

ACCESS-ACCESSIBILITY

Papakontantinou Doxa, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational and Social Policy, University of Macedonia

Welcoming remarks as the President on the "Accessibility" debate

Doxa Papakonstantinou:

Good evening.

Welcome to the 4th International Festival of Art and Disability.

I am very excited and proud to be with you today at the International Festival that was born out of the vision, knowledge, creativity and soul of the Professor of the Department of Educational and Social Policy of the University of Macedonia Lefkothea Kartasidou. During these four years, the Festival came under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic, which indicates the value of its contribution: we, you, people with disabilities, the families of people with disabilities, teachers, students, our volunteers, and a multitude of people with or without disabilities.

The participation throughout these years was cordial, vital and moving. Its size reveals the need we all feel for social change towards the elimination of discrimination. Every instance of discrimination is a step back and concerns us all. The essential equality of all members of a society is a social need and is now a social imperative for all of us. Let us realize that an unequal society is a hostile and inhospitable environment for all of us. Art is the most powerful and direct way to break down stereotypes and prejudices but also to open our minds and hearts. The festival for art and disability is now an institution, a celebration, a struggle. A field of action and expression, a vision, a hug.

Mrs. Kartasidou, thank you, we thank you for this creation. We thank you and we also thank all those who actively participate and make a significant contribution every year to its realization.