



Implementation in remote and rural areas



Fragkoklisias 7, 151 25, Marousi, Athens,
Tel. 210-6255700, Fax: 210-6106810,
E-mail: info@prolepis.gr, www.prolepis.gr

Press Conference

Project Presentation: «Program on Food aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition – DIATROFI: Implementation in Remote and Rural Areas»

Tuesday, May 26, 2015 – The economic crisis has left serious scars, gravely impacting the children in Greece. The fact of the matter is that almost half of those students who attend schools located in particularly vulnerable areas are facing food insecurity; 42% don't have a healthy weight, while 1 in 6 families do not have any source of income.

This data has been collected and specifically chosen by the Prolepis Institute, who also manages and delivers the DIATROFI Program within the framework of the “We Are All Citizens” Program to a total of 13 schools consisting of 1,115 students, and was presented in a Press Conference on Tuesday May 26th 2015 at 12:00pm in the Kostis Palamas building.

The expansion of the DIATROFI Program in remote and rural areas is also financed by Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein through the above mentioned, *We are all Citizens* Program, which is part of the EEA Grants mechanism for Greece. The financial coordinator for this program is the Bodosakis Foundation. The aim of the Program is the bolstering of society and its citizens in our country and the reinforcement of social justice, democracy and that of sustainable development.

Due to this generous offer there are 13 primary schools consisting of 1,115 participating students located within vulnerable parts of Xanthi, Imathia, Pieria, Thessaloniki and Rodopi. On a daily basis, all students of the participating schools receive a free and healthy meal, while healthy eating habits are encouraged for both student and family through the exposure of educational initiatives and informative materials. Since December 2014 until today, approximately 76,660 meals have been provided.

“The funds that have been offered by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA mechanism as well as the *We Are All Citizens* Program is a crucial offer and of critical importance during this time of crisis in our country. We thus have the opportunity to offer

this year tangible support to families in remote and rural areas, those most deeply impacted by the crisis”, stated Mrs. Athena Linos, MD, MPH, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Departments of Hygiene, Epidemiology & Medical Statistics of the Athens Medical School and President of the Prolepsis Institute. Moreover, Professor Linos added, “Our aim is for the Program to become a catalyst for the permanent establishment of providing school meals to all students in all schools across the country, as is common practice and a standard abroad”.

Journalist Mr. Kostas Hardavellas hosted the conference, while Mr. Roger Jørgensen, Deputy Head of Mission of the embassy of Norway, and Ms. Ioanna Mpakogianni representing the Ministry of Health and the Minister, Mr. Panagiotti Kouroupli, addressed the audience. Additionally, an address to the audience with valued input was sent by Mr. Aristeidis Mpaltas, Minister of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs, and Mr. George Kalantzis, Secretary General for Religious Affairs.

The Program on Food Aid and Promotiom of Healthy Nutrition – DIATROFI was established in 2012 under the initiative of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation as founding donor, in cooperation with Prolepsis Institute. The Program is being implemented for a fourth consecutive school year, with the additional support of other donors, in public schools that are located in vulnerable areas of Greece. The Program DIATROFI is under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, Education and Religious Affairs.

Since 2012 there have been over 10 million meals provided in 440 schools consisting of approximately 75,000 students throughout Greece. In particular, during the 2013-2014 school year, 406 schools with 61,870 students participated, while during the current year (2014 -2015), 209 schools with 23,900 students took part. However, over 900 other schools have applied having the dire need to join the program, yet their applications remain pending due to lack of resources.

From May 25th until June 1st, 2015, you can also help support our Program via SMS by sending the word DIATROFI or ΔΙΑΤΡΟΦΗ to 19454 (€1.23 VAT included). Your donation will secure a child’s meal for one day. This service is made possible through the valued support of the telecommunications companies COSMOTE, VODAFONE, and WIND.

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Prolepsis Institute is a Civil Law Non-Profit Organization founded in 1990, located in Athens Greece. Prolepsis’s work is focused on a variety of public health issues, including preventive medicine, medical research, environmental and occupational health, statistical analysis, and humanitarian actions. Since the Institute’s establishment, it has led or collaborated on more than 40 national and international projects, contributing to epidemiological and medical research as well as public health promotion in Greece for 25 years.

For more information on the DIATROFI Program please visit our websites: <http://www.diatrofi.prolepsis.gr> and www.prolepsis.gr/new, or connect with Ms. Valentina Papalambrou at 210-6255700 (ext 118) or call 694 4631839

