 European countries. (Out of the total participants, 135 young people came from countries outside of Greece.)

Parallel to that, agents (coaches, volunteers & facilitators) had the opportunity through workshops & satellite activities to improve their skills toward inclusion. Inclusion in and through sport by providing every person full respect, dignity, value and belonging in any roles they may play - athlete, coach, official, administrator, or spectator.

The duration was 7 days.

The general objective of Par-Olympia Sport Event is to educate, engage & inspire young people with disabilities to participate in sports, learn new life skills and adopt the Olympic Values with the aim of facilitating their social inclusion (Social inclusion through sport) in a post-Covid era.

The Par-Olympia Sport Event aims to achieve its general objective by:

- Examining the complex relationship between modern sport (including elite disability sports and Paralympic games as well as physical education and grassroots sports), disability and other aspects of wider society.
- Promoting social inclusion through increased sports opportunities
- Returning to sport and physical activity in a post-Covid world through informed, ethical, inclusive activities.
- Sending out kind reminders of the importance of a sustainable and resilient approach for sports and disabilities.

The Event enables youths and young athletes with disabilities to meet, train and compete together and also to make it possible for coaches, volunteers and other agents to meet and increase their knowledge about para sports. Participating organizations will thereafter establish a network to strengthen, support and develop para sports in Europe in a non-commercial event model. Moreover, the project supports European values such as respect, equality, human rights and opens up the non-disabled persons to the situation of people with disabilities.



To highlight the above objectives, the area of the Olympic Stadium premisses have been selected for the sport event, aiming at a direct link with the Olympic spirit and Olympic and Paralympic Values and History.

1. Deliverable description

The "Report on Par-OLYMPIA Event" is a comprehensive document that summarizes the key aspects and outcomes of the Par-OLYMPIA Event, which took place from September 27 to October 04, 2023, at the O.A.K.A. Athens Olympic Stadium and Sports Complex in Athens, Greece. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the event, highlighting its purpose, goals, participant demographics, program highlights, educational seminars, cultural performances, youth engagement, and impact on promoting inclusivity through sports.

The report encompasses various sections, including an executive summary, event overview, program highlights, outcomes and impact assessment, and recommendations for future initiatives. It aims to provide stakeholders, organizers, and interested parties with a clear understanding of the event's success in fostering diversity, inclusivity, and respect through sports. Additionally, the report may include supporting materials such as photographs, testimonials, and data analysis to provide a holistic view of the Par-OLYMPIA Event.

2. Event Overview

The Par-OLYMPIA Event, held from September 27 to October 04, 2023, at the iconic O.A.K.A. Athens Olympic Stadium and Sports Complex in Athens, Greece, was a remarkable celebration of diversity, inclusion, and the transformative power of sports.

	
Par-OLYMPIA	
	Sept. 27 – Oct. 4 2023
	OAKA, Olympic Athletic Center of Athens, Greece



This section provides a detailed overview of the event's purpose, participants, and key elements.

Purpose:

The fundamental purpose of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was to promote diversity and inclusivity through sports. It aimed to create a platform where youths of all abilities and backgrounds could come together to engage in sports, foster mutual respect, and cultivate a sense of belonging. This event sought to break down barriers and stereotypes, emphasizing the value of every participant, whether athlete, coach, official, administrator, student or spectator.

Participants:

The event drew a diverse and enthusiastic group of participants, including:

- *Youths:* Participants from various European countries, athletes and non athletes, spanning a wide range of sports disciplines, showcasing their skills and determination.
- *Coaches:* Experienced professionals dedicated to nurturing and guiding athletes towards their best performances.
- *Officials:* Ensured the fair and smooth conduct of event activities, contributing to the event's integrity.
- *Administrators:* Behind-the-scenes individuals responsible for logistical and organizational aspects of the event.
- *Volunteers:* Selfless individuals who offered their time and support to make the event a success.
- *Elementary and High School Students and Teachers/ Spectators:* Enthusiastic attendees who added to the event's vibrant atmosphere.

Keynote Speakers:

Distinguished keynote Paralympians from the world of sports, inclusion, and diversity addressed the participants, sharing their insights and inspiring everyone with their words. Their presence played a pivotal role in setting the tone for the event and reinforcing its core values.

Furthermore, two notable government officials graced the stage with their presence. These distinguished guests were the Deputy Minister of Sports, Yannis Vroutsis, and the State Secretary of Sports, Giorgos Mavrotas. Their participation added a significant and official dimension to the event, highlighting the government's support and commitment to sports and, in this case, parasports.



The Event Overview section sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the Par-OLYMPIA Event, providing context and understanding of its objectives and the diverse community it brought together.

The programme of the Event is shown below:

Figure 1: Programme of Par-OLYMPIA Sport Event



Par-OLYMPIA 2023

7-DAY CELEBRATION

27 / 9	WELCOME SESSIONS UPON ARRIVAL DESIGNED TO PROVIDE TEAM LEADERS WITH ESSENTIAL INFORMATION, RESOURCES, AND INSPIRATION TO LEAD THEIR TEAMS EFFECTIVELY THROUGHOUT OUR UPCOMING PROJECT OR EVENT.	
28 / 9	GUIDED TOUR IN OAKA & SPORT ACTIVITIES 09:00 - 13:00	INSPIRATION COCKTAIL MEET AND GREET PAROLYMPIANS 17:00-20:00
29 / 9	SPORT PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES 09:00 - 13:00	GUIDED TOUR IN OLYMPIC GAMES MUSEUM 17:00-20:00
30 / 9	SPORT PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES 09:00 - 13:00	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME 17:00-20:00
1 / 10	CULTURAL PROGRAMME ATHENS TOUR / EXCURSION (ACROPOLIS, ACROPOLIS MUSEUM, PANATHENAIC STADIUM 1ST MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES)	
2 / 10	SPORT PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES 09:00 - 13:00	PERFORMANCES ATTENDING 17:00-20:00
3 / 10	PARASPORTS FESTIVAL - BRING IN MORE PARASPORT FANS - CLOSING PARTY 10:00-18:00	
4 / 10	DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS	

Photographs of the Event can be found in the Chapter 6 (Par-OLYMPIA Highlights)

2.1 Day 1

Day of Arrival

The first day of the Par-OLYMPIA Festival marked the commencement of a week-long celebration of diversity, inclusivity, and the transformative power of sports. On this significant day (27th September), 11 delegations from 11 European countries arrived, setting the stage for what promised to be an inspiring and unifying event.

Delegations Arrival:

- Delegations from across Europe touched down at the Athens International Airport, radiating anticipation and excitement for the upcoming festivities.
- The welcoming committee, comprised of event organizers, volunteers, and local dignitaries, extended warm greetings and ensured a smooth transition from travel to event accommodations.
- Every participant in the Par-OLYMPIA Event was greeted with a warm welcome, including a specially curated backpack filled with event merchandise. Inside, they found two t-shirts, one stylish polo shirt, a durable raincoat for unpredictable weather, a soft microfiber towel for convenience, a cap, a swimming cap, goggles, an accreditation card and a trusty water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the days ahead. These tokens of appreciation not only served as practical essentials but also as keepsakes, symbolizing their participation in this memorable celebration of diversity, inclusivity, and the power of sports.

Figure 2: Par-OLYMPIA Event Branded Giveaways





Unity in Diversity:

- The diversity of the delegations was evident not only in their nationalities but also in their abilities, backgrounds, and experiences. This diversity was celebrated as a strength, highlighting the event's core values of inclusion and respect.
- Participants quickly bonded, fostering a sense of camaraderie that would define the days to come.

