

INTERSYC II

INtegrated TERritorial SYnergies for Children health and protection II

**Capitalization Event of all 9a Priority projects funded by
the Programme Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020**

Thessaloniki, 1 October 2020

11:00 – 16:00

‘...from ‘INTERSYC I’ a best practice project to implementation of ‘INTERSYC II’ and the way forward to planning ‘INTERSYC III’...?’

**Organization: ‘The Smile of the Child’ ,
Lead Beneficiary of ‘INTERSYC II’**

Speaker: Ms Sotiria Louka , Project manager



‘...from ‘INTERSYC I’ to implementation of ‘INTERSYC II...’

The ‘INTERSYC II’ project is the continuation of the successful project INTERSYC “Integrated Territorial Synergies for Children Health and Protection”, that was implemented during the period 2013-2015.

It’s worth mentioning that ‘INTERSYC I’ won the **1st place award for the best proposal to perform during the Project Slam of “INTERREG 25 years”** event, that took place in Luxembourg.

The ‘INTERSYC I’ project proved to be **an indispensable tool in addressing the needs of vulnerable children in Greece and Bulgaria.**

Both projects apply to the high need for cross-border cooperation on issues related to children at risk.



INTERSYC II

Project's Partners – Location of activities – Duration - Budget

Partners of INTERSYC II

1. 'The Smile of The Child' – Lead Partner
2. K. KARATHEODORI S.A. Municipal Development Agency of Komotini Municipality
3. Nadja Centre Foundation – Sandaski branch
4. Regional Education Inspectorate - Blagoevgrad

Location of activities:

Municipalities of Komotini, Maronia and Iasmos, Drama

Municipality of Thessaloniki, Municipality of Kavala

District of Blagoevgrad, Razlog , Gotse Deltsev, Belitsa, Sandaski , Simitli, Petrich, Bansko

Duration: 05/09/2017 - 04/09/2021 (48 months)

Budget : 1.223.042,90 €



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Project's scope & objectives

The overall objective of INTERSYC II is the development of means for protection of children in danger and improvement of the level of Health and Social Care services for children. INTERSYC II is an integrated set of activities aiming at improving the quality of life of the children in cross-border areas of implementation through the development of four axes of intervention:

- ✓ **Axis 1: Protection of Children in Danger - Promotion of European Tools**
 - Promotion / training / demonstrative operation of the European Hotline 116000
 - Promotion / training / demonstrative operation of the Amber Alert and European Child Alert Automated System (ECAAS)
- ✓ **Axis 2: Improvement of Health Services for Children**
- ✓ **Axis 3: Improvement of Social Care Services for Children**
 - Preventive Medicine/Pilot Action development in Greece
 - Preventive Medicine/Pilot Action development in Bulgaria
 - Educational Seminars in the field of rescue/ first aid in Greece and Bulgaria in collaboration with the National Center of First Aid
- ✓ **Axis 4: Supportive actions related to the treatment of crisis of COVID-19**



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Deliverables

WP1 Project Management & Coordination

- D1.1** Preparation Activities
- D1.2** Steering committee meetings
- D1.3** Financial and Progress management

WP2 Communication & Dissemination

- D2.1** Promotion Plan
- D2.2** Promotion Material
- D2.3** Application for smart phones, tablets
- D2.4** Promotional Events Conferences
- D2.5** Website and content update

WP3 Procurement of equipment & software

- D3.1** Mobile Medical Units
- D3.2** Office Equipment
- D3.3** Medical Equipment
- D3.4** Consumables

WP4 Actions for health protection of children

- D4.1** Promotion training Demonstrative events
- D4.2** Preventive Medicine Action Greece
- D4.3** Preventive Medicine Action Bulgaria
- D4.4** Educational Seminar Rescue / First aid
- D4.5** Data entry

WP5 Supportive actions related to the treatment of crisis of COVID-19 / Training seminars targeting public officials on missing children

- D5.1** Training seminars addressed to public officials on missing children & operation of European Hotline 116000
- D5.2** Roundtables addressed to Search & Rescue teams
- D5.3** Voluntary Blood Donation Actions
- D5.4** Provision of psychological & social support to children and families, Lecturing sessions addressed to school psychologists & teachers, for management of Covid-19 crisis
- D5.5** A campaign of information, awareness ,education and prevention of Covid-19 using digital technology



