TOURISM FOR ALL IN LEBANON

SYLVANA LAKKIS

LEBANESE UNION FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

LEBANON

Parallel Session: Accessible Tourism
LUPD previously LPHU

• LPHU is a human rights, non-sectarian, and non-profit organization founded in 1981.

• Aim to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in society and the shift from the concept of charity/philanthropy to claim rights and inclusion.

• 7 branches and over 1200 associate member.

• Many programs including Inclusive Tourism, protection, socio-economic reintegration/inclusion program in Lebanon and the Arab world.

• A specialized team in the different fields of inclusion, in addition to a group of experts and consultants, business advisors and economists.
Inclusive Tourism Project
Target Destinations
The Overall Objective & Essence

• Enhancing the role of the tourism sector as an important asset for socio-economic development, with a view to adopting a methodology for the integration of persons with disabilities in Lebanon.

• Providing various services and tourist activities without any prior discrimination.
What Changed?

Module of Touristic basket
  - Hotel
  - Restaurant
  - Taxi service
  - Accessible public park
  - Accessible beach toilets/restrooms
  - Job vacancies for people with disabilities
  - Municipality
  - Beach life guards
The Modules lead to:

• A change in the perspective, culture and the mentality of the local society and stakeholders when it comes to inclusion.

• 10 Signatures of Major stakeholders (National Platform) including Ministry of Tourism, Syndicates of Tour guides, municipalities etc., on Beirut Declaration which is a commitment to inclusive tourism and its development.
Accessible beach & Restaurant#19- Tyre Shore
Accessible Menu
Accessible services
Some of our Impacts

• 37 Job opportunities for people with disabilities, 30 internships provided and 18 people with disabilities were already hired.

• The socio-economic impact on enterprises, touristic venues and individuals in each area all over Lebanon.

• The motivation and interest that is reflected by how many venues and enterprises are requesting accessibility assessment from LPHU/LUPD, in addition to providing job opportunities to people with disabilities.

• Changes to people with disabilities lives whether in terms of access to touristic locations or Jobs.
Funds, Challenges & Sustainability

• This project is funded by the EU and managed by the Office of
  Minister of State for Administrative Reform.

• Yet, insufficient funds to adapt and accommodate the selected
  locations.

• The cultural barriers that LPHU team had to break to be able to
  ensure job opportunities for people with disabilities.

• Creating a fully accessible Arabic/ English website for the project in
  Lebanon using local firms. ^ ~

• Sustainability is achieved when stakeholders decide to take initiative
  and commit to improving and continuing this path.

• The dedication of the people with disabilities in their newly acquired
  jobs to prove their potential.
What Next?

• Work on more pilots in many locations to increase the area of accessibility in Lebanon.
• Ensure the commitment of the Platform to the agreement and target more stakeholders to better disseminate the concept of accessibility in all sectors, directly and indirectly related to Tourism.
• Encourage other municipalities, especially those with touristic characteristics to become accessible and inclusive.