

Action: 6.1.3 Awards for NGO participation and  
“champions” of social entrepreneurship

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Deliverable 6.1.3: Report of event

**Social Plate Project**



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## 1. Introduction

The project "**Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion**" with the acronym "**SOCIAL PLATE**", was submitted on 22.04.2016 to priority axis 4 - 'A Cross-border Area without Social Exclusion' and in particular:

- In Thematic Goal: 09 - 'Promoting social cohesion, combating poverty and discrimination'
- In investment priority: 9c – 'Providing support to social enterprises'
- In Specific Objective: 9 - 'Expanding social entrepreneurship in the cross-border area'

The duration of the project in the stage following its formal approval was from 01/08/2017 to 31/07/2019 and after an extension request is from 28/09/2017 to 27/09/2019 and is of a duration 24 months in total. During July 2019, Project Beneficiaries requested for a three-month extension of the project, until 31/12/2019 and the whole duration of the project became 27 months.

The financing contract was signed on September 28, 2017 and has the number B2.9c.03, while the partnership agreement was signed respectively by the representatives of the partners participating in the partnership on August 29, 2017.

The Central Market of Thessaloniki SA is the Lead Beneficiaries in the project entitled "Supporting Social Enterprises in combating poverty and social exclusion" and under the acronym "SOCIAL PLATE", which is 85% co-financed by Community funds and 15% national funding, in the framework of the European Cross-Border Cooperation Program Greece - Bulgaria 2014 - 2020 (INTERREG V-A).

In the corporate form of this project, as submitted and approved, TECHNOPOLIS - INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (126.040,00€), Municipality of Borino (106.009,40 €) and Active Youths (100.980,00€) also participate. The total approved budget of the project "SOCIAL PLATE" is € 551.779.40, while the budget of the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA for the implementation of the deliverables to be undertaken as the LB's amounts to 218.750,00€.

## 1.1 Eligible area

The eligible area of the Programme consists of the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Prefectures of Evros, Kavala, Xanthi, Rodopi and Drama) and the Region of Central Macedonia (Prefectures of Thessaloniki and Serres) in Greece and the South-Central Planning Region and South-West Planning Region (Districts of Blagoevgrad, Smolyan, Kardjali and Haskovo) in Bulgaria.



The Greece-Bulgaria cross-border cooperation area for the programming period 2014-2020 is identical to the current ETC programme. It extends to 40.202 km<sup>2</sup> and has a total population of 2.7 million inhabitants. It covers four territorial units at NUTS II level (Regions), and 11 territorial units at NUTS III level (Districts). The eligible area extends across the entire Greek-Bulgarian border and is neighboring with Turkey (east) and FYROM (west), both countries aspiring to access to the EU. It is part of the most south-eastern non-insular area of EU, and it is situated between three seas: the

Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Ionian-Adriatic Sea. Finally, it sits at the crossroad of strategic fossil fuel pipelines supplying the EU market and TEN transport axes.

The settlement structure of the area is characterized by the presence of 10 medium-large cities (>50.000 inhabitants) which accumulate 38,2% of total population, and 25 small cities (10.000-50.000 inhabitants).

Despite the historically relatively small amounts of funds allocated, there is a long history of cooperation in the eligible area, which started with Community initiative INTERREG I (1989-1993).

**The priority axes are:**

PA 1: A Competitive and Entrepreneurship Promoting Cross-Border Area

PA 2: A Sustainable and climate adaptable Cross-Border area

PA 3: A better interconnected Cross-Border Area

PA 4: A socially inclusive Cross-Border area

PA 5: Technical Assistance

### 1.2 Project background

The cross-border area comprises some of the most remote and isolated areas of both countries as they are characterized by increasing levels of poverty and high unemployment rates especially for women and young people. Social entrepreneurship has been able to alleviate such problems in various parts of Europe but in the cross-border area it has not developed sufficiently. Social entrepreneurship can address issues of reduced service provision to specific populations subject to or threatened by social exclusion and at the same time provide them with access to the labor market.

