

Agitos Foundation Youth Workshop in Spain



Aim: To train participants to develop and implement Paralympic youth winter sports programmes in their countries, with the ultimate goal of increasing participation in the Paralympic Winter Games.

Participants: Five young athletes with different disabilities from Italy and Spain and seven coordinators from Azerbaijan, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey

Dates and Location: 19-24 March 2012 in La Cerdanya, Spain

Funding Partners: Charity and Sport, EU's Youth in Action Programme

Partners: Play & Train, Freewhite

Outcomes

- Participants were given the leadership tools and knowledge about equipment so they offer skiing for people with a disability in their own countries.

- Participants developed partnerships with NPCs and networked with each other
- Young athletes are further attached to the Paralympic Movement, learned and experienced the four Paralympic Values, improved in their sport and gained leadership skills

What they said

“There's a great disparity between the number of athletes at summer and winter Paralympics. We want participation to increase in winter sports and see a great opportunity in the Balkan and Caucasus regions where they have great snow and are often already involved in summer Paralympic Sports.”

**Sylvana Mestre, Chairperson of Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee
and Founder Play and Train**

“I am working with people with a disability in Azerbaijan and we have no experience in winter sports. This was a great opportunity for me and my nation to know about this. I will share the experience I've learnt here with NPC Azerbaijan and other organizations involved in winter sports. It would be great to participate in the Paralympic Games – this is the goal we have to reach with our children with a disability.”

Aytakin Asgarova, Azerbaijan

“Obviously we have a lot more to learn – this is only the start of it. But I think it's a good base to start and to actually show the other people in our country that there is a possibility for everyone to be in sport. The dream is to have athletes at the Paralympics, but I think we have a long way to go before that.”

Marija Matic, Ski Instructor, Serbia