



SPAT FESTIVAL 2019
Get acquainted with Sport and
Physical Activities within
(special) education of Ethiopia



PROJECT JOURNEY
28 APRIL till 6 MAY 2019

Do you join?

10 Years SPAT program

Our SPAT program exists 10 years! Thanks to this project, many thousands of children with disabilities have had the chance to grow up with sport and exercise over the years, something that is not self-evident in many developing countries, including Ethiopia. In Ethiopia people with disabilities are often seen as inferior. SPAT opposes this image and has trained 20 people with disabilities (10 women and 10 men) to become sports teachers who have given sports lessons to children with disabilities. For the teachers, high-quality employment is created, and for the children SPAT teachers are a living example of what you can achieve in life, despite your disability. Through sports, children develop essential skills including working together, communicating, dealing with loss, etc. And at least as important, it contributes to creating self-confidence and a positive self-image.

Why this project journey?

We are going to celebrate the tenth anniversary of SPAT with a unique project trip from 28 April - 6 May 2019. During the trip we will be working intensively for a week with Ethiopian colleagues on the questions: What significance have sports and physical activity classes for children with a physical disability in their schools? What are success factors? And which movement is desired for the future?



Content of the Journey!

What can you expect?

- A program full of visits, workshops, discussions and meetings
- Meeting the founders of the SPAT concept and project
- Meeting the SPAT disabled teachers
- A practical experience at more than 4 different schools in the field of special education
- A festival 'getting acquainted' with different (sports) teachers for special education and adapted physical education and sport
- A nice varied program consisting of a combination of content activities and fun excursions aimed at exploring the city of Addis Ababa and the country of Ethiopia.

What do we expect of you and/or your organisation?

- An active contribution to the knowledge festival in the form of offering an activity or workshop, or propagating it into your network.
- Contributing to the development of the program, for example by participating in our start-up evening in preparation for the project trip
- Spreading the concept of Sport and Physical Activity Trainer (SPAT) programs designed for persons with disabilities within your networks and organisations promoting therewith 'The Nothing About Us, Without Us' in sport and physical activity education

For whom is the Project journey?

Professionals and students in the Netherlands, the European Union, UNESCO or UN members with an interest in:

- Sport and Physical Activity
- Mainstream inclusive education, sport and physical activities
- Special education, sport and physical activities
- Development organisations
- Sport, physical education, pedagogic, and other scientists
- Related (educational) institutions



Cost & organisation

When is this journey?

The project journey is organized from Sunday 28 April to Sunday 5 May 2019. Of course we can tailor this trip to specific requirements and special needs.

What are the costs for this journey?

The costs for this trip are € 1.250, -. This amount includes flight ticket (based on flying out of Amsterdam) accommodation, transport, basic program (content activities and fun excursions) and a few meals.

Who is organising the journey?

The trip is organized by The Ethiopia Xperience, a Dutch / Ethiopian travel organization that specializes in travel to Ethiopia with social significance. Dires for Development is the most important local partner of the travel organization, they have an important role in the implementation of the programs and generate income for their projects. In 2018, the SPAT project will be financed by income from the travel organization.



More information

About the Program

Do you want more information, please contact one of the persons below:

Bas Schutte (Respo International)

Tel: +31 630025104

Mail: b.schutte@windesheim.nl

or **Lydia Zijdel** (Lydia Zijdel Foundation)

Tel.: +31 654933644

Mail: lydia.zijdelfoundation@gmail.com



Register

Registration for the journey can via info@ethiopia-experience.travel
Please state all your details and your organisation (and preferred language).

Video's

You want to know more about SPAT check this video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkVI-ToZQE&t=21s>

Do you want to see more about the ambitions of the SPAT program?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyfgfLSOYe0>

Background

The mission of Dires for Development is to fight poverty and isolation of people with disabilities in Ethiopia. Especially with regard to the prejudices that prevail in society. Dires uses sports to get persons with disabilities on the move for their social, personal and economic development.

Dires is committed to making a positive turn of the prejudices that exist about living with a disability ('it is a punishment from god') and improving the disadvantaged position and rights of people with disabilities in Ethiopia. Dires wants to invest in knowledge development and projects in which people with disabilities can show their talent to society. Sport and physical activities have proven to be a powerful tool in this. Sport is fun, healthy, visible and sports connects people with disabilities to society.

Dires invests in the knowledge level of local supervisors. In the role of activity coach and in the role of learning personal and social skills through the sport and physical activities. In the past 10 years, many sports trainers have been trained in different regions of Ethiopia, using the skills of the SPATrainers.

Unique in the concept of Dires is that people with a disability have themselves been trained as a sports teacher/trainer (SPAT: Sport Activity Trainer). At the moment, 15 sport trainers are working through Dires who give weekly sports lessons to approximately 1,000 children at 16 different schools in and around Addis Abeba. (40% of these children are deaf, 30% have a mental disability, 20% have a physical disability and 10% have a visual disability) The trainers are not only capable of providing empower projects through the sport and physical activities, they also function as role models for these children and their environment and show what possibilities people with disabilities can have.

After ten years of SPAT programs, Dires has made a visible contribution to a change in the heart of Ethiopian society. Ten years ago, people with a disability were treated as restraint. Parents kept their children at home and there was hardly any access to education and work. Together with other organizations, and especially on the basis of the founder of SPAT (Lydia Zijdel Foundation), Dires for Development succeeded in tilting this image in ten years. Ethiopia is still a very poor country and the situation is still very worrying for many people with disabilities, but a reversal has clearly become apparent in the awareness about life with a disability. Dires is proud of this contribution and wants to continue working with this network and capacity for this vulnerable target group.