This deteriorating socio-economic context has aroused the interest of partners in the creation and operation of social enterprises in Greece and Bulgaria that offer (a) an additional opportunity to enter the labor market the professionally and financially troubled and vulnerable groups and (b) to seek new and sustainable resources to meet social goals for the benefit of the public.

The idea of the project was developed as a solution to the issues of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. Specifically, the project aims to promote regional cohesion through the creation and promotion of social enterprises in Greece and Bulgaria with the role of not only providing long-term unemployed and marginalized people but also feeding people from vulnerable social groups. In addition, through training seminars, the project seeks to increase the skills of the unemployed, as well as people already working in other social enterprises lacking in marketing, business planning, etc.

The purpose of the project is to support the establishment of a social enterprise in Greece (Central Macedonia) and to promote it in Bulgaria through social franchising, that is, the cross-border transfer of the social enterprise from one country to another. The purpose of the social enterprise will be the distribution of long-term products that would otherwise be wasted, promoting an ecological approach while employing individuals from economically and professionally disputed groups to ensure the daily operations of the entity.

### 1.3 Project's goals

The cross-border region of Greece - Bulgaria includes some of the most vulnerable population groups, which are affected by increased rates of poverty and unemployment.

In this context, two Urban Non-Profit Companies will be set up, one in Greece and one in Bulgaria to distribute food to vulnerable social groups that live in poverty, social groceries.

In addition, the development and implementation of social entrepreneurship will seek to combat the unnecessary waste of agricultural products and foodstuffs and to exploit them for public benefit.

The aim of the action is to provide information and inspiration to the whole world and to provide a motivation to sustain the economy in a sustainable way to develop empathy for those at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

### 1.4 Expected results of the project

The project is a solution to the perennial problems of poverty and marginalization of socially vulnerable groups such as women and young unemployed. The “Social Plate” project will create jobs for the aforementioned individuals, helping them to contribute to the local economy as well as help themselves: two NGO staff will be employed as volunteers. Volunteering is promoted after it has been shown that through socialization and community participation, people can go beyond marginalization. Using a food surplus that would otherwise end up in the trash bin suggests an innovative and environmentally friendly approach.

The fact that public, regional and local stakeholders are involved in the partnership ensures the project's broader contribution to the development and support of social entrepreneurship. Educational institutions and other public bodies will also be involved in information effort and raising awareness about the opportunities and conditions for the development of social entrepreneurship by organizing joint forums and discussions. There will also be joint seminars and events of good practice aimed at a wider audience of people with financial and social problems, providing them guidance in business planning, marketing strategies. By providing guidance and support in creation of new NGOs, the project “Social Plate” becomes one of the few organized efforts to promote social entrepreneurship locally and nationally in the

cross-border area, thereby enhancing the development of local businesses economies.



## 2. Report of the event

In the framework of the project "Social Plate", which is implemented under the cross-border program INTERREG V-A GREECE-BULGARIA 2014-2020, deliverable 6.1.3 Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions was implemented. This event refers to the organization of a competition for the champions of social entrepreneurship and the award of symbolic prizes to the winners of the competition organized by PB2 Technopolis-International Educational Institute, two months before the end of the project.

Work Package 6 - Strategic Priorities and Policy Guidelines, including Deliverable 6.1.3 Awards day for top contributors in the work of the NGO & SE Champions, provides horizontal actions to promote and support social entrepreneurship across the eligible cross-border area.

### 2.1 Publication of an open invitation for the event

The open invitation to participate at the competition was published at the website of Central Market of Thessaloniki. In addition, the open invitation to the competition was also posted on the official Facebook profile of the project.

The call was addressed to individuals who have contributed to the operation of the NGO or are active in the field of social entrepreneurship with a strong focus on cross-border activity. The call was for entries from both the Greek and the Bulgarian side and in particular were selected to be awarded following the evaluation of the entries, 10 Greeks and 10 Bulgarians who actively contributed to the operation of the NGO or are active in its business sector in the cross-border area.

However, after the expiring date of the time allotted for participation, Bulgarians did not participated in the competition. Thus, in consultation with the Contracting Authority, it was decided to give 18 symbolic prizes to Greeks, taking into account their contribution to the functioning of the NGO and social entrepreneurship at the cross-border authority.

