

A ball for all: the event

D1.2 – Project Output 2

Youth NPE EWE Book



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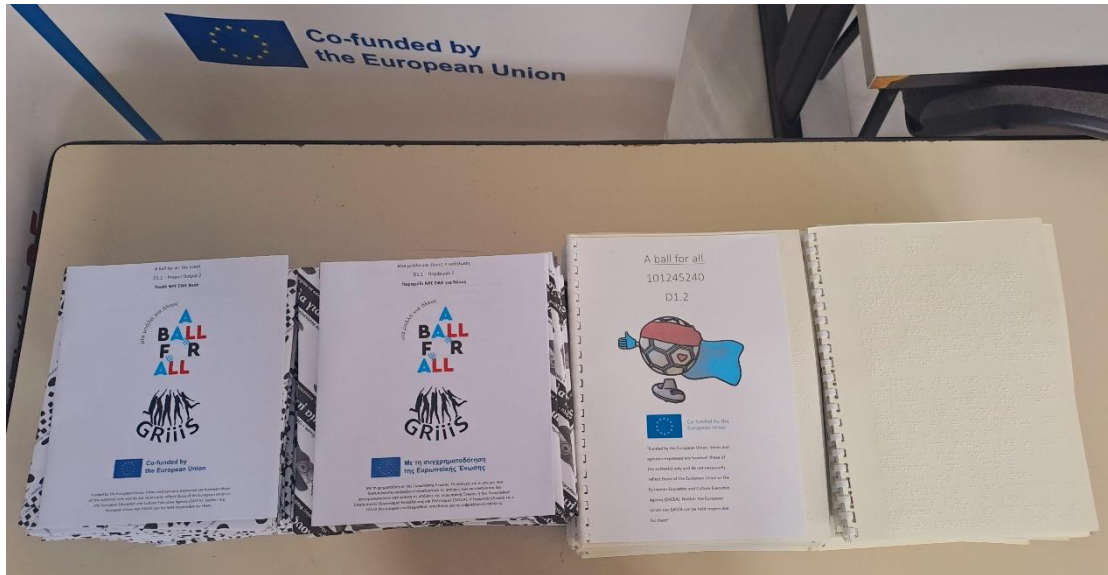
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Youth NPE EWE Book

The Youth Book has been printed and is accessible in a sighted edition, in Braille edition with tactile drawing for blind children, as well as in an Open Education Resource format accessible to all. It is also available in an audio edition.



Link for the Open Education Resource format:

<https://aballforall.moodlecloud.com/mod/resource/view.php?id=334>

Links for the interactive audio edition:

<https://aballforall.moodlecloud.com/mod/h5pactivity/view.php?id=338>

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A Ball for All!



Based on the international campaign
A Ball for All

Text: Barbara Doumanidou,
Elias Mastoras



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The unique football for blind children and its creator, coach Elias, are getting ready to spread joy around the world!

Coach: Okay, Ball, we're ready for our trip! Just a minute, let me get my map out so we can see which European countries we'll be traveling to.

A ball for all: Well: Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, France, Sweden, and a whole bunch of other countries. But we mustn't take too long in Europe because there are lots of other places waiting for us in the most remote areas of the planet. We have to reach the whole world! Coach Elias! Are you ready?

Coach: Wow, we finished Europe so quickly. We distributed the special balls for blind children to all countries! The children were so happy! Their faces were shining! But we are also very happy!

A ball for all: We're very tired, Coach Elias. Shall we sit down and rest for a while? What do you think?

Coach: You're right, Ball. We've worked very hard these past few days and we need a little rest. Let's sit down and relax for a while!

(They sit down. Coach takes plates, spoons and a can of soup out of his suitcase. They eat together with the Ball.)

A ball for all: Coach Elias, I wanted to ask you something. What is our plan? I mean, which countries will we visit in the next few days? Will we also visit those strange countries that Loukas likes to hear the names of?

Coach: Of course! We will travel to many places. It will be a magical journey. We will visit wonderful, fantastic places. Of course, some countries will be depressing and have sad children because there is war or poverty in those countries. But these are the countries where children need us most. Do you understand why our journey is so important?

A ball for all: Yes, Coach Elias. I can already feel the joy we will bring to these children. And it makes me feel very happy too. Is that the feeling of giving?

Coach: Yes, Ball. Exactly what you're feeling right now is what we humans feel when we do the right thing. And I assure you that once you feel it, you'll never forget it. Come on now, let's rest.

(They lie down and look up at the stars.)

A ball for all: Coach Elias?