Anticipation for the Days Ahead:

- As the sun set on the first day of the Par-OLYMPIA Festival, a palpable sense of excitement and purpose filled the air. Delegates eagerly looked forward to the upcoming sports activities, educational seminars, cultural performances, and the opportunity to make a lasting impact in the world of inclusivity through sports.

The first day was not only about arrivals but also about setting the foundation for a memorable and impactful event. The diversity of the participants and the shared commitment to the event's mission were evident from the very start, foreshadowing the profound experiences and achievements that would unfold over the course of the Par-OLYMPIA Festival.



2.2 Day 2

Opening of the Sport Activities and Athlete Meet&Greet Cocktail

Introduction: The second day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event witnessed the much-anticipated opening of the sports activities, along with the Athlete Meet & Greet Cocktail. As the event's momentum continued to build, the atmosphere was electric, and participants and supporters alike were filled with excitement.

Sport Activities Commencement: The day began with Sport Activities held at the Olympic Sports Complex of Athens (OAKA).

Various sports activities kicked off, showcasing a wide array of athletic talent. The featured sports included:

1. Wheelchair Basketball
2. Wheelchair Rugby
3. Swimming
4. Goalball
5. Wheelchair Fencing
6. Boccia
7. Para Table Tennis
8. Para badminton
9. Sitting volleyball
10. Wheelchair tennis
11. Para Dance

To add a unique twist to the event, all athletes were divided into 11 teams, each named after one of 11 gods of Olympus, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition and camaraderie. Coaches played a pivotal role in introducing the athletes to their respective sports, assessing their physical fitness levels, and ensuring they matched the sports so that they best suited their abilities, fostering a sense of inclusiveness and fair competition throughout the event.

Athlete Meet & Greet Cocktail: In the evening, the Athlete Meet & Greet Cocktail took place at one of the two hotels where the delegations were hosted. This event provided an opportunity for athletes, participants, and VIP guests to interact in a more relaxed and social setting. Highlights of the evening included:

- **Associate Partners Introductions:** Each associate partner was introduced individually, and their team's achievements and aspirations were shared with the audience. The associate partners of the Par-OLYMPIA Event took the stage to introduce their



respective teams and express their commitment to promoting inclusivity and athleticism. This allowed attendees to connect on a personal level with the participants.

- **Networking Opportunities:** Seven esteemed Paralympians graced the event, offering a unique opportunity for Par-OLYMPIA participants to connect on a personal level and share in their inspirational journeys. These remarkable athletes shared their stories of triumph over adversity, underscoring the resilience, determination, and indomitable spirit that define the world of Paralympic sports.
- **Dinner and Entertainment:** The evening was capped off with a delectable dinner buffet, allowing everyone to unwind and mingle in a relaxed atmosphere, forging new friendships and reinforcing the sense of community that lies at the heart of this remarkable event.

Conclusion: The second day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was a resounding success, with the commencement of sports activities creating an atmosphere of unity, excitement, and inspiration. The Inspirational Cocktail Meet and Greet with Paralympians was a heartwarming and memorable event.



2.3 Day 3

Sport Activities and Visit to the Athens Olympic Museum

The third day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event marked an exciting continuation of the sports activities, with the introduction of additional parasports that had been postponed due to weather conditions on the previous day. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to visit the Athens Olympic Museum, further immersing themselves in the rich history and culture of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sport Activities Resumed: The day began with a sense of anticipation as the 11 sports that had continued from the previous day resumed their activities. In addition to these ongoing activities, the following three parasports were introduced and ran parallel to the other sports that were rescheduled due to adverse weather conditions on the second day. These activities included:

- Para Cycling
- Para Archery
- Para Athletics
- Blind Football

Visit to the Athens Olympic Museum: In the afternoon, the group of Par-OLYMPIA participants had the unique opportunity to visit the Athens Olympic Museum, a tribute to the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The visit provided an enriching experience, allowing attendees to explore the legacy of these sporting events and the values they represent.

- **Exhibits and Artifacts:** The museum housed a stunning collection of memorabilia, including historic torches, medals, opening ceremony costumes and equipment used by athletes in past Games. Interactive exhibits offered insights into the evolution of the Games and their impact on global culture.
- **Educational Session:** Visitors had the chance to participate in educational workshops, where they learned about the history of the Olympics and Paralympics, the importance of inclusivity.
- **Inspiration:** The visit served as a source of inspiration for Par-OLYMPIA participants, reinforcing the enduring values of perseverance, determination, and unity that define both the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

Conclusion: The third day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was marked by the resumption of sporting activities and a visit to the Athens Olympic Museum. Participants immersed themselves in the world of adaptive sports, further fostering a sense of camaraderie and inclusivity. The visit to the museum provided a poignant reminder of the rich heritage of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, reinforcing the event's commitment to celebrating the enduring spirit of athleticism and unity.



2.4 Day 4

Sport Activities and Educational Session

The fourth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event brought a unique blend of sporting action and educational sessions designed to enhance the participants' experience and knowledge. While the sports activities continued with the 15 parasports, a specially crafted educational session allowed participants to gain insights into their own strengths and weaknesses and provided opportunities for team leaders to exchange valuable information.

Sport Activities and Rotations: The heart of the Par-OLYMPIA Event continued to beat with fervour as the 15 parasports, which had been featured throughout the event, carried on. Participants all the days of Sport Activities engaged in a rotational system, ensuring that they had the chance to experience all 15 parasports.

- **Rotational Experience:** This unique approach allowed participants to gain hands-on experience in each parasport, fostering a deeper understanding of the various disciplines and promoting inclusivity and adaptability.
- **Team Building:** The rotational format -deliberately cross national- promoted teamwork as participants collaborated and shared their experiences, strengthening the sense of camaraderie and unity that the event aimed to foster.

Educational Session: In the afternoon, the educational session took a unique turn as it was led by para athletes, many of whom were esteemed Paralympians. This segment of the event proved to be both inspirational and informative.

- **SWOT Analysis with Para Athletes:** Participants engaged in a SWOT analysis, facilitated by para athletes, who shared their own personal journeys, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats they had encountered throughout their careers. This exercise allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of their own abilities and challenges while drawing inspiration from the remarkable achievements of the para athletes.
- **Invaluable Experiences Shared:** The para athletes shared their stories of resilience, determination, and success, offering practical insights and strategies for overcoming obstacles. Their lived experiences provided a unique perspective that resonated deeply with the participants.
- **Empowering Participants:** The session empowered participants with a heightened sense of self-awareness, motivation, and confidence, enabling them to set new goals and pursue excellence within their respective sports.



- **Best Practices Presentation:** Team leaders were presented with a compilation of best practices from various participants and teams. This presentation showcased successful strategies, training methods, and approaches that had proven effective in the world of adaptive sports.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The session also encouraged networking and knowledge sharing among coaches, and team leaders. This exchange of ideas and experiences aimed to create a supportive community that would continue to grow beyond the event.

Conclusion: The fourth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event continued to embody the principles of inclusivity, teamwork, and personal growth. The rotational system ensured that participants experienced all 15 parasports, fostering a well-rounded understanding of adaptive sports. The SWOT analysis, led by para athletes, particularly Paralympians, was a poignant and impactful moment, as their personal stories of triumph and perseverance inspired and motivated participants to reach new heights in their athletic journeys. As the event progressed, the bonds formed and the lessons learned promised to have a lasting and transformative impact on the adaptive sports community.



2.5 Day 5

Athens Cultural Tour

The fifth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event took participants on a captivating journey through the rich cultural heritage of Athens, Greece. The day was dedicated to exploring historical landmarks, gaining insights into the origins of the Olympic Games, and culminating in a delightful dinner buffet with a view of the picturesque Acropolis at sunset. In a generous gesture, the Ministry of culture and the Hellenic Olympic Committee offered free entrance to all the historical sites, including the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum, and the Panathenaiko Stadium to all Par-OLYMPIA participants.