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In order to participate in the competition for the award of the symbolic prizes, it was necessary to complete the application form, a CV and a contribution form in which each candidate could describe his contribution and participation in the operation of the NGO of Greece or of Bulgaria could either describe extensively its activity in the field of social entrepreneurship in the cross-border area.

The press release published in media, was given a 6-day period from Wednesday 24 July 2019 to Monday 29 July 2019 for interested parties to participate in the competition. Applications for the competition were sent to the project's official mail, [socialplate@kath.gr](mailto:socialplate@kath.gr).

Upon the expiry of the competition, all applications and entry documents were collected for the purpose of evaluating and selecting the winners.

## 2.1 Characteristics of Evaluation Criteria

Criteria of evaluation that help in right choice of the winners of a competition are a benchmark, standard or criterion that measures the achievement, compliance, performance and suitability of an individual, an alternative, an activity, product, or project, and the risk-reward relationship.

The following diagram illustrates the evaluation criteria that must be met in order to results of the evaluation of a competition be clear, efficient, effective and sustainable.



### Evaluation Criteria are:

#### 1. Relevance

Relevance determines the extent in which the goals of a development intervention are in line with the requirements of the beneficiaries, the needs of the countries, the global priorities and the policies of the partners and donors. Relevance is a measure of the extent in which development interventions meet the needs of the population and the priorities of countries and are consistent with donor policies. In a sectoral program to support agriculture, the relevance could be assessed in terms of responses to the domestic market for new crops, farmers' reactions to the various program initiatives. A change in policies or priorities of society could mean that development interventions have now reduced priority or lose some of their rationality. In other words, relevance is fundamentally a utility issue, in its turn, relevance report leads to higher level decisions.

### 2. Effectiveness

Profitability is a measure that calculates how financial resources / inputs (capital, expertise, time, etc.) are converted into results. Profitability is a measure of the relationship between results and inputs. The quality of inputs and outputs is an important factor in evaluating performance: the most economical resources are not necessarily the most appropriate, and offsets between the quantity of outputs and their quality are a key factor in overall performance. In addition, evaluating the effectiveness of an intervention generally requires comparing alternative approaches to achieve the same results and this will be easier for some types of intervention for others.

### 3. Efficiency

The extent in which the goals of development intervention have been or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance. It is clear that effectiveness is the relationship between resources / inputs and outputs, that is, usually the benefits sought for a specific target group of beneficiaries. Therefore, an intervention is considered effective when using resources appropriately and financially to produce the desired outputs. As in the case of effectiveness, impact assessment poses a particular distribution challenge in most cases, it is difficult to attribute broadly broad effects to different groups and at different levels over time to a particular intervention or series of interventions. Systems theory approaches typically provide more appropriate and useful tools for dealing with complex adaptive systems, e.g. societies, from simple linear causal approaches. Also, a useful principle for practically addressing the issue of selecting effects, levels, and groups for evaluation, makes choices compatible with the intended use of evaluation information. Ultimately, usually at best, estimates assess the impact on probability-based conclusions derived from simplified cause-effect assumptions.

#### 4. Impact

The positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects caused by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. Sustainability is a measure of whether the benefits of a development intervention are likely to continue after external support is completed. Ultimately, usually at best, estimates assess the impact on probability-based conclusions derived from simplified cause-effect assumptions.

#### 5. Sustainability

The continuous benefits of a development intervention after significant development assistance has been completed. The possibility of long-term benefits. Resistance to the risk of net profit over time. Sustainability is in many ways a higher-level test of whether development intervention has been successful. Too many development initiatives tend to fail after the implementation phase is completed, because either the target group or the responsible parties do not have the means or sufficient incentives to move further the resources needed for the activities.

### 2.2 Selection Criteria

Applicants were evaluated on the basis of specific selection criteria. Selection criteria represent the basic qualifications, training, skills, knowledge, personal qualities, skills and experience that one must have to do a job effectively.



