



THE PROGRAM DIATROFI IS ONGOING IN REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR

December, 14, 2015 - **50.000 meals offered to 1.030 students of 13 schools** in vulnerable socio-economic areas in the regional units of Xanthi, Rodopi and Emathia will be distributed by January **2016** under the project “Program on Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition-**DIATROFI: Implementation in remote and rural areas**”. The project is implemented by Prolepis Institute with the support of the European Economic Area (EEA) grants and the program “We are all citizens”.

In the schools selected, the rate of families experiencing **food insecurity** is close to **83%** and those experiencing **hunger is close to 53%**. One in five students in these schools is underweight, while in 41% of families none of the two parents has any income.

The data collected by the Prolepis Institute during the school year 2014-2015 demonstrates the dispersion of the problem created by the economic crisis. It is significant that 2.050 schools of the ones that have submitted an application to participate in the Program **DIATROFI** for the current school year are situated in 71 out of 74 regional units and in 276 out of 324 municipalities of Greece. In the regional units of Xanthi, Rodopi and Emathia 176 school applications have been submitted which correspond to 15.541 students.

The project of expanding the **DIATROFI** program in remote and rural areas is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the context of the Program “We are all citizens” which is part of the EEA Grants mechanism for Greece. The financial coordinator for this Program is the Bodosakis Foundation. 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.

“The funds that have been offered by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA mechanism as well as the Program “We are all Citizens” is a crucial offer and produces, as proven, concrete results in reducing by 20%, the percentage of food insecurity in the families of students that go to school in remote areas of Greece where the **DIATROFI** Program is implemented. Nevertheless, the problem remains enormous and constantly expanding. We urge all involved parties, responsible ministries, local authorities and private initiative to join us in our great goal which is: “**NO HUNGRY CHILD AT SCHOOL**” 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 Prolepis Institute.



The Program on Food Aid and Promotion of Healthy Nutrition – **DIATROFI** is implemented for a fifth consecutive school year by Prolepsis Institute with Stavros Niarchos Foundation as the founding donor, having distributed since 2012 more than 11 million meals in approximately 450 schools and to 75.000 students throughout Greece. This year 8.800 students participate in the Program, in schools situated in vulnerable socio-economic regions, while school applications for daily meals reach 2.050 which corresponds to 258.000 students.

For more information on the Program “DIATROFI” you can visit our websites <http://diatrofi.prolepsis.gr> and www.prolepsis.gr or contact Mr. Yannis Koutelidas at the number: 210- 6255700 (int. 120) or at the number: 6936631702.

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The Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health Prolepsis is a scientific non-profit organization, active in the field of medical research, health promotion, environmental and occupational health and has contributed at the improvement of the quality of life and of the health of the Greek and European citizens for the past 25 years.