



**visits4u Case Studies:  
The Dragonfly Installation  
Varna, Bulgaria**

## The 'Dragonfly' Installation

### Varna, Bulgaria



#### **Title: Solar platform allows disabled people to sea in Varna** **Description**

Bulgaria's third city and maritime capital, Varna is the most interesting and cosmopolitan town on the Black Sea coast. A combination of port city, naval base and seaside resort, it's an appealing place to while away a few days, packed with history yet thoroughly modern, with an enormous park to amble round and a lengthy beach to lounge on. Its favorable geographical location, the combination of air, sea, railway junction and road transportation, provides opportunities for intermodal traffic and allows for a significant number of tourism arrivals during the summer season, as well as regular business and cultural trips throughout the year. The city also makes an ideal base for day trips to nearby beach resorts such as Sveti Konstantin, Golden Sands, Albena etc.

#### **Becoming inclusive:**

##### **1. Description**

The unique facility "Dragonfly" is installed on the beach in "Asparuhovo". Bulgaria unique facility will provide access to the sea for people with reduced mobility. The big challenge is the lack of funding for building the platform and the funds of disseminating activities about it. The facility is

type "path" installed on the beach in Varna district "Asparuhovo" area. It would be powered by solar energy platform in which a disabled person sits down and smooth he is transferred to seawater to a depth of about one meter. So people who cannot independently go will be able to perform movements in the water, and some of them even swim. To the facility the visitors have a base camp changing.

The creators of the " Dragonfly " trail are enthusiastic citizens from the Center for Rehabilitation through Hypotherapy, Therapeutic Riding and Zootherapy, led by Plamen Klimov, who have dedicated themselves to work for people with disabilities.

The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Regional Administration of Varna. In order to be able to raise all the necessary funds, the creators of Dragonfly hold a charity auction.



## 2. Main stakeholders / actors

Center for Rehabilitation through Hypotherapy, Therapeutic Riding and Zootherapy- creator of Dragonfly, main responsible for charity auction

Ministry of Youth and Sports - dissemination activities and help for charity auction

Varna Municipality- dissemination activities and help with the organization's entry into service

Regional Administration of Varna- dissemination activities

## Results and Impact

Among domestic home, there is no doubt that the accessible tourism is fundamental to enabling independent living for persons with disabilities. Can a solar platform for people with disabilities make a difference in a big city? The answer is: “yes”, because this new example poses a challenge for everyone to change and to understand the others. The administration of big cities need to recognise reflect the rights of people with disabilities, non profit organizations need to learn to work together. Numerous people with wheelchairs and mobility problems have begun to visit the platform regularly. With it, they fully enjoy seawater, make therapies in the water. All of this is a significant social benefit for citizens and foreign visitors, and the mayor of the city has promised to install at least two more similar ones in the city. Such an initiative also invites the authorities to participate and to be involved. This improvementnt can generate more visits and more income, if it can be patented and offered for sale and distribution in other resorts on the Black Sea coast

## Lessons learnt

- The personal example is a drive to initiate collaborations for better infrastructure
- State support to this type of initiatives is important
- There are possibilities to fundraise through public’s donations and crowdfunding

## Further information

Center for Rehabilitation through Hypotherapy, Therapeutic Riding and Zootherapy

<http://hippotherapyvarna.ngobg.info>

Municipality Varna

[www.varna.bg](http://www.varna.bg)

Regional Administration of Varna

<http://www.vn.government.bg/>

Ministry of Youth and Sports

<http://mpes.government.bg/>



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