

SPORT EVENTS

WITH THE DUCTH SPORTS ACADEMY ROC-
NIJMEGEN FOR THE YOUNGSTERS OF PRESPA

ACTION RESULTS



7-11 JUNE 2024

7/6/2024

The sports' games in the indoor stadium of Patoulidio for primary school children did not take place as there was no participation. The reason was probably that after school the children wasn't simple to deviate from their itinerary and schedule. The thought was that in similar circumstances the Municipality's bus service would be used to transfer the kids for the convenience of parents.

In the end, the Academy students practiced with the junior basketball team along with the coach, Alex Touzos.

Participation: no participation in the initial action (12 primary school children of the basketball team)



8/6/2024

Children were divided into mixed teams (athletes-children) and played a mini football tournament in 15-minute matches.

Participation: 19 primary school children (total number of primary school children: 49)



9/6/2024

The youngsters were divided into 4 mixed teams and played in a tournament. At the end they played a 20-minute match between Prespa-RocNijmegen

Participation: 9 high school children (total number of high school children: 26) + 8 primary school children who wanted to play on the 2nd day as well





10/6/2024

Activities and games organised by Eco Turismo (local Social Cooperative Enterprise) in collaboration with the RocNijmegen Academy for all children. The athletes gave away sports t-shirts to the children. The activity did not have the expected participation. The reason for the absence of several children and youngsters was the hot weather and probably the fact that too many activities were organised on consecutive dates.

Participation: 14 children of all ages



11/6/2024

The football match at the Patoulidio Athletic Stadium. The football match between the students of the Dutch Academy and the youth of Prespa was played in the presence of the audience and ended 4-2 in favour of the Netherlands. This match inaugurated the outdoor stadium, the renovation of which was only completed in 2023. The match was watched with interest by residents of Prespa and members of the local authorities. From the enthusiasm of the attendees and the participants, it was evident that the local community lacks a football training team.

Participation: 13 young people 15-20 years old who formed a football team especially for the occasion

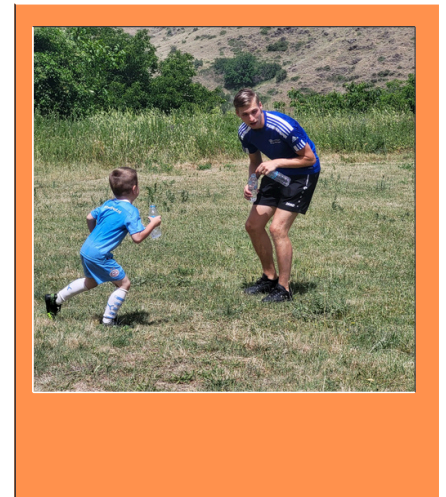
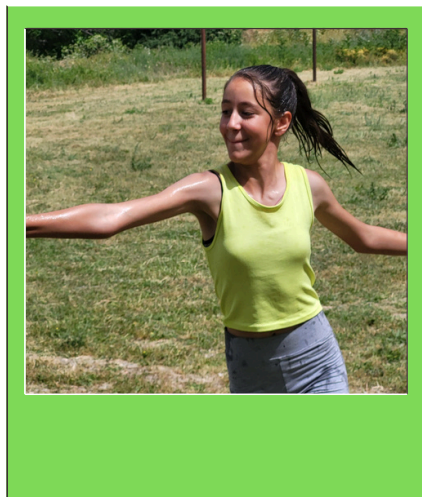


LESSONS LEARNED

The right timing in communicating actions requesting participation in activities and events taking place in Prespa is crucial. If they are communicated to the local community too early, they are forgotten and need reminding. If communication is chosen shortly before the days of the events, it should be done through more than one communication channel (community, SM, viber groups, phone) to ensure that most of the interested population is informed.

Participants had to sign an affidavit for their minor dependents to participate. There was a misunderstanding that if they did not send or give the signed paper before the activities were conducted, the child's participation would not be accepted. The contact phone number in the publications worked to resolve such questions in 2-3 cases. Most children (especially the older ones) brought the affidavit when coming to the activity in which they would be participating.

It is also useful, when organising activities that last more than 2 days, to have a gap day in between to give the organisation and potential visitors a breathe. We feel that consecutive days of events had a negative impact on participation.



Finally, the choice of the morning time of 10.00 - 13.00 for football was not the best, as the days were too hot and it was not possible to complete the programme. On both days of the tournaments the action closed earlier than planned (at 12.00). On the last day 2 games were set up (tug of war & sac race) and then all the children, young and old, preferred to play water fight rather than continue to the next activity.

The football match changed time (instead of 16.00 it was scheduled to start at 18.00) due to high temperatures. The presence of a doctor or nurse is deemed necessary when conducting games as mild injuries occur.



ORGANISATION INFO - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Students of the ROC-Nijmegen Gymnastics Academy (Netherlands) visit foreign countries as part of their internship. It is typical that they work with the school units in each region and participate in the gymnastics classes. Unfortunately this year it was not possible to work with the schools in Prespa for practical reasons.

In order not to waste the visit of the 19 young people to the region, the Parents and Guardians Association of the kindergarten and primary school students of St. Germanos with the full support of the Municipality of Prespa managed to organize and implement a series of activities.

We thank for their assistance: the Society for the Protection of Prespa (SPP) for the commemorative t-shirts given to the Dutch students, Kostas Hatzaras for all his help and support in both sides (Greek-Dutch) and all the parents, members or not of the Association, who attended and were available to help the organizers.

