

WP4 Transnational Tournament Cyprus Report

Author:	**Timea Jacenkova**
Responsible Organisation	**Cyprus 3on3**
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Consortium

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3	**Aps Asd Margherita Sport e Vita**	MSV	Italy
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1. Introduction

This report presents an analysis of the FORTHE Transnational Tournament, a key activity which took place in Limassol, Cyprus, between August 30th and September 1st. Following a year of successful collaborative efforts, this tournament brought together participants from four partner countries – Portugal, Poland, Greece, and Italy – alongside the host nation, Cyprus. To gain valuable insights into the event's impact and effectiveness, a comprehensive survey was distributed to all participants. This report examines their personal experiences and levels of satisfaction with the organization of this urban sports event, providing crucial feedback for future initiatives.

To ensure the highest possible impact, the FORTHE transnational tournament was strategically integrated into CYPRUS 3x3, the biggest tournament of the season, which attracts the highest numbers in terms of participating teams, spectators, volunteers, and online engagement.

2. Tournament in Numbers

Overall Tournament Participation: ***15.000*** Spectators

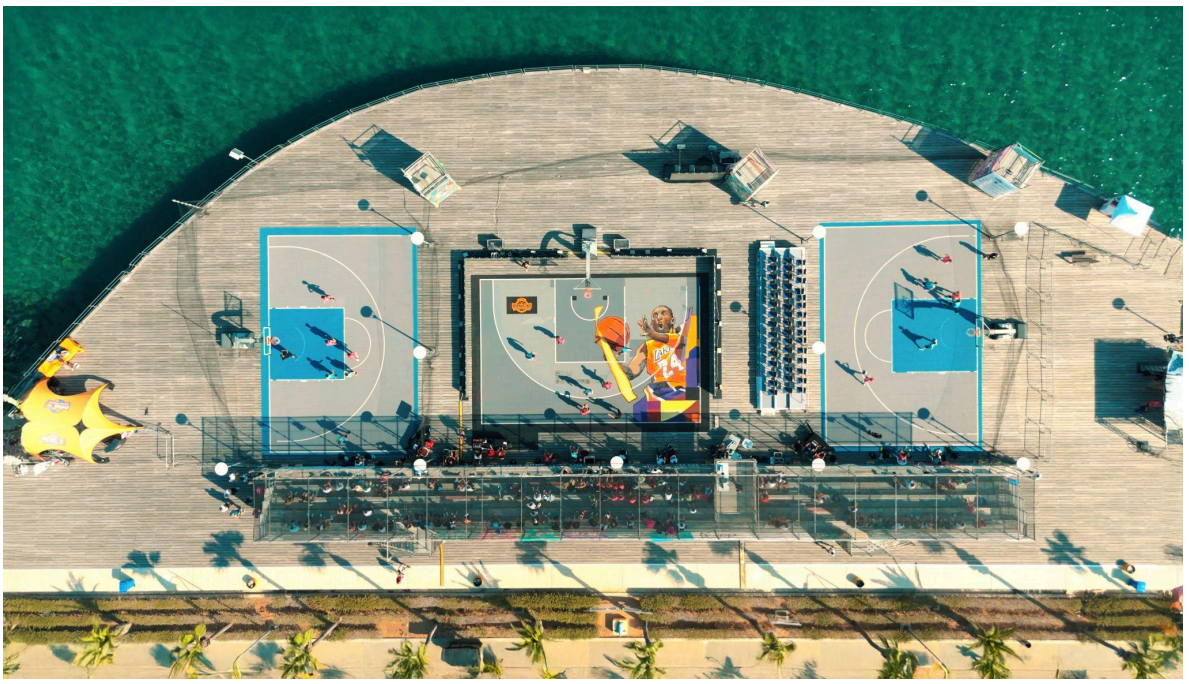
Online Tournament Visibility featuring FORTHE:

- ***45.500*** Instagram Views
- ***7.000*** Facebook Views
- ***1.000*** Livestream Views

Teams: 4 (Cyprus, Portugal, Poland, Italy)

3. Initial Impressions of Venue Accessibility

Upon arrival at the tournament venue, all partners' participants generally expressed positive initial impressions regarding its accessibility. Many highlighted the friendly and accessible environment, with some specifically noting the well-built infrastructure and smooth movement around the area. For participants with disabilities, the venue largely suited their specific needs, with positive feedback on wheelchair accessibility and adjusted facilities, although a suggestion was made for more nearby bathroom options. The city center location further contributed to a welcoming and well-organized atmosphere, though one participant mentioned taxi-related questions and another felt the accessibility could be improved with more disabled parking. Overall, the initial perception was largely favorable, with the venue being described as accessible and the organization as smooth.



4. Tournament Competition: A Comparative Analysis

Participants offered varied perspectives on the tournament's level of competition. Several noted a good or even professional standard, highlighting great team spirit and the presence of skilled players, with one participant finding it comparable to other international tournaments, characterized by intense and challenging matches. However, some felt the level was lower than expected, with one specifically mentioning that only the Polish team demonstrated a high level. Others found it interesting or fun and challenging despite not being exceptionally high, while one participant, for whom it was their first tournament, found it good. Suggestions for future tournaments included expanding the number of participating teams and extending the duration. Despite the fact that some of the teams did not feel a high level of competition during the tournament, our priority as organizers is continuous improvement. 3x3 wheelchair basketball and accessibility in general have significant room for development in Cyprus, which is facilitated for us through projects such as FORTHE, allowing us to enhance the experience each year. Therefore, this year the main focus was on raising awareness of the sport and promoting inclusion through international participation.