Coach: Yes, Ball?

A ball for all: Tell me about the countries...

Coach: Hmm... I'll tell you about the Tibetan monks who pray all day long, about the countless children of India, about the poor, starving children of Africa, about the Aborigines of New Zealand and the ancient civilizations of the Maya, about the dirt roads of Argentina and Brazil where children play barefoot and dream of becoming football players, for the South Pole with its scientists and penguins and the North Pole with its polar bears and melting icebergs...

(Ball snores)

Coach: Hey, are you asleep?

A ball for all: mumbles in its sleep

Coach: Let it be. It's been spinning all day! It's very tired today. Let me lie down too.

DARKNESS

(The next day dawns and the scene has changed. Coach has changed clothes and is now dressed like an African. Ball, wide awake, looks at him in wonder.)

A ball for all: Where are we? How did we get here?

Coach: Oh! In the familiar way, my dear Ball. By travelling!

A ball for all: Well, Coach Elias, I am now certain that you had planned this trip long before Loukas and I announced it to you. It is as if you knew in advance which countries we would visit, which children we would meet and the stories we would experience. It's really impressive! How do you do it?

Coach: Magic, my dear Ball! I've told you a million times! Magic is what makes our daily lives a little easier! Magic and good organization! (laughs)

A ball for all: we have visited a lot of countries, Coach Elias, so far! We have distributed balls all over Europe, Africa, India, China, Tibet, Palestine, and Israel. All those smiles from children who are finally enjoying a simple game with a ball make me feel very useful! It's a great feeling to feel useful!

Coach: That's right, my dear! The most beautiful feeling someone can experience is the satisfaction of offering something to someone who needs it. We may not be able to make the whole world better, but we can make a child's world better!

A ball for all: Yes, you're right! That's why I'm so excited about this trip! So, what's the next country we're going to visit?

Coach: Oh! The next place we're going to visit, my dear, is a magical place! We're going to travel to the northernmost point on the planet, called the North Pole! It is a beautiful piece of land made of ice and even though the conditions there are very difficult, the Inuit Eskimo tribe lives there. Polar bears also live in the Arctic Circle!

A ball for all: it sounds like an exciting place! And how will we travel there, Coach Elias? It must be a very long journey!



Coach: Of course, it is! But don't forget the magic, my dear Ball! With the help of the Aurora Borealis, we'll find ourselves in the heart of the Arctic Circle in no time!

A ball for all: What did you say, Coach Elias? (Tries to repeat the phrase)

Coach: Aurora Borealis means Northern Lights, my dear Ball! The Northern Lights are the bombardment of the upper atmospheric layers by electrons from the continuous flow of charged atoms from the Sun, called solar wind!

A ball for all: Amazing! Can you repeat that in Greek, Coach Elias? I didn't understand a word!

Coach: (laughs) Don't worry, Ball. Just remember that the Northern Lights are a play of colors in the night sky! Come on, don't be late! We have to get to the right spot to catch the tail of colors and take us to the right place! But first we have to dress warmly! (They put on thick clothes and start their journey.)

(They arrive in Alaska.)

Coach: We're here! Did you enjoy the trip, Ball?

A ball for all: I'm amazed, Coach Elias! What colors were those? What a bright sky! I've never seen anything like it in my life! The sky was filled with strange phosphorescent colors! White, green, red! I never thought I would have such a magical experience! I am grateful for this trip!

Coach: (looking around) What's going on here? The landscape has changed a lot since I last visited this place. It seems to have shrunk, as if it has packed up and contracted. We have to find out what has happened, Ball!

A ball for all: I see a family coming towards us. They will surely explain what is going on!

(A family arrives with the father, mother and two children.)

Coach: Good morning, my dear friends! What a beautiful, cool day! My friend and I are looking for a place with a good breakfast to recharge our batteries. Can you recommend somewhere with delicious, freshly baked chocolate croissants?

Niniak: Dad, what's a croissant?

Dad: I don't know, son, but it's probably something you can eat!

Niniak: Mom, I want a croissant!

Mom: Have some fish.

Dad: Look, buddy, I don't know what a croissant is, but if you want a hearty breakfast, come with us. We have just the thing to help you withstand the cold! (They sit in the middle of the stage and take salted fish, etc. out of a bag.) Here you go! Eat up and you'll remember me!

Coach: But are we going to eat salted fish at 7 in the morning?

A ball for all: Coach Elias, I don't think you should insult them! (It takes out the pump, smiling.)