The selection criteria that were finalized at the time the applications were collected can be summarized in two categories and the participants had to meet the requirements of both criteria. The two categories of criteria are divided:

A) The eligibility criteria and

B) The maturity criteria

The eligibility criterion focuses mainly on the origin of the participants. The participants had to be Greek or Bulgarian citizens and reside in the eligible cross-border area. The participants must be included in one of the target groups defined at the beginning of the project. Due to the multifaceted activity that the project seeks to implement, the project target groups are wide and varied. More specifically, the project target groups are:

- Economically and socially vulnerable people,
- NGOs working with project target groups,
- Local and regional authorities,
- Universities and research institutes,

- The Parliament of the two countries and members of the European Parliament

Participants belonging to at least one of the above target groups meet the eligibility criterion.

The criterion of maturity focuses on the characteristics of the candidates that focus on the participants' personal involvement with social entrepreneurship and their contribution to the operation of the NGO created during the project in both Greece and Bulgaria.

Specifically, the maturity criterion tested the relevance of each participant's personal and professional goals to social entrepreneurship. In addition, the contribution of each participant to the operation of the NGO created as part of the project by the beneficiaries is a characteristic that enhanced the maturity criterion for each candidate.

The information on the maturity criterion was drawn from the short CV of all participants and the contribution form. In these two documents, each participant had the opportunity to complete personal characteristics and traits that would make him or her more suitable for winning the competition.

In the CV each candidate had the opportunity to complete his personal information, his education and studies, his professional experience as his most important characteristic, his voluntary action. In case of joining a club, in the CV, in addition to personal information, it was necessary to supplement the achievements of each club in the professional activity section and the voluntary experience-action that each club provides, participates or contributes.

In the contribution form, each candidate was given the opportunity to describe the extent of his / her participation and contribution to the functioning of the NGO of Greece or Bulgaria as well as his role in the NGO. Each participant had the opportunity

to choose from 5 roles that contributed to the functioning of the NGO. The five role choices given were:

- Supplier
- Customer
- Employee
- Volunteer
- Lead Beneficiaries (LB) / Project Beneficiary 3 (PB3)

In addition, each participant had the opportunity to fill in the contribution form if he or she is active in the social entrepreneurship sector and outline how this contribution is made to the sector. In case of participation of a union or organization, in the contribution form the representative of the association could describe in detail which of the two areas he is active in the field of social entrepreneurship or if he contributed to the functioning of the NGO. The union representative could then choose how he did so if he contributed to the functioning of the NGO. The association could contribute to the functioning of the NGO as a food supplier, as a customer receiving free food from the NGO, or by volunteering through its members. If the association was active in the field of social entrepreneurship, the representative had the opportunity to describe how he or she was active in the sector. Finally, the representative was able to describe in detail the association's contribution to the social entrepreneurship sector or to the functioning of the NGO.

During the evaluation of participants active in the field of social entrepreneurship, the relevance of the data from the CV and the candidate's contribution form was checked.



## 3. Winners of competition

After the given time for the participants to fill in the application form, the contribution form and his short CV for valid participation in the competition, all entries were collected. Then, the evaluation process was carried out in accordance with the criteria agreed with the Contracting Authority, which identified the 18 Greek winners of the competition who either contributed to the operation of the NGO created under the project, or are active in the field of social entrepreneurship.

Taking into account the data provided by all the participants and according to the selection criteria the 18 Greek winners of the competition are:

1. Social grocery-store in Thermi
2. Social grocery-store Pavlou-Mela Municipality
3. Trinity Children's Home
4. Tree Hierarchs Church in Evosmos
5. Theatre seekers
6. Refugee Care Center
7. Arsis
8. St. George Church in Neapoli
9. Makarika Moschou Brothers
10. Chilibis Dimitrios
11. Kuriakidou Ermioni
12. Patika Anastasia
13. Adamidou Maria
14. Deliopoulos Thomas
15. Habidis Dimitrios
16. Nikolaou Kostas
17. Volunteer team Omnes
18. IAAS Thessaloniki

All participants of the competition will be invited to the event organized by PB2 to award the prizes. The 18 Greek winners of the competition will be informed during

the event. The prize-winners will not be awarded a cash prize but it will be a symbolic prize related to the social entrepreneurship sector and will honor the winners for their contributions to both the NGO and the social entrepreneurship sector.

