

Press Release

Thessaloniki, 22nd of February 2019

«The Smile of the Child» announced the launch the project entitled «Integrated Territorial Synergies for Children Health and Protection II» with the acronym «INTERSYC II»

«The Smile of the Child» presented the launch the project entitled «Integrated Territorial Synergies for Children Health and Protection II» with the acronym «INTERSYC II», at an event held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 in Thessaloniki, in the presence of representatives of the local authorities of the city, as well as of the partners of the project.

INTERSYC II is the continuation of the previous INTERSYC project, is funded by the European Territorial Cooperation Programme "Greece - Bulgaria 2014-2020", 85% by ERDF and 15% by National Funds. Its implementation has begun since 5 September 2017 and will end on 4 September 2019. The main idea of the Project is based on ascertaining the community of the problems faced by the vulnerable group of children on both sides and the capitalization of the project INTERSYC that was implemented with great success during the previous programming period 2007-2013.

The project partners are stakeholders from the public and private sectors that mainly focus on the implementation of activities aiming at improving the quality of life of children. The partners have already developed synergies within the framework of previous projects in order to address different problems that children in Greece and Bulgaria are facing.

The Project partners are «The Smile of the Child » (Lead Partner), the Municipal Development Agency of Komotini Municipality, the Foundation «Centre Nadja» - Sandanski Branch and the Regional Department of Education – Blagoevgrad.

In his speech the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Organization "The Smile of the Child", Mr. Kostas Yannopoulos, referred to the actions carried out by the Organization for children with health problems and stated that: *«INTERSYC II is the continuation of a successful program that started a few years ago with INTERSYC I, which was awarded in Europe. With this program, we have been given the opportunity to extend the actions and to offer children in Greece and Bulgaria something very important: health, prosperity, security, prevention. It is a union of forces of either the public or private sector of both countries. The Nadja Center Foundation, the Regional Department of Education - Blagoevgrad and the Municipal Development Agency of Komotini Municipality will take action, in order children to have the possibility to face health problem they may have preventively. We are very proud to be part of this project. The experience we have gained by having preventively examined over 100,000 children and our day-to-day actions in the field of risk prevention, such as the European Hotline*



Το πρόγραμμα είναι συγχρηματοδοτούμενο από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης (ΕΤΠΑ) και από εθνικούς πόρους της Ελλάδας & Βουλγαρίας

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for Missing Children 116000 and Amber Alert Hellas, enable us to spread our know-how to other countries»

Subsequently, the coordinator of Northern Greece for «The Smile of the Child», Ms. Ioanna Makri, referred to the perfect implementation of the successful project INTERSYC. Then, she presented the project INTERSYC II and its implementation purpose, she developed its basic idea and finally she analyzed the intervention axes.

The Director of "Centre Nadja" Foundation - Sadanski, κα Rossanka Venelinova, highlighted the importance of Preventive Medicine Actons in Bulgaria, as there is no longer any health care in schools, while family doctors are unable to do so many preventative examinations in children. In particular, she said: "With the INTERSYC II project we have the potential to reach thousands of children. Interest in Bulgaria was enormous. Everything is running smoothly, everything is planned and this is due to our cooperation with state agencies. The cooperation of public bodies, institutions and NGOs is very important as one complements the other. "

The Chairman of the BoD of the Municipal Development Agency of Komotini Municipality, Ms. Afroditi Kareliadou, stated that: *the Municipality of Komotini, through the Development Agency of K. Karatheodoris, participates with great pleasure in this project, which is the continuation of the very successful program INTERSYC. To date, more than 2,000 children have signed up in the project, and they will be examined by doctors of four specialties: pediatrician, ophthalmologist, dentist and otolaryngologist. At the same time, our Agency has undertaken the organization of seminars and events aimed at informing both the parents and the educational community about the value of preventive medicine. Finally, they will be given the opportunity to be certified in first aid.*

The Project Officer INTERREG V-A Greece-Bulgaria 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme for the project INTERSYC II, Ms. Dinkova Jenya, welcomed and referred to the importance of the implementation of the project.

The contribution of the project to the goals of the program lies in improving the attractiveness of the area by improving the quality of life of the residents by focusing on the target group of children. The addressing of crucial social problems such as trafficking, which is linked directly to the disappearances of children, the support of families in crisis and the ensuring of good health for children are decisive factors for keeping the local population in its residence, strengthening the relationships between the two sides and creating a favorable environment for the development of sustainable economic activities.

The activities of INTERSYC II cover distant areas with the same and even more intensive needs of preventive medicine actions for children, especially under the current socioeconomic circumstances.



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The Project is developed through two (2) main intervention axes. The axis 1 aims to actions for the protection of children in danger and to the Promotion / training / demonstrative operation of the European Hotline for Missing Children 116000, the Amber Alert Hellas and European Child Alert Automated System (ECAAS). The axis 2 aims to the Improvement of Health Services and Social Care Services for Children through the actions of Preventive Medicine in Greece and Bulgaria and through Educational Seminars in the field of rescue/ first aid in Greece and Bulgaria in collaboration with the National Center of First Aid also.

Action in Bulgaria is underway and so far more than 2,500 children have been examined by pediatricians, ophthalmologists, dentists, ENTs and orthopedics in the regions of Sandanski and Blagoevgrad in Bulgaria. In Greece the action will take place in the period 04.03.2019 - 04.06.2019 in the Municipalities of Komotini, Iasmos and Maroneia - Sapon. The preventive medicine actions in the cross-border area are staffed by the specialized scientific staff of all partners: doctors, social workers, nurses, administrative staff and external collaborators, and are made using the Multi-medical unit "Hippocrates" for Children and the mobile medical units of "The Smile of the Child".

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