Mom: Here, have some seaweed to garnish the salted cod! And try some of this. It's reindeer meat and here I have some bird eggs and...

Coach Elias: Please, don't continue. I'm fine! Everything looks delicious! (tries it and eats heartily)

Dad: What brings you to our neck of the woods, sir? We rarely have visitors in our frozen land and you don't look like a tourist to me.

Coach Elias: You're right, dear sir, we're not here for tourism. We're on an important mission! We need to donate a special ball to a child with a visual impairment! Do you know of any?

Dad: Oh! You are very unlucky, my friend. I don't know any children with visual impairments. Do you, my dear?

Malou: Dad?

Mom: Unfortunately, I don't know any children here in the area. We are, of course, a small community here. Perhaps if you went to an area with more residents, you would have better luck.

Malou: Mom?

Dad: You see, because of climate change and global warming here in the area where we live, the ice is melting very quickly, so the inhabitants are looking for new places to live.

Malou: Dad?

Mom: That's right, huge chunks of ice are melting and disappearing into the sea. The poor polar bears are losing their homes.

A ball for all: Coach Elias, I think little Malou has been trying to tell us something for a while now!

Malou: Mom, Dad, listen to me!

Mom: What is it, my child? What do you want to tell us?

Malou: Well, I know someone with a visual impairment who would be very happy to have a ball like this!

Dad: Do you know a blind child? But how is that possible?

Niniak: Malou, is it the one I think it is?

Mom: Why aren't you telling me? Are you keeping secrets from Mom and Dad? Who is this child?

Malou: But it's not a child!

Coach: If it's not a child, then what is it?

Malou: Well, it's a little polar bear cub that can't see. Even though it fishes like the other bears and plays with them, I think a ball like this would make it very happy!

Mom: But they couldn't give this ball to a polar bear, dear. This ball is meant for small children. It's not right to take it away from a child who needs it. Isn't that so?

Dad: But where is this polar bear? Would you like to show us?

Niniak: Yes, yes, come this way!

(Malou takes them by the hand and leads them to the stage. They all sit down in a row and look ahead.)

A ball for all: Oh, polar bears are so beautiful. So white, like snow. And the poor bears are losing their homes as the ice melts. (looks at Coach)

Coach: Hmm...

A ball for all: Coach Elias? What do you say? You have a big heart. Shall we give a ball to this little bear who needs it?

Coach: Of course, we'll give a ball to the little polar bear. It's important to love and care for animals because they have feelings too. They feel pain, fear, joy and love. Come on, Malou, I'll give you this special ball, and you'll be our little ambassador to the animal kingdom. What do you say?

Malou: Yes!!! The little bear will play for hours with your special ball, sir. I'm so happy!

Dad: Thank you very much, my friend. You are a kind and generous man. Would you like some salted fish for your journey?

Coach: Oh, you are so kind! I wouldn't say no to some more of your delicious salted fish. Take care! Well, Ball! We have to leave immediately! What is the fastest way to travel to the South Pole, my dear friend?

Dad: There are many ways, my friend. But I would suggest you take the most entertaining one!

A ball for all: Coach Elias, shall we choose the most entertaining one?

Coach: And what is that way, my friend?

Dad: You will climb onto a piece of iceberg and it will slide you all the way down to the South Pole. Don't choose a thin piece, though, because it might melt before you get there and you'll have to swim. Choose a thick piece of ice and you're sure to reach your destination safely!

Coach: Wonderful! Sounds exciting!

Niniak: (pulling him by the sleeve) Sir? Can you do me a favor?

Coach: Of course, my dear, anything you want.

Niniak: When you go back, will you tell the people there to take better care of the environment? It's a shame that we and the bears are losing our homes.

Coach: Yes, my dear. Rest assured that I will convey your message and do everything in my power to stop the ice from melting.

Niniak: Thank you very much, sir. May I ask for something else?

Mom: Come on, Niniak, don't bother the sir.

Coach: (leaning toward Niniak) Niniak is my friend and she can ask me for anything she wants. What would you like, Niniak?

Niniak? Well. Could you bring me a chocolate croissant?

Coach: (everyone laughs) Is that all? Of course! I'll send you a whole box, sweetie! After all, without your help, we wouldn't be able to make the little bear happy! Well then! Goodbye! See you again! Let's go, Ball!

(They say goodbye and leave)

(Improvisation on the sliding iceberg)

A ball for all: little Malou, Coach Elias, was very moving. Children have a highly developed... how do you call it?

Coach: empathy, my Ball. Yes, it's as if they are born with it, but as they grow up, they lose it.