Acropolis & Parthenon: The day commenced with a visit to the iconic Acropolis, the ancient citadel perched high above Athens. Participants visited the architectural marvels of the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, and the Propylaea. Against the backdrop of the Acropolis' timeless beauty, participants reflected on the enduring legacy of ancient Greece and the profound influence it has had on modern sports and culture but also into shaping democracy, philosophy, drama and the Identity of Modern Europe.

Unfortunately, on the fifth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event, the planned visit to the Acropolis was met with an unexpected obstacle. Recent adverse weather conditions had rendered the Acropolis lift out of order. Despite commendable efforts by the Ministry of Culture to rectify the issue promptly, regrettably, it proved impossible to reinstate the lift in time for the scheduled visit. In light of this situation, the event organizers ensured that all participants, including wheelchair users, could still fully appreciate the historical significance of the Acropolis by arranging a tour around the hill. This thoughtful and inclusive approach allowed everyone to experience the awe-inspiring beauty and rich history of this iconic site, reinforcing the event's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity for all participants.

Acropolis Museum: Next on the itinerary was a visit to the Acropolis Museum, where participants explored a vast collection of artifacts and sculptures from the Acropolis site. The museum's exhibits provided valuable context and historical insights into the significance of the Acropolis in shaping the Greek and European identity and Olympic tradition.

Panathenaiko Stadium: The tour continued with a visit at the Panathenaiko Stadium, the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Participants had the opportunity to walk the hallowed grounds where athletes from around the world had competed more than a century ago. The stadium's grandeur and historical significance left an indelible impression on all.



National Museum of Contemporary Art and Dinner Buffet: The day's cultural tour culminated at the National Museum of Contemporary Art, where participants gathered for a memorable dinner buffet. The museum's location provided a breathtaking view of the Acropolis bathed in the warm hues of the setting sun. Against this picturesque backdrop, participants enjoyed a sumptuous dinner, celebrating the unity and diversity of the Par-OLYMPIA Event.

Cultural Exchange: Participants, volunteers and organisers engaged in cultural exchanges, sharing stories and experiences from their respective regions and backgrounds.

Conclusion:

The fifth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was a cultural odyssey that transported participants to the heart of Athens' rich history. The tour of the Acropolis, Acropolis Museum, and Panathenaiko Stadium provided a deeper understanding of the origins of the Olympic Games and their significance in global culture. The evening's dinner buffet at the National Museum of Contemporary Art, overlooking the Acropolis at sunset, was a fitting conclusion to a day of cultural enrichment and camaraderie. It underscored the universal appeal of the Olympic and Paralympic values, which transcend time and boundaries.



2.6 Day 6

Sport Activities and Dancing Performance.

The sixth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was a celebration of both athleticism and culture. Participants engaged in a day of exhilarating sports activities at the Athens Olympic Sports Complex (OAKA), followed by an enchanting dancing performance at the SNFCC (Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center) Alternative Stage of the Athens Opera.

Sport Activities:

The day began with an enthusiastic burst of energy as participants eagerly took to the various sports facilities at the Par-OLYMPIA Sports Complex. The sporting events on this day continued to showcase the incredible dedication, spirit, and inclusivity that characterized the entire event. The featured sports included all 15 parasports showcased the previous days. The innovative rotation model continued, providing participants with the opportunity to engage with all 15 parasports over the course of the day.

- **Inclusive Participation:** The rotation model ensured that every participant, regardless of their abilities or prior experience, had the chance to immerse themselves in a wide range of parasports. This approach emphasized the event's commitment to inclusivity and adaptability.
- **Diverse Sporting Experiences:** Participants continued to explore the diverse world of adaptive sports, discovering their unique strengths and passions within each discipline. It was a day filled with discovery and personal growth.

Parasport Selection Showcase: After completing the rotation and experiencing each parasport, participants were given the exciting opportunity to choose their favourite parasport for a special showcase. This moment allowed participants to showcase their newfound skills and talents in the sport that resonated with them the most.

Celebrating Personal Preferences: The selection showcase celebrated the individual preferences and passions of participants, highlighting that adaptive sports offer a wide range of opportunities for personal fulfilment and achievement.

Dancing Performance at SNFCC:

In the evening, participants and attendees were treated to a captivating dancing performance at the SNFCC Alternative Stage of the Athens Opera. This artistic endeavour showcased the diversity and talent within the world of paradow and served as a testament to the power of



artistic expression and inclusion. The dancing performance was supported by two dance teams from Athens Ippokampos and Dagipoli Dance Company.

Multifaceted Dance: The performance featured a range of dance styles, highlighting the versatility and creativity of the dancers. It was a visual and emotional journey that left a lasting impact.

Inclusivity Through Dance: The performance emphasized the inclusivity of dance, demonstrating that artistic expression knows no boundaries. Dancers of all backgrounds and abilities took the stage, celebrating the beauty of diversity.

Cultural Enrichment: The SNFCC Alternative Stage of the Athens Opera, with its breathtaking architecture and serene surroundings, provided the perfect backdrop for this cultural experience, allowing participants to engage with the arts and appreciate the depth of human expression.

Conclusion:

The sixth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was a harmonious blend of sportsmanship and cultural enrichment. The sports activities continued to exemplify the event's commitment to inclusivity and adaptability, while the dancing performance at the SNFCC Alternative Stage Opera celebrated the boundless beauty of artistic expression. As the event neared its conclusion, participants left with a profound sense of unity and inspiration, embodying the values of the Olympic and Paralympic movements.



The dancing performance that took place on the sixth day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event was broadcast live on YouTube, allowing a global audience to enjoy the captivating display of talent and artistry. The video of the performance is available for viewers to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of dance and inclusivity showcased during the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/TKRiwEuV0qk?si=W1jhpnbNYYshYeRt> .



2.7 Day 7

The 7th, and last, day of the Par-OLYMPIA Festival concluded on a heartwarming note, marking the end of a spectacular event with a sense of togetherness. After a day filled with exceptional para-sport showcases and the presence of esteemed guests, the festival wrapped up with a memorable closing party dedicated to participants, coaches, organizers, and volunteers. Notably, the festival was streamed live, reaching a wider audience, and attracted several distinguished representatives from the sports and political spheres.

The Par-OLYMPIA Festival featured a total of 17 dedicated stations or fields, each offering a unique platform for showcasing various para-sports, as well as a space for inspirational dialogues with para-athletes. These stations exemplified the spirit of inclusivity and determination. Here is an overview of each station and the para-sports presented:

1. **Para Archery Range:** A specialized area where para-archers displayed their precision and focus in a challenging sport that transcends physical limitations.
2. **Para Athletics Track:** A track and field arena where para-athletes described the disciplines and demonstrated their agility in various athletic disciplines.
3. **Para Badminton Court:** The court where para-badminton players showcased the spirit of this fast-paced racquet sport.
4. **Blind Football Pitch:** A specially designed pitch where blind football was showcased and where participants were relying on sound and touch to navigate the field.
5. **Boccia Arena:** A designated arena for the strategic and precision sport of boccia, where participants aimed to place their balls closest to the target ball.
6. **Para Cycling Track:** A cycling track where para-cyclists displayed the adaptive bicycles.
7. **Goalball Court:** The arena for the intense and suspenseful sport of goalball, listening for the bell within the ball.
8. **Para Judo Mat:** A space where para-judokas showcased their technique, balance, and resilience in the martial art of judo.
9. **Sitting Volleyball Court:** A volleyball court where athletes together with students demonstrated their agility and teamwork in sitting volleyball, a sport that promotes inclusivity.



