

I feel honoured to address the 22nd Annual Meeting of EACD and I wholeheartedly wish every success in your works.

On behalf of the Greek Ministry of Education I would like to congratulate the organizers as well as all the participants of the Meeting for their tireless efforts to overthrow social stereotypes and overcome prejudices and fear of otherness. In reality this is an effort concerning neither just people with disabilities, nor just disability. This organization succeeds in presenting the issue of disability in its real, socio-political dimensions and shows that diversity is ultimately the only truth that unites us all, because, despite all our human complexity, in our substance we are all the same, we are “otherwise able”.

The Greek Ministry of Education, setting as one of its priorities to ensure that the disabled have an unobstructed access to all educational processes, alongside with equal opportunities for learning and vocational training, has designed and proceeds at the realization of a series of interventions concerning both the educational infrastructures and the curricula. At the same time it supports such initiatives as the International Festival EMOTION PICTURES «Documentary and Disability», which is held in Greece for the past years and has been embraced by thousands of people in our country, as well as abroad. The Festival forcefully presents an alternative aspect of disability and also broadcasts to every direction the messages of humanity, love, peace and responsibility towards culture, society and environment.

The Greek Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religions, materialising its strategies for inducing an awareness to the public about disabled citizens' rights, inclusion and absolute equality and participation for all in all life endeavours is proud to bring under its auspices the 4th International Festival EMOTION PICTURES «Documentary and Disability» that is to be held in Athens this year and is certain that the Festival will once again be a celebration of life and art.

Vassilis Koulaidis
Secretary General