A ball for all: What a shame. Such a shame. Our world would be so much better. Where are we going next, Coach Elias? I heard something about the South Pole? Is that a country?

Coach: Oh! The next place we're going to visit isn't a country, but a huge continent that's uninhabited!

A ball for all: But it's a big continent and it's uninhabited? How is that possible? Hmm. Let me guess! Maybe there are wild animals? Does it have huge, scary carnivorous plants? Does it have lots of volcanoes that spew hot molten lava? Does the earth emit poisonous gases that kill anyone who tries to set foot there?

Coach: You watch too much Netflix, my friend. No, this continent has something that prevents it from being a permanent home for humans.

A ball for all: but what could it be?

Coach: Ice, my dear Ball! But not like the North Pole! On this continent, the temperature can reach -93 degrees Celsius! And this continent is Antarctica!

A ball for all: Wow! Are we going to Antarctica, Coach Elias? That's so exciting! But wait a minute! If Antarctica is uninhabited, why are we visiting it? I mean, since there are no people there, there won't be any children with visual impairments, right?

Coach: Oh, my Ball! What did you need to learn on this trip that you haven't learned yet?

A ball for all: Not to rush, not to be impatient and to see things holistically!

They arrive in Antarctica.

A ball for all: we're here, we're here! Wow, Coach Elias! Everything is white! It's so beautiful. Such peace and quiet! A wonderful, silent place! But wait a minute! What are those people I see in the distance! You told me this place was uninhabited!

Coach: I told you it has no permanent residents; I didn't say it has no residents at all! Well, let me get dressed a little warmer too!

A ball for all: I'm confused! How is this possible?

Coach: You'll figure it out in a minute!

(A scientist approaches)

Coach: Excuse me, sir, can you tell me how to get to the Palmer research station?

Scientist: Of course, sir. Climb this hill and you will find the station on the other side. But be careful, because the frozen snow is very dangerous!

Coach: Thank you very much, my dear! We'll be fine! (They start walking and exit the stage. The scientists enter the stage. Coach and the Ball enter.) Do you understand where we are, Ball? We are inside a research station. Scientists and researchers from all over the world come here to conduct their experiments. They stay for a year at most and then return to their countries.

A ball for all: Coach Elias, I am amazed by this place! We are truly in the heart of Antarctica and inside one of the most important research stations in the world! How exciting! But I still can't understand why we are here! There are no children here. And certainly, no blind children.

Coach: It's not just blind children who need you, my dear Ball, others need you too!

Scientist B: Good morning! Can I help you?

Coach: Yes, we'd like to see Mrs. Johnson. Can you take us to her office?

Scientist B: Mrs. Johnson is currently at research area B 612, where she is examining important ice findings from Mars by touch. Follow me.

Scientist B: Mrs. Johnson, a gentleman and, um, a Ball are looking for you!



Johnson (who appears to be blind): Good evening, Mr. Elias! I've been waiting for you!

A ball for all: She was waiting for us? But how is that possible?

Coach: Quiet, Ball, you'll understand in a moment.

Johnson: After your letter, I feel a great sense of relief. I never imagined I could play...

A ball for all: but a scientist wants to play with the ball? I don't understand.

Coach: Don't interrupt, Ball. You'll understand, I said.

Johnson: Excuse me. I got emotional. You know, after the accident, it's getting harder and harder for me. Of course, I don't have any problems at work, technology makes our lives easier and easier, but...

Coach: I completely understand, dear. Here's your ball.

A ball for all: I still don't understand anything.

Coach: Ball, you're very...

Johnson: Leave it, Mr. Elias! I'll explain it to your lovely Ball. You know, three years ago I had an accident that robbed me of my sight. Since then, I haven't been able to see and while my daily life has returned to normal, my only sadness was that I couldn't play with my child. You know, my little girl loves playing with balls. But we couldn't play together. So, when I heard about your unique campaign, I sent a letter to Mr. Elias and...

A ball for all: that's why you need me! It's not just children who want to be able to play with each other, it's also parents who have a visual impairment and want to play with their children! I would never have thought of that.

Johnson: Mr. Elias, I don't have the words to thank you. For the journey you made to get here, for your generous donation, for your big heart. You have made a family very happy! Now my daughter Emily and I will be able to play lots of games together! Thank you!

Coach: Please, I didn't do anything. It's a great joy for us to know that you and little Emily will be playing together like before. ((obviously emotional)) But now we must let you continue your important work.

Johnson: Have a good trip, Mr. Elias! Bye, Ball! See you again soon!



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