### 3.1 A few words about the winners

#### 1. Social grocery-store in Thermi



The Social Grocery store of the Municipality of Thermi Thessaloniki is a network of Social Solidarity and Cooperative Economics for the fight against poverty. The Social Grocery store of the Municipality of Thermi was founded in 2014. Since November 1, 2017 its staff has been strengthened by two additional staff, 1 Social Worker and 1 Assistant.

In the context of the operation of the Social Grocery it is foreseen:

- Distribution of food packages, fresh foods and frozen foods.
- Distribution of clothing, home appliances, toys and other new or "second hand" items.
- Distribution of entertainment items such as books, cd's to meet learning and culture needs.

The staff of the Thermi Municipal Grocery - with Ms. Sofia Kotzambasiakou, Social Worker - are available from Monday to Friday, 7:00 - 15:00. The contact person for the Civic Nonprofit was Ms. Balliarou Marianna.

The Social Grocery of the Municipality of Thermi, since the start of the NGO's operation, created as part of the project, has been a helper in every activity that has been organized. The Social Grocery of the Municipality of Thermi has received large quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables which we distributed to all members of the community throughout the operation of the NGO. In addition, employees and volunteers regularly contributed to the selection of foods that could be distributed. Also, in all publicity events organized in the framework of the "SOCIAL PLATE" project, representatives of the social grocery of the Municipality of Thermi were honored with their presence. Finally, in the video created as part of the "SOCIAL PLATE" project, the social grocery of the Municipality of Thermi took part and the representative of the social partner Mr. Sofia Kotzabasakou stated that with the help they received through the NGO more than 12.000 people were offered food that they needed and were disadvantaged.

### **2. Social grocery-store of Pavlou-Mela Municipality**

The Social Grocery - Community of Paul Mela Municipality operates within the framework of the Paul Mela Municipality strategy for the development of social policy at the local level, through the implementation of programs and actions to promote social cohesion, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, raising the awareness of individuals and groups, as well as businesses with the aim of participating in programs to support economically disadvantaged residents. It aims, in particular, to:

- covering the primary needs of vulnerable - socially and financially - individuals and families
- Providing essentials, basic cleaning and housekeeping, entertainment and training.
- Improving the health status of the beneficiaries through the provision of food.
- Empowering and animating the target group.
- Improving the standard of living of the target group.

- covering the basic needs of children

The Social Grocery store is constantly supplying 115 beneficiary families, as emergencies with food and groceries, toiletries, frozen products, clothing and footwear, home appliances, books, toys and other essentials.

The provision of food for the distribution of prepared lunch to 100 residents of the municipality / month. The prepared meal is supplied by the municipality through a private company and then distributed, by appropriate means and in selected locations, to the beneficiaries.

Meals are distributed in three places, easily accessible by the beneficiaries:

A) At the Social Grocery, to serve the beneficiaries of the Stavroupoli municipal community,

B) In the municipal building at 31 Venizelou Street, to serve the beneficiaries of the Polichni municipal community and

C) the municipal building on Ethnikis Antistaseos Street 15, in the Municipal Community of Efkarpia, to serve the beneficiaries of the municipal community.

The Catering and Housing Structure is housed in a privately owned building and operates daily from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 17:00. It is staffed by four (4) employees: two social workers and two support staff. The services provided are addressed to the residents of the three municipal communities: Efkarpia, Polichni, Stavroupoli.

Develops partnerships with local businesses, schools and the local community to collect products. Beneficiaries are also referred, where appropriate, to the Community Center of the Municipality, the Social Service of the Municipality and other services, in order to face their unemployment, raise awareness and support them. As part of the partnership with other agencies, the Municipal Grocery of the Municipality of Pavlos Melas and more specifically Ms. Tsiouklis Dimitra, contacted with the NGO created under the project for the free distribution of edible fresh fruits and vegetables.

Employees and volunteers of the social grocery store Pavlos Mela have helped with food screening several times, as with attending events organized as part of the project. In addition, the publicity actions of the project were published and promoted on the official site of the Pavlos Mela social grocery.

