



### Listen-Touch-Feel



Zagori, Greece



Mountain area; Predominantly rural, remote regions



**Led by:** Ecomuseum Zagori



Supported by donations, 5.000€

**Nature-based and  
cultural tourism**

**Destination  
development**

### Aim

"Listen-Touch-Feel" is a museum-educational activity of the EcoMuseum Zagori for people with visual disabilities. It focuses on a series of experiential learning activities where participants engage in tactile and auditory exploration to enhance their understanding of the region's cultural and natural heritage. The project specifically explores the historical stone bridges of Zagori. The interpretive tour and the audio walk (echo-walk) focus on three stone bridges outside the village of Kipi (Bridge of Kokkoris, Bridge of Plakidas or Kalogeriko or three-arch, and the Bridge of the Mill). Supplementary museum 3D printed geomorphology of the route and bridges, and material from the sound recording during the hiking tour (i.e., the soundscape) allow a closer inspection by participants.

The programme lasts for three hours and is split into two phases. The first phase was dedicated to the cultural heritage of the region, focusing on the history and architecture of the bridges. While listening to the information conveyed by the museum guides, participants can inspect the 3D printed models before guides lead them in an educational walking tour of the bridges and discussion of the experience.

The second phase focuses on the natural heritage of the area and its biodiversity. Expert scientific staff, volunteers, and Ecomuseum members lead an educational audio walk to record sonic biodiversity. Concentration exercises are conducted to encourage participants to listen more attentively to the natural landscape and develop empathy and understanding of biodiversity encountered on pathways of high environmental interest. This immersive experience allows for in-depth listening to the surroundings and is complemented by a short walk which focusing on the biodiversity of the Zagori area.



### Stakeholders involved

- Fab Lab Ioannina
- Northern Pindos National Park
- Service of Modern Monuments and Technical Works of Epirus
- North Ionian and West Macedonia.



A participant engaging in the 'Listen-Touch-Feel' museum-educational activity, experiencing historical stone bridges through 3D models and soundscapes.

# Story

This initiative began as an effort to make the rich cultural and natural heritage of Zagori accessible to visually impaired individuals. The development of the program required specialised equipment, the creation of accurate 3D models, and the adaptation of health protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key factors contributing to the program's success included the collaboration with expert scientific staff, volunteers, and the Management Body of the North Pindos National Park. The use of innovative tools like 3D models and augmented sound recording equipment played a crucial role in creating an immersive and educational experience.

The program has evolved to prioritize both accessibility and inclusivity, demonstrating that with proper support, people with disabilities can actively engage in cultural and environmental education. It aims to broaden its reach, emphasising equal participation and acceptance of all diversity. The goal is to create an interactive space within the EcoMuseum that fosters dialogue and pluralistic coexistence, enriching communities and offering a more effective learning experience.

## Impacts:

The "Listen-Touch-Feel" program significantly increased accessibility and inclusivity, allowing people with visual disabilities to engage with the cultural and natural heritage of Zagori through tactile models and immersive audio experiences.

Additionally, the initiative has raised awareness about the importance of accessibility in such settings, serving as a model for other institutions and

promoting broader advocacy for disability inclusion. The program also enriched the local community by fostering dialogue and understanding between diverse groups.

Unintended positive impacts include that the development and use of 3D printed models and augmented sound recording could inspire further technological innovations in accessibility tools.

While the program aims for inclusivity, focusing on a specific group might inadvertently exclude others with different needs, such as those with mobility or cognitive impairments. Ensuring the program's long-term sustainability requires continuous funding and technological updates. Overall, the "Listen-Touch-Feel" program has made significant strides in promoting accessibility and inclusivity, though careful management is essential to mitigate any negative effects and ensure its ongoing success and broad inclusivity.

EcoMuseum Zagori continues to offer the program Listen-Touch-Feel as part of its educational programmes.

## CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

Biodiversity



Social justice and inclusion



## INNOVATION

Social, organizational and governance



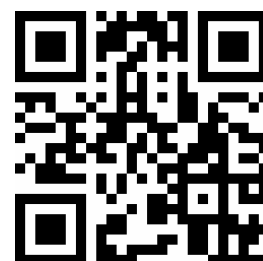
Financial and business models innovation



Digital and technological innovation



Technical innovation



Website: <https://ecomuseumzagori.gr/en/listen-touch-feel/>



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