

Disabled Access Friendly Campaign



Lion's Voice and PEOPLECERT S.A. fully support the Disabled Access Friendly Campaign, which was started a few months ago by our colleague and friend Paul Shaw in Thessaloniki. Find out what this campaign is all about and how you can help!

Philosophy of the campaign

The best Foreign Language Centres already extend the work they do in language teaching to raise pupils' awareness of the society in which they live and try and make it a better place. This awareness of the world in which we live and the belief that through their own actions students have the ability to make improvements, is at the heart of education. The disabled are currently disabled more by infrastructure, other people and their attitudes than by their own physical situation. Only by showing children that persons with disabilities do not have to be an invisible minority, but vibrant and valued members of society, can we expect future generations to want changes. Only by providing children with the information necessary to allow them to put themselves in other people's shoes, to understand others and to feel what others feel can we expect those changes to be made. Only then can the future become a more enlightened one.

Scope of the campaign

This campaign targets privately owned Foreign Language Centres in Greece, where the vast majority of Greek children attend in order to learn foreign languages, usually English. The campaign is aimed primarily at children with difficulties in walking and in wheelchairs.

Aims of the campaign

The campaign aims to provide teachers of English as a foreign language (not just of English), with material that can be used in teaching and skills building as well as examination practice, but that will at the same time raise awareness about issues affecting the physically disabled. Also, language centre owners will be encouraged to make small changes to their premises so that disabled students (and teachers) will be able to enter and leave their premises with dignity and ease, and participate in the centre's activities. These efforts will contribute to forging stronger bonds between the Foreign Language Centre and the community.

How is this done?

The campaign's website is addressed to both able and disabled-bodied persons as one community. It provides Foreign Language Centre owners with useful information on the needs of physically disabled students, provides teachers with material and worksheets for use in the classroom, and provides all of us with a forum to share our experiences either as, or with, the disabled.