10. **Para Table Tennis Area:** A designated area for para-table tennis matches, highlighting the rapid-paced and skillful nature of the sport.
11. **Wheelchair Basketball Court:** The central stage for wheelchair basketball, a sport that emphasizes teamwork, precision, and strategy.
12. **Wheelchair Fencing Arena:** An arena where wheelchair fencers demonstrated their finesse, speed, and tactical prowess in the sport of fencing.
13. **Wheelchair Rugby Field:** A field where participants engaged in the high-intensity sport of wheelchair rugby, showcasing power, speed, and strategy.
14. **Wheelchair Tennis Court:** A dedicated space for wheelchair tennis, illustrating that mobility challenges do not hinder excellence in sports.
15. **Blind Chess Area:** A specialized area for blind chess enthusiasts to engage in a cerebral and strategic board game, emphasizing the power of the mind.
16. **Para Dance Stage:** A stage where everyone displayed their creativity and talent, proving that the joy of dance knows no bounds.
17. **Inspirational Dialogues Pavilion & Para Sport Photo Exhibition:** A station where para-athletes engaged in inspiring discussions, sharing their journeys, challenges, and triumphs, motivating and educating the audience on the possibilities in the world of para-sports.

These 17 stations collectively exemplified the diversity, resilience, and inclusivity of para-sports, creating a vibrant and inspirational atmosphere at the Par-OLYMPIA Festival.

Live Streaming and Wider Audience

The decision to live-stream the Par-OLYMPIA Festival allowed more schools and individuals to witness the incredible displays of athleticism and sportsmanship. As the online viewership numbers climbed, it became evident that the festival's message of inclusivity and determination was resonating with people well beyond the stadium.

Distinguished Guests

A significant highlight of the day was the presence of several notable figures from the world of sports and politics, underlining the festival's importance. Among the dignitaries in attendance were:



1. **Minister of Sports:** The honourable Minister of Sports graced the event with their presence, emphasizing the government's commitment to supporting para-sports.
2. **General Secretary of Sports:** The General Secretary of Sports extended his support and encouragement to the participants, reinforcing the importance of inclusivity in sports.
3. **Representatives of the Ministry of Education:** Officials from the Ministry of Education demonstrated the significance of integrating para-sports into the educational system, fostering awareness and acceptance among the youth.
4. **Ambassadors of Participant Countries:** Ambassadors from France, Spain, Portugal, Serbia, and Poland showed solidarity with the athletes from their respective nations, highlighting the international appeal of the festival.
5. **French Institute of Athens:** The French Institute of Athens played a crucial role in promoting cultural exchange and partnership, reaffirming the shared values of inclusivity and unity.

The festival was set against the picturesque backdrop of the Agora of the OAKA Sport complex, where the historic arches served as a reminder of the rich tradition of sports. Over 1,000 people, including students, athletes, coaches, and spectators, gathered beneath these arches, not only to watch but to actively participate, making the festival a dynamic and unforgettable experience.

Closing Party Celebration

The closing party was a fitting way to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and spirit of everyone involved in making the Par-OLYMPIA Festival a grand success. Participants, coaches, organizers, and the volunteers, who played a pivotal role in ensuring the event ran smoothly, gathered in a festive atmosphere.

The afternoon was filled with music, dance, and a sumptuous spread of food, creating an ambiance of camaraderie and joy. It was an opportunity for everyone to unwind, share their experiences, and forge new friendships. Athletes had the chance to relax and relish their achievements, coaches were recognized for their unwavering support, organizers received appreciation for their meticulous planning, and volunteers were thanked for their selfless contributions.

The closing party not only served as a platform for celebrating the event's success but also as a way to strengthen the sense of community among all those involved. It provided an opportunity



for participants to inspire each other further, and for coaches, organizers, and volunteers to reflect on the positive impact they had collectively made.

As the festivities continued, it was evident that the Par-OLYMPIA Festival was not just a sporting event; it was a celebration of human spirit, determination, and unity. The closing party symbolized the bonds formed, the friendships created, and the common purpose shared by all who took part in this remarkable journey.

In conclusion, the Par-OLYMPIA closing Festival was a memorable and joyous culmination of an extraordinary event. It brought together all those who had contributed to its success, reminding everyone that the spirit of inclusivity and celebration transcends sports and is a testament to the power of unity. This festival will continue to serve as an inspiration and a model for embracing diversity and fostering a sense of belonging within the community.



The Par-OLYMPIA festival, held on the seventh day of the Par-OLYMPIA Event, was streamed live on YouTube. This means that schools and students from around Greece got to join in, celebrating the spirit of parasports and raising awareness.

https://www.youtube.com/live/dT07_wlRFCA?si=ejq5b9tasuW5vzPm



2.8 Par-OLYMPIA School Competition

In the spirit of the Par-OLYMPIA festival, Hellenic Paralympic Committee runs the Par-OLYMPIA School Competition, an ongoing knowledge and artistic challenge designed to engage schools across Greece in the realm of para-sports as an innovative educational endeavour.

Objective: The primary objective of the Par-OLYMPIA School Competition is to promote awareness and understanding of para-sports among students in Greece. Through a combination of a 20-question online questionnaire and artistic submissions, the competition aims to foster inclusivity, empathy, and support for para-athletes.

Participation: Participation in the competition is open to schools from all regions of Greece. This inclusivity ensures that students from diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to explore the world of para-sports. Schools of varying sizes, locations, and resources have enthusiastically embraced the challenge.

Online Questionnaire: The competition's core component is an online questionnaire consisting of 20 thought-provoking questions related to para-sports. The questionnaire covers a wide range of topics, from the remarkable achievements of para-athletes to the underlying ethos of inclusivity in sports.



This online availability of the questionnaire is intended to enhance the competition's accessibility and ease of participation for all involved. Participants in the competition, can access the questionnaire by visiting the following

URL: <https://www.opinionstage.com/page/8425b336-ba78-44ff-b73a-3e6bdc431f9a>

Artistic Expression: In a unique twist, the Par-OLYMPIA School Competition encourages students to participate not only through answering questions but also by submitting a piece of art. Participants can create videos, drawings, collages, or other forms of artistic expression that celebrate para-sports and the spirit of inclusivity. This creative aspect has further enriched the competition by allowing students to express their understanding of para-sports through the lens of art.



A notable feature of the Par-OLYMPIA School Competition is its ongoing nature, allowing schools to participate at their convenience. This flexibility has encouraged steady involvement from schools throughout the next months, enabling them to craft thoughtful and creative submissions.

Recognition and Prizes: In the spirit of acknowledging the dedication and enthusiasm of participants, the competition offers exciting prizes for top performers in both the questionnaire and artistic categories. Additionally, schools that excel in the competition receive recognition for their commitment to inclusivity and their support for para-sports. The prizes will be announced after 3rd of November when the deadline of schools' submissions expires.

Impact: The Par-OLYMPIA School Competition has already had a notable impact on participating schools. Students have reported increased awareness of para-sports and a greater sense of inclusivity. Educators have recognized the competition's potential as an educational tool to foster empathy and understanding, both through knowledge and artistic expression.

Conclusion: The Par-OLYMPIA School Competition continues to be an engaging and educational initiative within the Par-OLYMPIA festival. It serves as a platform for schools across Greece to come together, learn, and celebrate the achievements of para-athletes. As the competition remains ongoing, we anticipate even more schools participating and contributing to the cause of inclusivity in para-sports, through both knowledge and art.

The Par-OLYMPIA School Competition is not merely a contest; it is a multifaceted journey through the inspiring world of para-sports, making a meaningful impact on students and schools alike.



