

REPORT ACTIVITIES DARTS4BLIND



Our activities regarding the project, have been greatly slowed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed our organization couldn't take part at the first meeting in Turkey, because that country closed the borders to the Italian travelers. In the beginning of 2020 here in Italy any activity was closed owing to the infection and all the sport activities were stopped. In this situation to develop the project's program was very difficult but however, using our several contacts, we got in touch with a considerable number of visual impaired, although in a virtual way, online. We organized some virtual meetings to explain the goals of the project and finally we discovered that we were been able to develop a true curiosity in many men and women regarding the sport of darts. Very useful during this period have been the various spype contacts and transmission between the partners.



So, during the months of 2020 we received by mail replies to the questionnaires from 25 people, 14 male (56%) and 11 (44%) female. The males had an average age of 52,4 while the females of 45.9. Regarding the frequency of sport activity 1 person answered never (4%), 9 persons answered sometimes (36%) and 15 persons answered regularly (60%). At the question “are you an active person?”, quite all answered yes (23 people = 92%) and only 2 answered no (8%). The explication of it is that our organization moves in a sport world where mostly of the contacts develop with sport associations. Our Turkish partner received all the questionnaires by mail.

Furthermore , during the second half of 2020 we used one day of the summer Paralympic Campus of Toscana Paralympic Committee to talk about the sport of darts and we introduced the darts to the only blind persons (4) who attended this Campus.



Finally with the beginning of 2021 , the restrictions regarding all the sport activities were reduced , and we could organized demonstrations of darts for blind people , not only to those 25 who answered our questionnaires , but at all the population of their sport associations , in totally about 50/60 persons. We got a strong interest from an association in Florence where the blind people play baseball , probably because their mentality was already open towards new sports.



On July 2021 we finally could attended the meeting in Lousada , in Portugal , that for us was the first at all. Finally we had so the opportunity to meet live all our partners , that til that moment we've met only online , and to create with them , immediately , a very friendly atmosphere , appreciating the kindness of the host partner. In that occasion we understood better what should be done and we went back home very motivated.



After the summer holidays we got in contact directly with the Italian Darts Federation and through the national president we meet the Delegate of Tuscany , our region. The collaboration with him was very precious and we had a virtual meeting with 3 darts technicians of our region , having the opportunity to explain them this new sport , the darts for blinds. With their collaboration we organized in October a, open day of paralympic sports where we showed many sport activities including the darts for physical and visual disabled people , with the relative differences. In this occasion at least 8 blind people , male and female , also 1 young guy , had the opportunity to play the darts.



Then in November was our time to organize the international meeting in Florence with all the partners. We worked very well and we examined all the aspects of the project including all the critical issues finding for any issues the best solution. During the meeting the Turkish darts teacher showed us many tutorial to share everybody all the aspects of this sport. Obviously we shared all this tutorial in our web site. At the end of meeting the Delegate of Tuscany of the Dart Federation came into the hotel to talk for a long time with the Turkish darts teacher having satisfactory replies to his many questions. We hope that all the partners appreciated our efforts to offer a pleasant meeting.



On march we participated to another sport event organized with Italian Paralympic Committee of Tuscany where 15 people tested the sport of darts. It was the winter Paralympic Campus where there were both physical (10) and visual disabled (5) and all of them appreciated very much this sport. The last day of Campus then , we organized a real competitions between all the athletes attending the Campus and was a very amusing day , where also the able bodies , put in the same conditions of the disabled , attended to the challenge.



At the end of march we attended the Hungarian international meeting in Budapest where all the partners gave birth to an event very interesting to confront the different ideas and point of view on some issues debating also about the technique of darts. Also in this meeting the host organization was very gentle and proper.



All the activities we have done have been posted on our web site to disseminate within our followers the darts for blinds. Furthermore we gave many interviews in local televisions where , speaking about our activity as sport cooperative we gave great prominence to the project Erasmus Sport in which we are partner. And the same in local magazines and newspapers.



Finally, in June 2022 in Croatia in Rijeka, where we concluded in the best possible way our work to promote darts in favor of the disabled population.



The Project is finished and all of us partners of the participating nations, Turkey, Italy, Portugal and Hungary, greeted each other with a hint of nostalgia for a job done, during a difficult period, but with self-denial and enthusiasm and, we hope, with useful results for the company.