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Expected Outputs & Impact

- ✓ **Medical examinations for 6.828 children** (Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Otorhinolaryngology), through Mobile Medical Units.
- ✓ Public demonstrative events & Training seminars addressed to **150 public officials** and **NGOs Staff** in 116000 European Hotline operation, know how transfer and in Amber Alert operation, **missing children** and European Child Alert Automated System (ECAAS) support.
- ✓ Training seminars for totally **460 persons** in both sides of cooperation **in First Aid and the BLS/AED (Basic Life Support/Automated External Defibrillation)**, officially registered and certified by the European Resuscitation Council (ERC).
- ✓ **1 Mobile Medical Intensive Care Unit** (fully equipped), transfer of infants & children.
- ✓ **Upgrade of 2 existing Medical Mobile Units/Ambulances** (first aid stations, transfer of incidents).
- ✓ Purchase of **Medical Equipment i.e. 2 Incubators** compatible with 2 monitors.
- ✓ Online lecturing sessions addressed to **100 school psychologists & teachers** on how to act around Covid-19.
- ✓ Engagement of local communities in Voluntary Blood Donations Actions.
- ✓ **Provision of psychological & social support to children and families affected by the Covid-19** crisis, via the operation European Helpline 116111.
- ✓ Update of the existing Child Care data entry system.



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Expected Outputs & Impact

- ✓ Immediate **help in cases of missing children** through the operation of 116000, the Amber Alert, and the ECAAS.
- ✓ **Reduction of cases of child trafficking.**
- ✓ Creation of **a close cooperation framework** between law enforcement bodies of the two countries. Enrichment of experiences of the cooperating local bodies and NGOs.
- ✓ Accurate **prevention of diseases development in the child population** of the areas of implementation.
- ✓ **Raising awareness** into educational units and local government bodies **on medical and hygiene matters.**
- ✓ **Improvement of the skills** of the staff working with children **in the area of first aid** – dealing with emergency cases.
- ✓ **Strengthening the access of vulnerable, disadvantaged groups in cross border areas to health and social services.**
- ✓ **Empowering the National Health Systems** through the implementation of voluntary blood donation actions ,purchasing of medical equipment, of mobile medical ICU, upgrading of existing ambulances.
- ✓ Responding to an emergency situation **contributing in the prevention of social crisis**, through provision of psychosocial support.



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Expected Outputs & Impact



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Sustainability & Transferability of Outputs

- ✓ The **sustainability of the activities is ensured by the fact that the actions implemented during the project are totally similar with the institutional goals of the participating beneficiaries.** All partners of the consortium are experienced and capable to preserve and multiply project achieved results through innovative and adequate activities of their sector.
- ✓ As an example , taking into consideration the actions of LB :
'The Smile of the Child' responded to the unprecedented conditions and supported more than 44.281 children and their families during the first half of 2020. Due to COVID-19 , there was an increasing demand for provision of health and social protection services vulnerable groups of children and their families; Indicatively , there was observed:
 - 65.9% increase in the number of children and their families being helped by the Support Centers
 - 57.0% increase in calls to the National Hotline for Children SOS 1056, was connected to the Psychosocial Support Hotline 10306, Covid-19.
 - 37.8% increase in the number of children helped by the Pediatric Home Care program.
 - 33.5% increase in calls to the European Hotline for Missing Children 116000.

By the middle of June 2020 , 7.019 health examinations were performed on 5.620 children.



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Obstacles & Problems

- ✓ Legal obstacles incurred , due to that the Greek Ministry of Health issued a temporary circular for establishing a unified process of development and organization of programs, interventions and preventive medical examinations at the level of Primary Health Care in the general or specific population categories for Greece. Consequently, until the completion of the necessary institutional framework and the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Decision, Preventive Medicine Action was postponed for a period.
- ✓ A lot of time consuming processes on Public Procurement according to 4412/2016 (assignment of external expertise & services, purchase of vehicles , purchase of medical equipment etc).
- ✓ Modifications on management system of INTERREG projects due to upgrade of MIS led to short term delays and resubmissions of project's docs.
- ✓ Due to COVID-19 no possibility for meetings in person, slowing down the process in a significant level for dynamic exchange of knowledge.



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Recommendations towards the planning of the 2021-2027 Programming Period

- ✓ Targeted call for proposals for bigger projects , added value of projects.
- ✓ New projects' calls should aim to understand and reduce the medium- and long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of vulnerable people.
- ✓ Promoting cooperation between public authorities and NGOs at local, national and EU level.
- ✓ Simplification of procedures on management & control of INTERREG projects including reduction of bureaucracy.
- ✓ Absorption of available funds.



INTERSYC II

‘ So, let’s all help , united we can make it.’

OUR 10-YEARS OLD FOUNDER, ANDREAS

"We all know and talk about children in the streets that don't smile. They don't smile because they don't have money, no toys, they don't have any food and, some, don't even have parents. So, start thinking and stop talking empty words, let's all unite and give what we can to the poor ones; Albanian children, white and black, they are all just children and deserve to smile. This organisation shall be called "The Smile of the Child".
So, let's all help, united we can make it."

November 1995. The voluntary Organisation "The Smile of the Child" is the vision of the 10-year old Andreas Yannopoulos who, shortly before losing his own battle for life, documented this dream of his, in his journal.





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