3. Outcomes

The Par-OLYMPIA Event achieved several key achievements that highlighted its significance and impact:

1. **Inclusivity:** The event successfully promoted inclusivity in sports, emphasizing that individuals of all abilities can participate and excel in athletic endeavors.
2. **Awareness:** It raised awareness about para-sports and the abilities of para-athletes, challenging stereotypes and misconceptions.
3. **Inspiration:** The event served as a source of inspiration, not only for participants but also for spectators (mainly students), motivating them to overcome challenges and pursue their goals.
4. **Educational Impact:** It facilitated educational discussions about the importance of inclusivity and acceptance in society, particularly in schools and educational institutions.
5. **Government Support:** The presence of government officials at the event indicated support for para-sports, potentially leading to policy changes and increased funding.
6. **International Cooperation:** The participations from 12 countries as well as of ambassadors from some of these countries in the Par-OLYMPIA festival underscored the event's global appeal and its capacity to unite nations in the spirit of inclusivity.
7. **Community Building:** The event fostered a sense of community and unity among participants, coaches, organizers, and volunteers.
8. **Legacy for Future Generations:** It left a legacy by motivating young athletes with disabilities to pursue their sporting dreams and encouraging institutions to embrace para-sports.
9. **Positive Media Coverage:** Extensive media coverage helped reshape public perception of individuals with disabilities, highlighting their achievements and potential.
10. **Increased Participation:** The event motivated more individuals with and without disabilities to engage in parasports, contributing to the growth of para-sports at the grassroots level.

These key achievements showcase the transformative impact of the Par-OLYMPIA Event in promoting inclusivity, awareness, and inspiration, while also fostering a supportive community and leaving a positive legacy for future generations.



3.1 KPIs

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Par-OLYMPIA Event include:

1. **Participation Numbers:** The number of para-athletes, schools, and participants in various event activities, highlighting the event's reach and impact.
2. **Spectator Attendance:** The number of spectators and attendees at the event, reflecting community engagement and interest.
3. **Media Coverage:** The extent and quality of media coverage the event receives, measuring its ability to spread awareness and inspire inclusivity.
4. **Sponsorship:** The amount of support secured from supporters and partners, ensuring the event's financial sustainability.
5. **Athlete Performance Metrics:** Evaluating participants performance.
6. **Educational Impact:** Measuring the educational impact on schools and institutions, including curricular integration and changes in perceptions of para-sports.
7. **Government and Policy Engagement:** The extent of government engagement to para-sports as a result of the event.
8. **Community Feedback:** Gathering feedback and sentiments from the community, participants, and spectators to assess the event's effectiveness and its impact on inclusivity.
9. **Legacy Development:** Tracking the will of establishing initiatives inspired by the event, ensuring it leaves a lasting impact.
10. **Volunteer Engagement:** Measuring volunteer participation and satisfaction, ensuring the event's smooth operation and fostering community involvement.
11. **International Partnerships:** The development of international collaborations and diplomatic relationships, indicating the global reach and influence of the event.
12. **Social Media Engagement:** Evaluating the event's social media presence, including the number of followers, likes, shares, and comments, to assess its online impact.

These KPIs help gauge the success and effectiveness of the Par-OLYMPIA Event in promoting inclusivity, inspiring change, and leaving a positive legacy and appear in the following Table.



Indicator	Unit of measurement	Value
Participation Numbers	Number of participants in Sport Activities (including coaches and athletes)	295
Spectator Attendance	Number of visitors in Par-OLYMPIA festival and Par-OLYMPIA Dancing performance	1430
Media Coverage	Number of times the event is mentioned in various media outlets, such as newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, and online news websites	5
Sponsorship	Number of organizations that supported the Event	9
Athlete Performance Metrics	Number of participants in Sport Activities that never participated before	132
Educational Impact	student engagement in para-sports-related activities or classes before and after the event	1500
Educational Outreach	Schools watched the Par-OLYMPIA Festival live on YouTube	100
Government and Policy Engagement	Number of participation of government officials in the event, such as the Minister of Sports, representatives of the Ministry of Education, or other relevant government bodies	8
Community Feedback	% of positive comments on feedback received	82%
Legacy Development	% of positive feedback from associate partners in the event.	92%
Volunteer Engagement	Number of volunteers engaged	43
International Partnerships	Number of international collaborations and diplomatic relationships, indicating the global reach and influence of the event.	6
Social Media Engagement	Growth in the number of followers or subscribers across social media platforms, including Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, LinkedIn	294%



Figure 3: Short infographic of Par-OLYMPIA Event's Outcomes



3.2 Environmental Sustainability

Par-OLYMPIA Event fostered Environmental Sustainability by implementing a waste management system for recycling in all venues. Volunteers encouraged participants and attendees to properly dispose of their waste. Striving to achieve a low-waste event we reduced single-use plastics by offering reusable water bottles options, and encouraging participants to bring them. For the offering event merchandise we chose sustainable and eco-friendly materials where possible. Furthermore, Par-OLYMPIA organisation prioritized local and sustainable sourcing for food and beverage providers. This reduces the carbon footprint associated with transportation and supports local farmers and producers. Finally Par-OLYMPIA organisers ensured a thorough post-event cleanup to leave the venue in its original state or better. This demonstrated respect for the environment and the community.

It is also worth to be mentioned that Reducing the use of flyers and print information in favour of digital alternatives was an environmentally sustainable and cost-effective practice of Par-OLYMPIA Event. By transitioning to digital materials, the Par-OLYMPIA Event benefited the environment, reduced costs, improved accessibility, enhanced its sustainability image, and gained valuable data insights. It was a win-win for both the event and its attendees.

3.3 Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming in the Par-OLYMPIA event was a critical aspect of promoting inclusivity and equality among participants, athletes, and attendees. Here are some ways in which gender mainstreaming was implemented in the event:

1. **Equal Participation:** An equal number of male and female athletes had the opportunity to participate in the sports events.
2. **Representation:** Promoted gender balance in leadership roles, such as coaches, speakers, and event organizers. That ensured that both genders had a voice in decision-making.
3. **Addressing Stereotypes:** Challenged and broke down gender stereotypes and biases, both in sports and society by highlighting the achievements and capabilities of female athletes.
4. **Accessible Facilities:** Ensured that all facilities and venues are accessible for individuals of all genders, including accommodations and restrooms.
5. **Gender-Responsive Programs:** Par-OLYMPIA developed sports programs, training, and activities that cater to the specific needs and preferences of participants of all genders.
6. **Safe Environment:** Created a safe and harassment-free environment, with a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination or gender-based violence.

By integrating gender mainstreaming into the Par-OLYMPIA event, we created a more inclusive and equitable experience for all participants, regardless of their gender. This not only aligns with principles of diversity and inclusivity but also empowers athletes to excel and inspire in an environment that recognizes their full potential.



3.4 Zero tolerance for discrimination

Ensuring zero tolerance for discrimination in the Par-OLYMPIA Event was crucial for fostering an inclusive and respectful environment. Here are some key steps and actions taken to uphold this commitment:

Anti-Discrimination Policy: Par-OLYMPIA developed a clear and comprehensive anti-discrimination policy that explicitly stated the event's commitment to zero tolerance for discrimination based on factors such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

Awareness and Training: Conducted awareness sessions during the pre-Event training programs for all staff, volunteers, and partners to educate them about the importance of diversity and inclusivity and to make them aware of the event's anti-discrimination policy.

Investigation and Response: Par-OLYMPIA Event organisation responded to complaints with a strong commitment to fairness, justice, and accountability.

Diverse Representation: Par-OLYMPIA promoted diversity and inclusion in event leadership, including speakers, coaches, organizers, and decision-makers. A diverse leadership team set a positive example.

Inclusive Facilities: Par-OLYMPIA ensured that all event facilities, accommodations, and venues are accessible and accommodating for individuals with disabilities, and that restrooms are gender-neutral where possible.