### 3. Trinity Association of Thessaloniki



The Trinity Association of Thessaloniki was founded only for charity purposes. In addition, it strives to develop communication and friendly bonds between its members. Also, the Trinity Association of Thessaloniki is helping to record and address the problems of families with three children. In addition, the association assists in the moral and material assistance of any member in need of immediate and proven support. The club's responsibilities include finding resources to support and support club members. In addition, the Trinity Association is trying to influence the State to improve the living conditions of families with three children. Assimilating and integrating members into beneficial provisions of the laws applicable to the elderly is also a competence within the Trinity Association. Finally, carrying out charitable and social activities with the help of the members of the association helps in extroversion. As part of the support of the members of the Trinity Association and the families that are members received fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the functioning of the NGO. In addition, members of the Trinity Association actively assisted in all publicity activities organized as part of the promotion and promotion of the project. In particular, all the activities that were organized were promoted on the club's official website and on social media. Members of the association also participated as volunteers in the selection of edible foods, contributing to the operation of the NGO.

Finally, the president of the association, Mrs. Boujoukli Ioanna and members of the Board of Directors actively participated in several publicity actions of the project either as spectators, as speakers, or as volunteers.

#### **4. Tree Hierarchs Church in Evosmos**

The Three Hierarchs Church was founded by the First Metropolitan of Neapolis and Stavropolis on Sunday, February 15, 1998. For two years and two months, it operated in a school room. The building of the basement was done with the care and expense of the Parish of St. Athanasios Evosmos. The subway tunnels were made on April 15, 2000 and have been operating as a Parish since then. The erection of the main Temple began in October 2001 and lasted seven and a half years. His funerals were celebrated on Saturday, April 11, 2009 by His Bishop Varnava of Neapolis and Stavropol. The Three Hierarchs Church of Evosmos supports all vulnerable social groups without discrimination. Wanting to support the fellow man, Church officials actively contributed to the functioning of the NGO by regularly receiving food, fruit and vegetables, which were distributed to people in need and belonging to disadvantaged groups. The contribution and assistance provided by the NGO to so many people helped to make the Church of the Three Hierarchs of Evosmos one of the winners of the competition.

#### **5. Theatre seekers-Fix in art**



The nonprofit entity has been looking for theatrical action since 2011. The purpose of the nonprofit is to help the performing arts gain a central place in education (formal or informal), while also helping to find forms and techniques for theater as an art form

and as a learning tool. The agency emphasizes on the development of educational and cultural projects, the promotion of non-formal and informal education, social and creative entrepreneurship and networking between organizations, in order to exchange experiences and enhance their potential. The main actions of the organization are:

- Organization and participation in local and international theater practice workshops, seminars, conferences and other training activities, as in evaluation, promotion and dissemination workshops
- Organizing and implementing programs in and out of schools
- Organizing and participating in research teams
- Publishing books, magazines, educational materials, studies or publications
- Organizing and participating in artistic productions and cultural events
- Creation of networks of partners for the promotion of the arts in education and on any topic related to the goals of the Association

The goals of the agency are achieved by implementing local and international actions, always with the initiative and involvement of young people at all stages of the actions. The agency's projects are innovative and provide a variety of learning opportunities within the educational activity.

The agency does not employ paid staff, but operates on a voluntary basis. The volunteers are individuals from all social and educational backgrounds, without any discrimination and are at the same time the target group of the organization. The members of the organization include people with experience and expertise in organizing, implementing and attending festivals, conferences, bilateral and multilateral projects, as university-educated people, including Educational and Social Policy graduates: Adult Education (Specialist in Adult Education) Education and Counseling), Law, Psychology, Philology, Social Worker and other specialties that are

necessary in dealing with young people and additional opportunities contribute to volunteers.

The entity in the framework of volunteer has received several times food from the NGO and has contributed substantially to its operation. In addition, with the large network of volunteers she assisted in the selection and collection of edible foods. In addition, employees and volunteers of the organization attended publicity actions carried out as part of the project.

