

H.-G. Heiden, JoB Office,
Berlin, FRG

Encounter nature: The seashore for everybody. Equal access to facilities, events and information

The German "Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit Behinderung Wittmund e.V." has started the pilot project "Encounter nature: the seashore for everybody". This project will last one year and will deal with equal opportunities in tourism for disabled citizens and is mainly funded by the EU-Commission. Cooperation partners are "Onderling Sterk" (Netherlands) and "Danish Women with Disabilities" (Denmark). Focus is the situation for disabled people in the Wadden Sea area.

Three steps will be undertaken in this project. The first is a workshop to explore the present situation in the participating countries, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark which will take place in Esens/Germany (7. - 9. 5.99). A mixed excursion group (people in wheelchairs, blind, deaf and, so-called, mentally retarded persons) is exploring the actual situation in selected environmental protection areas in the three countries.

Based on the findings of the workshop and the excursion, a guideline will be developed which makes concrete suggestions on how to make changes, which allow the use for all citizens. For example

- boardwalks and accessible toilets for wheelchair-users,
- subtitled videos with additional translation in sign-language for deaf and hearing impaired people,
- microports for hearing impaired visitors,
- speeches and guides with easy sentences for people with learning disabilities,
- audio-cassettes and touchable material for blind people.

This guideline will be provided to administrations of environmental protection areas, tourists facilities and organizations of disabled persons.

More Information

JoB-Medienbüro, Krantorweg 1,
D - 13503 Berlin
Phone: +49 (0) 30/43 17 716 or 43 64 441
Fax: +49 (0) 30/4364442,
HGH-Si@t-online.de