Community Engagement: Encouraged participants and attendees to take ownership of creating an inclusive environment and report any discriminatory behaviour they witness.

By consistently enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination, the Par-OLYMPIA Event created a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space for all participants and spectators. This not only aligns with the principles of diversity and equality but also contributes to the overall success and positive impact of the event.

4. Impact Assessment

The Par-OLYMPIA Event is a celebration of para-sports, inclusivity, and human potential, with the goal of inspiring positive change in society. This impact assessment aims to measure the influence and transformation brought about by the event in various aspects, including awareness, participation, educational impact, and policy advocacy.

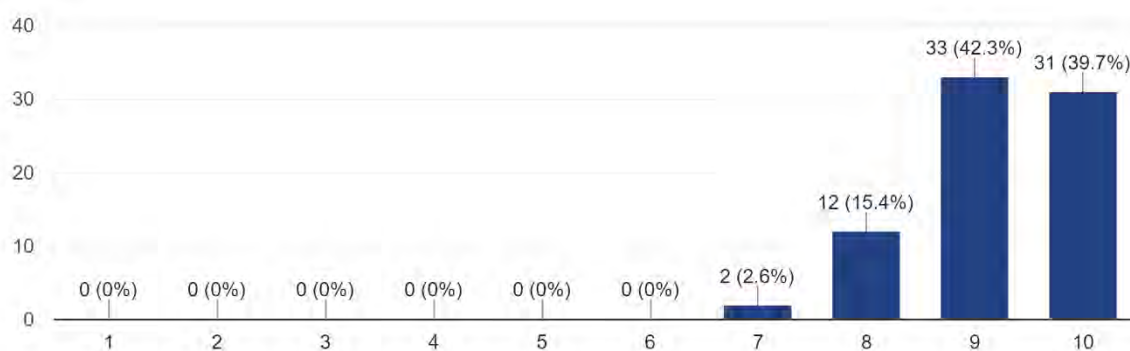
The impact assessment of the Par-OLYMPIA Event is derived from the responses to the post-event evaluation questionnaire of 78 participants. The following analysis reflects the diverse perspectives and experiences of participants, providing insights into the event's influence on awareness, participation, education, policy advocacy, and community initiatives.

Based on the responses to the post-event evaluation questionnaire, the impact assessment of Par-OLYMPIA Event can be summarized as follows:

- The responses to the question, "**On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your overall experience at Par-OLYMPIA?**" with a range of ratings from 7 to 10, make evident that the Par-OLYMPIA Event has left a highly positive impact on the participants. The event's consistently high ratings (7 and above) demonstrate a strong level of engagement and satisfaction among participants. The positive impact is seen in the overall enjoyment and fulfilment they experienced.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your overall experience at Par-OLYMPIA?

78 responses

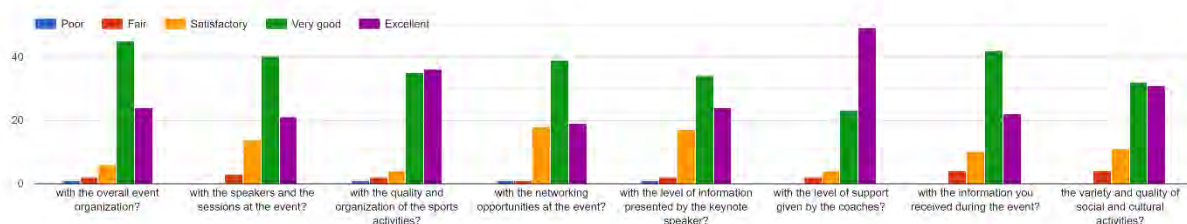


- **Event Organization:** Participants expressed high satisfaction with the overall organization of the event, including event logistics, venue, and registration, with most ratings falling in the "Very good" to "Excellent" range. This reflects the event's successful planning and execution.
- The majority of respondents expressed satisfaction, with many rating the **speakers and sessions** as "Very good" or "Excellent." Some participants rated their experience as "Satisfactory," indicating that there may be room for improvement in certain

aspects of the speakers and sessions. Overall, the feedback suggests that the event provided valuable content and engaging sessions for the attendees.

- The majority of participants expressed high satisfaction with the **quality and organization of the sports activities**, with many ratings falling in the "Very good" to "Excellent" range. This indicates that the sports activities had a highly positive impact on the participants' experience at the event. Only a few respondents rated their experience as lower, with some expressing "Satisfactory" or "Poor" satisfaction, suggesting potential areas for improvement. Overall, the impact assessment suggests that the sports activities were well-organized and positively contributed to the event's success.
- The **networking opportunities** at the event received a variety of responses. While the majority of participants rated their satisfaction as "Very good" or "Excellent," there were also some who found the networking opportunities to be "Satisfactory" or lower. This suggests that while many participants had positive experiences and benefitted from networking, there may be room for improvement to enhance networking opportunities for all attendees. Overall, the event succeeded in facilitating valuable connections and interactions for a significant portion of the participants.
- The **keynote speaker** received positive feedback, with many participants rating the level of information presented as "Excellent" or "Very good."
- Participants expressed high satisfaction with the level of **support provided by coaches**, indicating that the support positively impacted their experience.
- The responses indicate a range of satisfaction levels regarding the **information participants received during the event**. While some found the information to be excellent, others had a more mixed experience.
- the event received mixed reviews in terms of the **information provided**, but the **social and cultural activities** were well-received by the majority of participants. This suggests that there may be room for improvement in terms of information dissemination during the event.

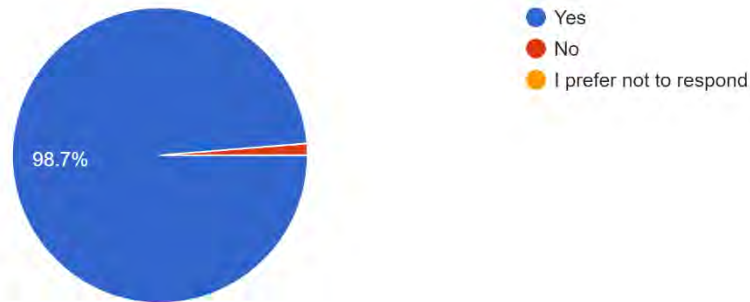
How satisfied were you



- The nearly unanimous "yes" responses to the question of whether **the event logistics (venue, registration, signage, etc.) were well-organized and efficient** suggest a highly positive impact on the overall event experience. This indicates that the event organizers successfully managed these logistical aspects, contributing to a smooth and efficient execution of the Par-OLYMPIA Event. The well-organized logistics likely led to a more seamless and enjoyable experience for participants, which, in turn, positively impacted their overall perception of the event. Efficient logistics can help ensure that attendees can focus on the main activities and objectives of the event, fostering a more positive and productive

atmosphere. This impact assessment reflects the event's success in this specific aspect of its organization.

Were the event logistics (venue, registration, signage, etc.) well-organized and efficient?
78 responses



- The majority of respondents answering "yes" to the question about the **accessibility and accommodation of facilities and venues for athletes with disabilities** is a positive indicator of the Par-OLYMPIA Event's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. It reflects the success of the event in providing an environment where athletes with disabilities could participate comfortably and without significant barriers.

The one response that preferred not to respond may represent a specific perspective or experience, which should be respected. However, the predominant positive feedback underscores the event's achievement in creating an inclusive and accessible environment.

This impact assessment highlights the event's commitment to ensuring that all athletes, regardless of their disabilities, had the opportunity to fully participate in and enjoy the event. It also demonstrates a recognition of the importance of providing accessible facilities and venues in the context of para-sports events.

- The responses to the question regarding **challenges or issues faced** during participation in the sports events provide valuable insights into the event's overall impact and the experiences of participants.

