

Questions to Nikos Moutsakis

1. Do you organise an event for WDR in your Country to which families bereaved by road crashes & seriously injured victims are invited?

In the last few years with EFTHITA we have organized activities for the World Day of Remembrance (WDR). WDR has now become known to the local community. Unfortunately I wouldn't say that there is a national event held during WDR due to the lack of central coordination within road safety NGOs around Greece. Therefore it is up to the local organizations to pay tribute to this day. However I have to admit that this is a wrong approach at the central level and all NGOs of my country should aim for better communication coordination.

As far as EFTHITA is concerned, every year we carry out actions with street acts or voluntary events in central squares of Rhodes with the participation of both the members of EFTHITA and institutions/organizations that cooperate with us. Every year we try to come together with families bereaved by road crashes or past road victims. Many times they have also participated to the events mentioned above.

2. Do you attend an annual WDR event in your own Country?

As I told before, many Road Safety NGO's are holding events in order to pay tribute to WDR. However there is not a common event that is taking place and this is something we need to change.

3. What supports have been put in place by your NGO for those affected by road crashes?

As a road safety organization, one of our main goals is to support the victims of Road Accidents for their physical and psychological rehabilitation. At every opportunity we try to highlight the need to support victims and in fact many times we have contributed to this end with professional psychologists and fundraising to help victims.

As example of the above I will mention the World Champion and World Record holder of 400m T44 (Category), mr Mihalis Setis. Mr. Setis is a professional amputee blade runner. Before that he was a track n field athlete who had an accident that resulted in losing his leg. Three months after his accident he was back on track. He trained hard and competed in many races with a prosthetic leg, in which he succeeded. EFTHITA stood by him in the first place as they raised a large amount of money to be able to his rehabilitation abroad so that he could continue the sport. Mihalis Seitis is member of EFTHITA.

4. How do you feel FEVR NGO members, working together, can improve the needs of the traumatised victims of road crashes and their families?

People with knowledge and sensitivities, when working together can make a change. The biggest issue I can find is the legislative gap that creates inequalities when it comes to road victims. The position of FEVR in the UN gives the Federation an opportunity to become a big factor when it comes to legislative changes.

An organized Framework of proposals for the change of European legislation and the simultaneous harmonization of the laws of the EU Member States should be one of the points of cooperation between FEVR NGO members. I have a strong belief that FEVR can ordinate its members to have common goals and take common actions so that there is effective and genuine support for road victims and their families as well.

5. Describe the active role you play in your NGO?

I am active member of EFTITA. Apart from the directive responsibilities I have, I participate in every event we have and I represent my organization in international and European conferences and seminars. I also am responsible for the new EFTHITA Youth Sector that we are proceeding.

6. FEVR has never had such a young board member in the past. You write that even being a candidate would be an honour – do you mean that being a delegate of Eftithita at FEVR would be an honor?

Of course. When I wrote the letter of acceptance I did not know whether the delegation would be accepted. So the meaning of what I am writing is that I am honored to be the delegation of EFTHITA for the upcoming FEVR elections.

It is Mrs. Eleni Karydi and EFTHITA who should be credited about me being the youngest candidate Board Member. I consider myself as a "legacy" of Eleni Karydi and EFTHITA. My goal is to continue their work and take it one step further, always in collaboration with Mrs. Eleni and my colleagues, friends and associates at EFTHITA. The fact that I am the youngest candidate is an honor for me but also indicative of Eleni's efforts, who has managed to transmit the values and ideals she stands through EFTHITA to my generation.

7. Please describe the Youth Forum that you wish to organise – what would be its aims?

Within the road safety NGOs, there are scattered youth organizations which are taking actions, holding events and generally aiming at raising public awareness. At the same time, there are organizations, such as EFTHITA, that have or prepare youth departments to target specific age groups and organize independent actions.

The multitude of these Organizations and their aspirations have created the right circumstances. I believe that it is time to form a council under FEVR that will consist of representatives of all these organizations and will be able to work independently. Its goal would be the creation of agendas and proposals to FEVR, which will try to implement them, through the means and relationships at the disposal of FEVR. In essence, it will be an informal advisory body that will give the opportunity to young people to participate and propose solutions to the problems faced by our generation.

8. What is ResCEU Mechanism?

ResCEU is an element of the European Civil Protection Mechanism. It is the pan-European pool of capabilities consisting of instruments purchased with European Union funding. It essentially belongs to the field of civil protection but is also active in other fields. For example it provided the necessary means for the repatriation of thousands of young people during the first pandemic wave in 2020.

9. And what would this collaboration involve and where would it be?

I believe that through this Civil Protection Mechanism we can suggest but also seek to improve the conditions of road networks in our countries and the creation of an immediate response mechanism for road accidents, which are among the main causes of mortality in my country. Civil Protection is linked with road safety so I think that we could find the way to collaborate.

10. Are you a board member of Efthita?

Over the last few years I have been active as a member of EFTHITA and the treasurer of the organization. Also I represent my organization in international and European conferences and seminars and I am responsible for the EFTHITA Youth Sector.