5. Tournament Challenges: Accessibility and Logistics

While many participants reported encountering no unexpected challenges related to accessibility or logistics, a few specific issues were raised. One participant noted the suboptimal quality of provided wheelchairs, planning to bring their own in the future. Another highlighted a potential hazard on the court floor due to cracks between the wooden planks. Logistical concerns included a situation with taxis and, more significantly, the lack of a readily accessible bathroom within the tournament venue, requiring the use of a nearby cafe's facilities. Furthermore, one participant experienced accessibility problems with their initial hotel accommodation. In contrast, others praised the well-organized transportation and accessible facilities, contributing to a smooth and stress-free experience. The distance between the hotel and the venue was also mentioned as a problem by one respondent.





6. Moments Where Urban Sports Integration Enhanced the Tournament

Participants highlighted several moments where the integration of urban sports significantly enhanced the tournament experience. The overall organization and implementation were seen as a testament to the value of green urban sports for social inclusion and climate action, fostering a sense of community. The unique location, particularly playing 3x3 basketball by the beach and above the sea, created a unique and vibrant urban sports atmosphere, connecting the event with the local community and generating an inclusive energy. The open, public setting made the competition more visible and engaging, with interactions between players with and without disabilities on the playground being a particularly constructive experience. Even simple interactions, like interested individuals approaching for information about participating in sports, were seen as a positive outcome of this integration. However, one participant did not experience this integration during their time at the tournament, while another felt it most strongly during the finals.









7. Standout Interactions with Volunteers and Staff

Participants provided positive feedback about their interactions with the local volunteers and staff, describing them as very friendly, caring, and helpful. Many highlighted their willingness to assist with any needs, often going above and beyond to ensure the well-being and comfort of everyone involved. Memorable moments included the smooth organization of arrivals and transfers, the constant readiness to help with a smile, and even the opportunity to meet the city mayor, who warmly welcomed the international participants. The positive attitude and professionalism of the local team significantly contributed to the overall great atmosphere of the tournament. Furthermore, the attentiveness shown by locals towards individuals with disabilities was particularly appreciated. The collective feedback underscores the crucial role of the dedicated staff and volunteers in creating a positive and supportive environment for all participants.

8. Impact of Promotion and Communication on Participation Decision

The decision to participate in the tournament was influenced by a combination of factors, with trust in the organizers and the FORTHE partner organizations often playing a significant role. While some participants were directly invited or involved in recruitment efforts, the tournament's promotion and communication were generally well-received. Many found the promotion fantastic and inspiring, with social media videos and engaging dynamics contributing to their interest. The clear and comprehensive information provided about the event, location, and accessibility made the decision to participate easier for some, as well as smooth and timely communication with the organizers. The international and inclusive nature of the tournament was also a key draw, alongside the opportunity to experience the event with teammates and engage with athletes from diverse cultures.

LIVESTREAM

9. Assessing the Atmosphere and Enthusiasm of Spectators

The overall energy and excitement of the crowd during the key events was consistently described as fantastic and vibrant. Participants noted the great public support and enthusiasm throughout the tournament, which served as a significant stimulus for the athletes. The presence of a large number of people, including both locals and tourists,

created a lively and motivating atmosphere, particularly during intense matches. The spectators' genuine interest and cheering, especially at the beachfront venue, added an extra layer of excitement and made the entire experience more memorable and engaging for the players. The strong support and positive energy from the crowd were highlighted as one of the best aspects of the tournament, contributing to a truly dynamic and enjoyable event.





10. Tournament's Impact on Wheelchair Sports Awareness in Cyprus

The tournament appears to have significantly contributed to raising awareness about wheelchair sports in Cyprus on local, national, and transnational levels. By showcasing high-level competition in a public and accessible beachfront location, it exposed a broader audience, including locals and tourists, to the athleticism and competitiveness of wheelchair basketball. The integration of the wheelchair tournament alongside a conventional basketball event was seen as a particularly intelligent strategy for increasing visibility and promoting inclusion. Furthermore, the streaming of matches extended the reach beyond those physically present, effectively demonstrating the importance of wheelchair inclusion in sports to a wider audience. Many participants expressed hope for similar events in the future, recognizing their value in increasing awareness and challenging perceptions.

11. Key Takeaways and Experiences

Many participants highlighted the strong sense of community and the friendships forged with individuals from other European countries as lasting memories. The welcoming atmosphere of Cyprus and the opportunity to share unique cultural moments were also cherished. Specific instances, such as engaging conversations and meals with local players, further enriched the experience and fostered connections. The unique environment of

playing competitive games so close to the sea, surrounded by supportive teammates and an enthusiastic crowd, created an unforgettable and special atmosphere. The overall positive organization and the fair play exhibited by the athletes also contributed to lasting positive impressions.





12. Conclusion

In conclusion, the FORTHE Transnational Tournament in Cyprus, integrated into the larger CYPRUS 3x3 event, was generally well-received by participants. Survey results indicate high levels of satisfaction across several key areas. The tournament excelled in fostering inclusivity, respect, and networking opportunities, as evidenced by consistently high ratings in these categories. Participants also expressed strong satisfaction with the fairness, professionalism, and overall organization of the event. While accessibility at the venue and navigation of the tournament schedule were generally positive, some variability exists, suggesting potential areas for minor improvement. Pre-tournament communication and environmental impact efforts received moderately positive feedback. Notably, the overwhelming majority of respondents would recommend the tournament to other wheelchair athletes, underscoring its success in delivering a positive and impactful experience. These findings prove the value of this transnational tournament and provide a solid foundation for future iterations.