### 6. Refugee Care Center



The Refugee Care Center operates with sponsorships from International Missionary Organizations and Evangelical Churches, through the Hellenic Evangelical Association, and is implemented by donating resources and volunteers from Greek Evangelical Churches and abroad, in collaboration with Agape AMG. The Refugee Care Center is running by a 12-member council made up of representatives of churches and organizations that support it. In addition there is a five-member advisory committee on its operation. The care center was created to accommodate refugees and immigrants in Thessaloniki, offering bath services, laundry services, and second-hand clothing. All in a safe area, with translators in refugee languages, with a specially designed room for children, volunteers to serve the beneficiaries and snacks, coffee and tea for everyone. Refugees and immigrants from various countries who have applied for asylum in Greece or have been transferred to another country are accepted at the care center. Families and individuals who want to make use of the free services they provide at the care center are also welcome. The operation of the care center is based on volunteers who provide their services to our needy fellow workers.



So far more than 1,000 volunteers have helped with the care center's work, mainly coming from the Evangelical Churches of Thessaloniki.

Due to the large number of people that it took care, this organization received large quantities of food throughout the entire operation of the NGO which was distributed to those in need but also used for meals provided to refugees. Also, during times when the care center had many volunteers, several volunteers assisted in the operation of the NGO and the selection of edible vegetables and fruits. The contribution and strong volunteering of the organization helped to include the care center among the winners of the competition.

### 7. Arsis



ARSIS is a non-governmental social organization that has been active since 1992 to support children and young people and defend their rights. It operates in Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos, Kozani and Alexandroupolis and has expanded its operations in many other cities. ARSIS's vision is a society with equal opportunities for all young people and respect for their rights as enshrined in Greek and international law, in particular the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. ARSIS's mission is to take action to prevent social exclusion of young people. In this context, it develops methodologies and tools for youth support, organizes and participates in networks, collaborates with public services and non-governmental organizations and makes proposals in the field of social policy for children and young people. ARSIS works mainly with young people between the ages of 15 and 21, and, where appropriate, with younger children or older people who are living under conditions that are

detrimental to their smooth personal development and access to social goods. Conditions such as inadequate family support, neglect, abuse, exploitation, rejection from the education system, immigration, refugee, homelessness, unemployment, conflict of law, living in institutions or penitentiary shops, etc. ARSIS is staffed by qualified executives and trained volunteers and works on the collective values of social solidarity, acceptance, democracy and mutual respect. At the office of each city where it operates, there is a team of executives who share the responsibilities of planning, developing and monitoring its work. Volunteers are grouped and supervised by responsible executives. ARSIS meets with citizens to share their achievements, concerns and suggestions with the aim of engaging them in trying to improve the position and role of young people in society.

ARSIS through its programs helps weak, disadvantaged groups with the aim of eliminating social problems. One serious social problem that has been partially addressed through the functioning of the AMC is the lack of food. ARSIS has often received quantities of food to distribute to disadvantaged groups to tackle the problem of hunger and poverty. Also, because of its generous contribution to society, ARSIS has been given a place among the winners of the competition due to its general contribution to society.

### **8. St. George Church in Neapoli**

St. George Church in Neapoli having strong social action, wanting to support the fellow man and those in need, has contributed to the functioning of the NGO by receiving fresh fruits and vegetables, which distributed to all disadvantaged groups. In addition, Father Eleftherios Kiranis was a supporter of the activity of the NGO. In addition to the food received by the parish of St. George Neapolis, its members have volunteered to help sort and collect edible foods, fruits and vegetables.

In addition, members of the parish assisted in the publicity activities of the NGO and the project, either as speakers at the events or as spectators.

However, in addition to the customers who participated in the Central Market of Thessaloniki SA competition, many traders also participated in the competition, claiming a symbolic prize. The contribution of traders is also considered to be very important for the viability and duration of the project as it was the traders who regularly and frequently had large or smaller quantities of food that could be available free of charge after edible fruits and vegetables were sorted to the clients of the NGO. Merchants, in addition to contributing to the functioning of the NGO by providing free fruits and vegetables, reinforced their corporate social responsibility. The term Corporate Social Responsibility refers to the actions of businesses that aim to contribute to addressing environmental and social issues. Specifically, businesses are entities that are inextricably linked to the social community in which they operate, influencing and influenced by the data of their time and place of business. They must therefore acknowledge their responsibility towards society and the environment. That is, to respect the principles and values that characterize our culture, respect for human beings - human dignity and equal opportunities, respect for the environment we inherited, and improving the standard of living and quality of life. So, wanting to protect the environment but also to help tackle poverty, food shortages and refugee care, traders provided either larger or smaller quantities of food each day, which were crucial for the function of the NGO. A speculative company, to last but also survive. The following traders, taking into account the evaluation and eligibility criteria, are among the winners of the competition who will be awarded with a symbolic prize for their contribution. The winners of the competition are:

