



Outdoor sports and leisure for blind and visually impaired Association Vision Outdoor e.V. (Germany)

1.1. TITLE OF THE CASE STUDY:

Outdoor sports and leisure for blind and visually impaired

Association Vision Outdoor e.V. (Germany)

1.2. ONE LINER ON WHAT THE CASE STUDY IS ABOUT:

The club in Kassel (Germany) provides outdoor sports and leisure options for blind and visually impaired people.

CLASSIFICATION:

PHASES		IDEATION
	X	DESIGN
	x	MARKETING
		AFTER SALES SUPPORT
	X	COLLABORATION & NETWORKING
TYPE OF ORGANISATION		BUSINESS
	X	NGO
		OTHER
TYPE OF SPECIAL NEEDS	X	SENSORIAL DISABILITIES AND/OR BARRIERS
		INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES/barriers
		PHYSICAL DISABILITIES/barriers



		OTHER BARRIERS
TYPE OF SPORTS/LEISURE	X	SUMMER SPORTS/LEISURE
	X	WINTER SPORTS/LEISURE
	X	ALL YEAR AROUND SPORTS/LEISURE
	X	MOUNTAIN
	X	BEACH/WATER-RELATED ACTIVITIES
		OTHER
TYPE OF SERVICE, PRODUCT, ACTIVITY		SPORTS
		ACTIVE LEISURE
	X	BOTH
TYPE OF ACTIVITY		INDIVIDUAL
	X	GROUP
		BOTH

1.3. CASE STUDY DESCRIPTION:

The association Vision Outdoor was founded in 2004 under the name of Frauen Outdoor - Natursportverein für Frauen und Mädchen Kassel e.V. The aim of the association is to promote education in outdoor sports in general and specifically for blind and visually impaired people in outdoor sports and activities in extensive natural and wilderness areas. Fields of activity in outdoor sports are, for example, water



hiking, trekking, wilderness hiking, winter hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoe hiking. The association organizes tours that last several days, as well as courses in which physical, technical and social skills are developed.

In 2008 the association was renamed VisionOutdoor - Natursportverein for blind, visually impaired and sighted people e.V. due to the focus on events for blind/visually impaired people.

A mix of active members and volunteers, who share a passion for nature and outdoor sports activities, are committed to the development of concepts and the planning and implementation of tours, seminars and projects. Travel assistants participate in annual training sessions to further enhance their qualifications and encourage team building. Many of the assistants have an educational background, some come from the sports field. All assistants share a great interest in getting to know blind and visually impaired people and in experiencing cultural and outdoor sports activities together. All assistants work on a voluntary basis.

The association aims:

- To impart so-called key skills (such as communication skills, teamwork, decision-making and presentation skills) through outdoor sports activities and movement in nature or wilderness.
- To build self-confidence by strengthening individual skills within the framework of outdoor sports and environmental education activities.
- To build independent action and orientation skills, especially for blind and visually impaired people as well as for people with restricted mobility.
- To encourage blind and visually impaired people to protect nature through public relations and educational events.
- To promote participation of blind and visually impaired people in outdoor sports and activities such as water hiking, trekking, wilderness hiking, winter hiking, climbing through the development of physical and technical skills.

The association services include:



- Travel tours for blind and partially sighted people and their friends and relatives
- Continuous training in accompanying techniques for hiking tours/outdoor sports activities for sighted nature sports enthusiasts
- Training for volunteer travel assistants

Generally, people don't require any special athletic skills to participate in the tours or other outdoor activities. Basically, taking joy in nature is entirely sufficient. To make sure the chosen trip meets the needs of the participant, all trips are classified according to the level of challenge, type of terrain, extent of cultural activities included, etc.

The activities are accompanied scientifically in order to collect, evaluate and pass on information about the educational aspects of outdoor sports and wilderness activities.

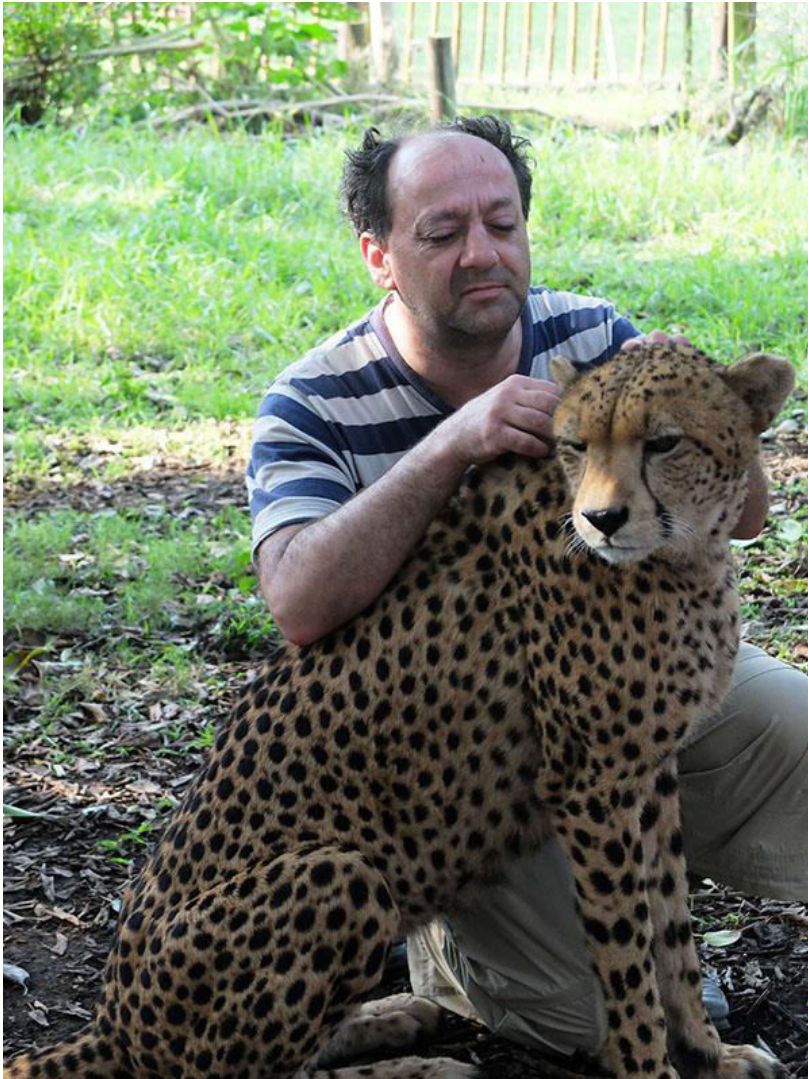
As the result of activities of the association, blind and visually impaired people have a better access to outdoor sports and activities, as well as travel, while volunteers receive adequate training and a framework to offer meaningful and effective support, and share the joy of travel, nature and sports.

1.4. RESOURCES:

- Website: <http://www.visionoutdoor.de>
- Pictures:



<http://www.visionoutdoor.de/rueckblick/fotogalerie/index.php>



<http://www.visionoutdoor.de/rueckblick/fotogalerie/index.php>



<http://www.visionoutdoor.de/rueckblick/fotogalerie/index.php>