The overwhelming majority of respondents reported minimal to no challenges during their participation. This is a positive indicator of the event's success in providing a well-organized and hassle-free experience for most participants.

Several participants mentioned long and tiring days, which can be expected in an event with an extensive schedule. While these comments suggest that some participants found the event physically demanding, they do not necessarily indicate negative experiences. In fact, such comments could reflect the intense and engaging nature of the Par-OLYMPIA Event.

A few respondents mentioned logistical challenges, such as transportation delays and broken lifts at the Acropolis. These comments highlight specific areas that may require attention and improvement in future events. Logistical challenges can impact the overall experience, and addressing them is crucial to ensure a smooth and enjoyable event for all participants.



In summary, the impact assessment reveals that while the majority of participants had a *positive and relatively trouble-free experience*, there were some logistical and physical challenges faced by a minority of participants. These findings can be used to inform future event planning and improvements to enhance the overall participant experience.

- The overwhelmingly positive responses regarding the **logistics, including transportation, accommodation, and meals**, highlight a well-organized and efficient event. The majority of participants found these aspects to be suitable for their needs, which is a significant achievement for the Par-OLYMPIA Event.

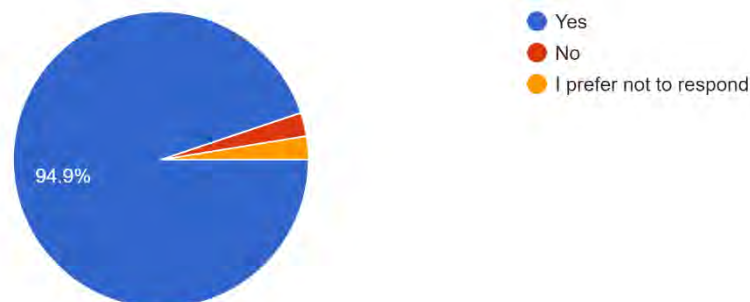
The few respondents who preferred not to respond may have personal reasons for not sharing their experiences, but the overall trend of positive feedback suggests that the event's logistics met the needs and expectations of the majority.

This positive assessment of logistics reflects the event's commitment to ensuring that participants have a comfortable and hassle-free experience. It indicates that the organizers put careful thought and planning into these crucial aspects, resulting in a successful execution of the event.

In summary, the impact assessment of logistics reveals that most participants found transportation, accommodation, and meals to be well-organized and suitable for their needs. This demonstrates the event's dedication to providing a seamless experience for all attendees.

Were the logistics, including transportation, accommodation, and meals, well-organized and suitable for your needs?

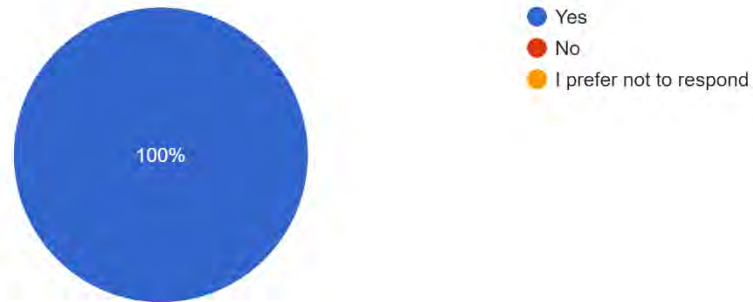
78 responses



- The unanimous "yes" responses regarding support and assistance from event organizers and staff demonstrate the event's commitment to ensuring participants feel well-supported throughout Par-OLYMPIA. This signifies a successful effort to create a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Did you receive adequate support and assistance from event organizers and staff?

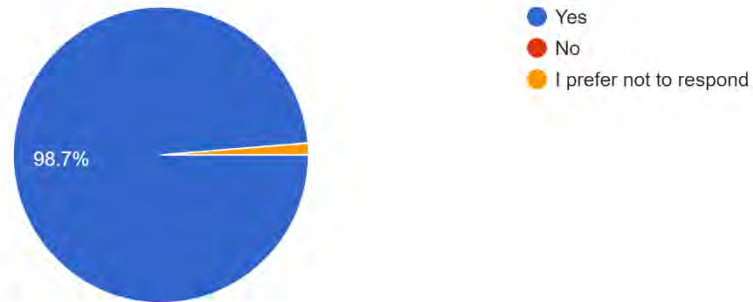
78 responses



- The overwhelmingly positive responses from participants confirm that Par-OLYMPIA successfully upheld its **commitment to inclusivity and accessibility for athletes with disabilities**. This underscores the event's core mission of providing equal opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their physical abilities. The fact that the majority of participants felt included and well-supported highlights the event's dedication to breaking down barriers and ensuring that everyone can fully participate and enjoy the experience. This positive feedback reflects the organizers' efforts in making Par-OLYMPIA an event that champions diversity and equal access for all.

Did you feel that Par-OLYMPIA was an inclusive and accessible event for athletes with disabilities?

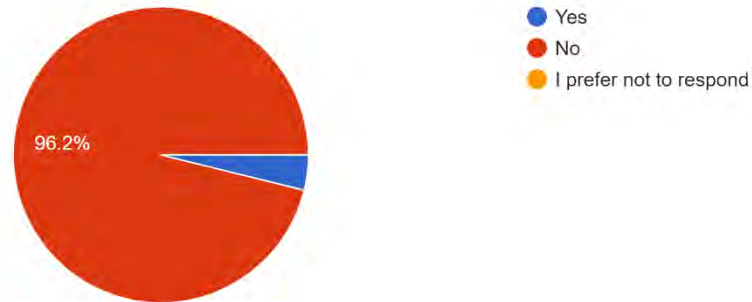
78 responses



- The overwhelming majority of respondents, 76 out of 78, did not report any instances of discrimination or bias. This is a testament to the dedication of the organizers, coaches, volunteers, and all involved in ensuring that Par-OLYMPIA maintains a strong commitment to inclusivity and diversity. It reflects the success of the event in fostering an environment where all participants feel welcomed and respected.
The fact that a couple of participants acknowledged instances of discrimination or bias signals the need for continued vigilance in promoting inclusivity and eradicating discrimination. Addressing these concerns is a priority, and the feedback received from participants will be further analysed.

Were there any instances of discrimination or bias that need addressing?

78 responses



Based on the participants' one-word summaries of their experience at Par-OLYMPIA, it's evident that the event left a profound impact on them.

Figure 4: In one word, how would you sum up your Par-OLYMPIA experience? Par-OLYMPIA participants' responds.



These words collectively reflect the diversity of experiences and the positive impact that Par-OLYMPIA had on participants, reaffirming the importance of such events in fostering personal and collective growth.



5. Recommendations

The following recommendations have been carefully formulated based on the invaluable experience gained from hosting the Par-OLYMPIA Event. They have been informed by a multitude of sources, including feedback from dedicated coaches, the candid responses garnered from the event participants' evaluation questionnaires, and the collective wisdom gained throughout the event's journey. Here's a deeper elaboration of the origin and significance of these recommendations:

1. Experience of the Event: Our recommendations draw extensively from the rich tapestry of experiences woven throughout the Par-OLYMPIA Event. The invaluable lessons learned, the challenges faced, and the remarkable successes achieved have all contributed to the shaping of these recommendations. The event's organisational process and evolution serve as our guiding lights, ensuring that we build upon what we've learned to make each subsequent event even more impactful and inclusive.

2. Feedback from Coaches: The voices of the dedicated coaches who have been instrumental in training participants are of paramount importance. These mentors provide a unique perspective, having witnessed the growth and development of the participants firsthand. Their insights on the event's structure, support systems, and training facilities offer invaluable guidance for improvements that can enhance the experience for both coaches and participants.

