

ACCESS-ACCESSIBILITY

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Good evening to all.

To be honest I have not prepared a speech on the films but I would like to congratulate you on the organization of the Festival and to emphasize how important it is to be able to bring all these people to the same environment of expression and give them the same space in which to express themselves and to participate in the artistic, as well as other kinds of events taking place in this country. What I am particularly impressed by is that so much effort has been made to coordinate so many different things and for that, I have to congratulate Lefkothea. I thank her for the invitation and for trusting me with the creation of a universally accessible film and I hope this was a good example to start a conversation that would include access on many different levels. On the one hand, we watch movies that give space to all people equally, and on the other hand we get to appreciate how important it is for people to have access to art, if they are going to be inspired by it. When discussing whether disability is represented in art, we must bear in mind that the disabled population, especially people with limited sensory means, have as a rule been excluded from art. Thus, this is a good opportunity to think about the harmonious coexistence but also the equal access to content, in order to achieve this coexistence, whether for educational purposes or not.

In relation to the films that I watched yesterday and today - today, only in part because I had a problem with the power supply - I want to congratulate all the participants and I believe that we have a lot to see in the future. I am here to discuss anything related to my responsibilities for accessibility services and the design of universally accessible environments. I would be happy if I could give an impetus to the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities on an equal footing in the future, regardless of environment, regardless of background, so they could be equal on all levels. It will be very useful - and we discussed it with Lefkothea recently - it would be very useful if all the planning took their own opinion into account, so if I were to add something, I would like this idea to trigger further discussion.

Doxa Papakonstantinou:

Thank you very much Mr. Patiniotaki for your contribution, I will come back to you. Indeed, what is required and at stake is an equal society on all levels. Art is both the goal and the means to achieve this.