**9. Afoi Makarika Moschou**

**10. Chilibis Dimitrios**

**11. Kiriakidou Ermioni**

**12. Patika Anastasia**

**13. Adamidou Maria**

**14. Nteliopoulos Thomas**

The former president of the Central Market of Thessaloniki, Mr. Dimitrios (15th winner), also received a symbolic prize, whose contribution during the project was undivided. Mr. Hambidis was the originator of this idea and as president throughout the project he was a helper to the operation of the NGO. Mr. Hambidis supported all publicity actions of the project, promoted the project throughout the city and northern Greece, reaching out to more operators to obtain food and merchants for the free distribution of edible foods.

In addition, people actively involved in social entrepreneurship could also participate in the competition. Mr. Nikolaos Kostas (16th winner) Teacher of Ecology and Social Solidarity Economics (SSE) at ATh, President of the University SSE “UnivSSE Coop” has been actively involved in the concept of social entrepreneurship both on a voluntary and educational level. Mr. Nikolaou helped greatly in the publicity of the work as he attended almost all the events organized either as a speaker or as a spectator. Thus, taking into account the criteria of evaluation and eligibility, his contribution to social entrepreneurship and his work on “Social Plate”, Mr. Nikolaos is included in the winners of the competition.

Finally, among the participants of the competition were participants who have strong social action and responsibility and are involved in either protecting the environment, facing social problems or both. Taking into account the evaluation and eligibility criteria, two entities that will receive an honorary prize are the Omnes Volunteer Team (17th winner) and IAAS Greece, a group of students of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. (18th winner).

**Volunteer team Omnes**



The **Volunteer team Omnes**, that has been dealing with refugee housing since 2016, in collaboration with the Kilkis Rural Cooperative and professional bodies in the city, such as the Chamber, have begun the process of creating the Staramaki, a straw from the main wheat staple, the cultivation which thrives in the area. Instead of selling the Staramaki, the team exchanges it with coffee scraps, with the aim of implementing a new venture. In their new venture, coffee residues are transformed into pellets and briquettes, which the creators called "coffee" (pun intended with coffee). In addition, the NPO is set up to take over the production of the product, which will include members of the Omnes team, as well as representatives of Kilkis operators. All proceeds from product sales will go towards creating a social housing model for vulnerable groups in Kilkis.

The Omnes volunteer team could not be excluded from the list of winners of the competition, as their intense social and environmental action helped them to choose. Their contribution to society with the care of refugees and vulnerable social groups, as well as the vigorous action to protect the environment, have contributed to their choice to receive an honorary prize.

The IAAS Greece started in Thessaloniki as an idea of a small group of students of the AUTH School of Agriculture. From time to time this idea came into being, until 2011, when it was legally established for the first time under the name IAAS Thessaloniki. Over time, the team gained more and more active members, who took part in unique events around the world. One of the most important years for IAAS Greece was 2015-16, which successfully managed to organize two of the most important events in IAAS, the EDM (European Directors Meeting) and the Ex-Co Meeting (Exchange Coordinators). While setting up another committee in Volos. IAAS Thessaloniki currently has 40 people with a great mood and creativity for new things.

Concerning the future goals of the IAAS, they are in line with the goals of the IAAS worldwide such as:

- Expanding its circle with active members
- Participate and organize even more exciting events (Conferences, seminars, exchange weeks)
- Information and awareness raising on agricultural and environmental issues and thus on social issues.

The volunteer team of students is working towards an environmentally and socially sustainable future, thus taking into account their contribution to environmental and social issues, it is included among the 18 Greek winners of the competition.

# ANNEX