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# Equipment Rehabilitation Care

REHACARE 2006: 18.-21. Okt 2006

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## Athletes with a Disability to Swim Across Aegean Sea

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The audacious project is named "Aegeathlon", and is an initiative of the athletes, supported by the Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games ATHENS 2004.

18/09/2003

"Aegeathlon" will take place exactly one year before the Paralympic Games of 2004. The aim of this project is to inform and inspire the public about the Paralympic athletes' potential and achievements.

The distance between Cape Sounion and Milos is 145 km (78 nautical miles). However, depending on weather and sea conditions during the relay, athletes may swim 160 to 170 km (85 – 92 nautical miles).

Intermediate stops of the crossing will be the islands of Kythnos, Serifos, Sifnos and Kimolos, which form an ideal line across the Aegean Sea.

Each day, the athletes will set off early in the morning, and will swim continuously, one after the other, until they reach their next destination. All athletes will use their own physical swimming power. No artificial limbs or swimming aids (such as flippers) are allowed.

Sail boats with experienced crews and escorts, as well as a medical team will follow the athletes during the relay.

Athletes participating in the relay are: Constantinos Fykas (Paralympic gold medalist in Sydney 2000), Marianna Bratsalia, Giannis Chatzibeis, Sakis Kostaris and Nikos Paterakis. All are experienced in open water long distance swimming. George Mathas, the first Greek to officially cross the English Channel (La Manche), and Petros Tsiallas, champion in long distance swimming, will join them.


► [More Information on the Aegeathlon \(mainly in Greek\)](#)

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