3. Participants' Evaluation Questionnaires: The heart of any event lies with its participants, and we've taken careful note of their valuable feedback provided through evaluation questionnaires. These insights provide a candid look into their experiences, offering praise for what worked well and constructive feedback for areas that require attention. We hold these responses in high regard as they guide us in tailoring the event to better meet the needs and aspirations of our participants.

These recommendations have been meticulously shaped to ensure the continued growth and success of the parasport Events. They reflect our commitment to creating an inclusive and transformative experience for all stakeholders and to inspire positive change, both on and off the field. The collective efforts of coaches, participants, and event organizers are harnessed to drive continuous improvement and to ensure that every edition of the event is a celebration of human potential and inclusivity.

- 1. Diversify Para-Sports:** Continue to expand the variety of para-sports showcased at the event. Include emerging and lesser-known sports to provide a comprehensive representation of para-athletics.
- 2. Accessibility:** Ensure that the event venue and facilities are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, including accessible seating, parking, and restrooms. Make accessibility a top priority.
- 3. Inclusive Programming:** Develop a program that encourages participation from individuals of all ages and abilities. Include activities that allow spectators to experience para-sports firsthand.
- 4. Educational Workshops:** Organize educational workshops on disability awareness, para-sports, and inclusive practices in schools. Target educators, students, and parents to create a more inclusive society.



5. **Community Engagement:** Involve the local community in the planning and execution of the event. Collaborate with local sport organisations, schools, and stakeholders to build a sense of ownership and inclusivity.
6. **Ambassador Program:** Establish an ambassador program where para-athletes and individuals with disabilities can act as advocates for para-sports and inclusivity.
7. **Inclusion in Schools:** Work with schools to integrate para-sports into physical education curricula and offer training opportunities for teachers and coaches.
8. **Government Advocacy:** Continue to engage with government officials to advocate for increased support for para-sports at the local, national and european levels.
9. **Feedback Mechanism:** Implement a feedback mechanism for participants, spectators, and volunteers to continuously improve the event based on their input.
10. **Youth Involvement:** Create youth-oriented programs that encourage young people to participate in para-sports and raise awareness of the event.
11. **Digital Engagement:** Enhance the event's digital presence by live streaming, and interactive online content to reach a wider audience.
12. **Sustainable Practices:** Promote sustainability by reducing the event's environmental footprint through recycling, waste reduction, and energy-efficient practices.
13. **International Partnerships:** Strengthen international partnerships and collaborations to expand the event's global reach and inclusivity message.
14. **Long-Term Legacy:** Develop a comprehensive plan for the event's long-term legacy, including ongoing para-sports programs and educational initiatives.
15. **Inclusivity Awards:** Introduce awards that recognize individuals, schools, and organizations for their outstanding contributions to inclusivity and para-sports.
16. **Research and Evaluation:** Conduct research and evaluation studies to measure the event's impact on awareness, perceptions, and policy changes. Share the findings to further advocate for inclusivity.
17. **Safety Measures:** Prioritize safety and medical support for para-athletes, spectators, and volunteers during the event.
18. **Continuous Improvement:** Regularly review and update event policies, procedures, and practices to ensure that inclusivity remains at the forefront.

These recommendations can help the Par-OLYMPIA Event transferability evolve and make an even greater impact in promoting inclusivity, awareness, and participation in para-sports.



6. Par-OLYMPIA Highlights and Impressions

Par-OLYMPIA



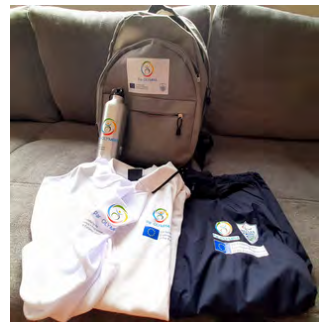
Sport Event Athens Sept. 27 – Oct. 4







The first day of the Par-OLYMPIA Festival marked the commencement of a week-long celebration of diversity, inclusivity, and the transformative power of sports. On this significant day (27th Sept.), 11 delegations from 11 European countries arrived, setting the stage for what promised to be an inspiring and unifying event.



1st DAY

Arrival of European Participants



2nd DAY

Opening of the Sport Activities



2nd DAY

Inspirational Cocktail Meet and Greet with Paralympians





3rd DAY

Sport Activities in Olympic Center of Athens



3rd DAY

A visit to Athens Olympic Museum



3rd

DAY

A visit to Athens Olympic Museum



A visit to the Athens Olympic Museum, a tribute to the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The visit provided an enriching experience, allowing attendees to explore the legacy of these sporting events and the values they represent.

4th

DAY

Sport Activities and Rotations



The rotations on the 4th day served as a reminder of the empowerment that sports bring. Participants, regardless of their physical limitations, demonstrated strength, resilience, and the ability to overcome challenges.

4th DAY

Educational Session





5th DAY
Athens Cultural Tour



5th DAY

Athens cultural tour





6th DAY
Sport Activities



6th DAY

Dancing Performance



DANCING
PERFORMANCE

MONDAY 2.10.2023 | 18:30
@ SNFCC

Par- OLYMPIA

dance for all

*Par-OLYMPIA Dance
Performance @Alternative
Stage of Stavros Niarchos
Foundation Cultural Center.
Supported by dance teams
Dagipoli Dance Co &
Hippocampus.*



7th DAY

Par-OLYMPIA Festival





7th DAY

Par-OLYMPIA Festival





As the Par-OLYMPIA Event came to a close, it was a time to reflect on the memories created and express gratitude. The event had left a lasting impact on everyone, reminding us of the profound influence of sports on our lives.

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“Organizing the Par-OLYMPIA 7-day event has been a heartfelt journey. Witnessing the profound and positive impact it's had on para-athletes, our local community, and society at large has been an incredibly moving experience. This event has rekindled my belief in the paramount importance of inclusivity and the immense potential that para-sports offer to all.”

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“I have had the privilege of witnessing the Par-OLYMPIA Event's journey from inception to a resounding success. It has been an extraordinary endeavor that has reaffirmed my belief that investing in inclusivity and para-sports is an investment in a brighter, more equitable future for all.

The Par-OLYMPIA Event has illustrated that society as a whole benefits when we embrace diversity and promote inclusivity.

The success of this event is a testament to the dedication of our team, the incredible talents of the participants, and the unwavering support of our partners and the community.

The Par-OLYMPIA Event's success is not just a one-time achievement; it's a foundation upon which we can build a more inclusive and brighter future for generations to come.”

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“It's been a journey that's touched my heart in ways I could have never imagined. The Par-OLYMPIA Event is a testament to the power of human determination and inclusivity. It's a reminder that when we come together with a common purpose, we can break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create a world where every individual, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to shine.

The smiles, tears, and stories that have emerged from this event have rekindled my faith in the potential for positive change in our world. The Par-OLYMPIA Event has illuminated the path to a more inclusive and compassionate society.”

Par-

OLYMPIA:

Where Every

Ability

Shines!



PAR-OLYMPIA



CREATED MEMORIES THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME PAR-OLYMPIA

CREATED SEIROMEM THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME PAR-OLYMPIA CR



This document is the deliverable “D.5.1 Report of the Event” of the Erasmus+ Sport project “PARASPORTS OPEN FOR LEVERAGING YOUTH MOTIVATIONAL, PHYSICAL, AND INCLUSIVE ACTIONS – PAR-OLYMPIA”.

The "Report on Par-OLYMPIA Event" is a comprehensive document that summarizes the key aspects and outcomes of the Par-OLYMPIA Event, which took place from September 27 to October 04, 2023, at the O.A.K.A. Athens Olympic Stadium in Athens,

Greece. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the event, highlighting its purpose, goals, participant demographics, program highlights, educational seminars, cultural performances, youth engagement, and impact on promoting inclusivity through sports.



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