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Title: Ilida-Olympia: The Route of Truce – Bridge the ancient with the modern world

INTRODUCTION:

Year 776 BC, the Kings of Ilida, Ifitos, Pisa (city next to Olympia), Kleosthenis and Sparta, Lykourgos, signed the first Olympic Truce agreement.

ILIDA was the city that organized the ancient Olympic Games. OLYMPIA was the holy area with the temples and the stadiums where the Games were taking place.

Before the opening of the Olympic Games, special envois travelled to all Greek colonies, all over the then known world, to proclaim the beginning of the truce; so everyone could travel safely.

To enter the kingdom of ILIDA, everyone participating had to be unarmed; therefore they had to leave their armour and weapons at the borderland. After the final selection of the participant athletes and the completion of their preparation (training together, having the same dietary), all the people (participants, judges, crowd), were heading to Olympia.

METHODS:

The last decades, governments and academics researched historically the Route but they never actually took any action on it. Hence, in 2014, "**Federation of Olympia**" took the initiative to enter a '*Leader*' European program and started the implementation of "**The Route of Truce**" project.

In 2016 the first part of the works was completed, but we still had to communicate it to the world. So, in collaboration with the Supreme Sports Council of Hellenic Armed Forces, we organized the first "Route of Truce" and by the end of the event everybody left with strong positive emotions and looking forward for the next year's events.

Hence, next year we made it an open event to all organizations and individuals.

Year after year the "Route of Truce" got bigger and stronger, while we added extra events with great results.

RESULTS:

Most of the running community of Greece knows ILIDA (and the role that the city had in ancient *Olympics*) and the *Route of Truce*.

We cultivate the emotion of friendship, truce and peace through sports.

We also join different kinds of communities, for example: the art world (with art exhibitions), the sports world (with sports events), tradition (traditional and local festivities) and of course history.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION:

The ancient *Olympics* were not just games; they had a far more sophisticated character adjoined with artistic and cultural events.

After 6 years of events, we are ready to "open" the Route worldwide and invite

important organizations to be part of the *Route of Truce* movement and start working for global Peace, together.

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Με εκτίμηση,

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