

Solidarity with the Pieria region (Greece): Education – Democratic Citizenship – Health – Environment – (EDHE Pieria)

<u>Project coordination:</u>	Ms Eirini Paximadaki, Principal, Kato Milia Pieria High School
<u>Project partners:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kato Milia Pieria High School, - Volunteers “O Topos Mou”, - Local authorities of the Pieria region, - Doctors of the World Luxembourg and Greece, - “Comité de Solidarité avec la Grèce – Luxembourg”, - UNESCO Luxembourg, - Fire brigades from Greece and Luxembourg
<u>Project duration</u>	5 years

General project description:

The Pieria region comprises 42 secondary school units with approximately 10,000 students and 1,100 teachers.

The beneficiaries of the project include students and teachers from Kato Milia Pieria High School (KMPHS), as well as other students (and their families) from the Pieria region and nearby refugee camps, in particular the Kato Milia hospitality settlement.

Student beneficiaries mainly stem from mountainous villages and have limited access to the main urban centres of the Pieria region which cannot be reached at an affordable cost by a large part of the crisis ridden population.

At a distance of 1 km from KMP high school, the project’s main partner, there is a refugee camp (Kato Milia hospitality settlement) with a capacity to cater for 700 refugees. The refugee camp was set up by an NGO with EU funding. According to Greek education policy, KMPHS would have to welcome refugee students and provide courses in English and Greek as well as computing. The project aims at providing the same project services to children from refugee camps attending selected Pieria region schools and KMPHS in particular.

The project will closely collaborate with “O Topos Mou”, a recognized and very active citizens’ initiative, which implements a number of social projects in the Pieria region. The “O Topos Mou” center in Katerini (www.kikaf.org) lends its support to facilitate implementation of project activities, host and monitor volunteers from both Greece and Luxembourg and involve AL and KMPH high school students in social activities during exchange programs.

Health-related activities are implemented by Doctors of the World Greece in coordination with Doctors of the World Luxembourg. Doctors of the World Luxembourg provides technical assistance to the project for other health-related activities, such as the collection of medication and medical supplies to be distributed at the “O Topos Mou” center in Katerini.

The project works in close collaboration with Luxembourg city fire brigade experts to analyse the feasibility and make recommendations regarding a new fire watch tower at Plaka Litochorou (objective environment).

The project may call on Luxembourg transportation/cargo companies to facilitate, co-finance or finance transportation of collected items (medication and medical supplies, food etc.) from Luxembourg to Katerini.

The project has a strong focus on education and aims at achieving the following four objectives:

1. Improve education standards at the Kato Milia Pieria high school by providing school material, both technical and didactic.
2. Building bridges: Raise awareness of Luxembourg and Greek students in democratic citizenship by organizing information/education/sensitization workshops and cultural exchanges and by participating in voluntary work in Greece and Luxembourg.
3. Improve access to basic health services for disadvantaged students in the Pieria region that have limited access to government-sponsored basic health care services by providing prophylactic dental care services and vaccinations to selected beneficiaries.
4. Raise awareness and take action to help preserve the fragile environment around the Mount Olympus region by supporting initiatives to avoid forest fires.

Project specificities:

The project does not benefit from Luxembourg Government co-financing. Project activities are financed through fund raising activities organized by students and teaching staff of the Athénée of Luxembourg as well as financial and in-kind donations.

The objective “Education in Democratic Citizenship” encourages active solidarity of the entire AL school community to raise the necessary funds to reach project goals.

The project aims at establishing a strong partnership with public, non-governmental, community-based as well as private organisations in Luxembourg to facilitate project implementation.

The project aspires to be results-oriented, multi-partnership, bridge-building and low budget based on promoting understanding and solidarity among EU citizens.

Objective “Education”: Improve education standards at the Kato Milia Pieria high school by providing school material, both technical and didactic.

Coordination: Kato Milia Pieria High School, Athénée de Luxembourg

Kato Milia Pieria High School (KMPHS), the project’s main partner, was founded in 2011. It is a well-functioning high school but has not been fully equipped yet. The project aims at assisting KMPHS to further its development in a difficult economic environment.

A part of the Pieria region student community, KMPHS included, has no or limited access to computers and other equipment (such as overhead projectors), foreign language teaching books (which are not provided free of cost by the Ministry of Education) and other relevant school material.

The project aims at providing school material (technical and didactic) to KMPHS. The exact amount and specifications are provided by KMPHS on a year to year basis. These include:

- foreign language teaching books (priced at about 13 EUR each),
- paper notebooks,
- used/recycled laptops,
- overhead projectors.

The project aims at providing the same services to students from refugee camps attending KMPHS.

Logical Framework: EDUCATION

	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Goal	Improved education standards at KMP high school.	number of disadvantaged students finishing high school	KMP school statistics	The financial crisis worsens and has a further negative economic impact on rural population of Pieria region.
Outcomes	Equal learning opportunities for secondary school students at KMP high school.	All students at KMP high school have access to computers. Selected classrooms are equipped with overhead projectors.	Number of laptops installed and used by students. Number of overhead projectors installed and in use.	N.A.
Outputs	X disadvantaged students at Kato Milia Pieria High School possess and use language teaching books, notebooks and have access to a laptop computer at school.	- Number of foreign language books, notebooks received by disadvantaged students. - Number of disadvantaged students that use used/recycled laptops and overhead projectors at KMP school.	Material received and used by disadvantaged students. Verification on site.	N.A.
Activities	Provide foreign language teaching books, notebooks, used/recycled laptops and overhead projectors to Kato Milia Pieria High School.	Number of distributed foreign language books, notebooks, used/recycled laptops and overhead projectors sent to KMP school and received by Ms Eirimi Paximadaxi, principal KMP.	Material received by KMP school. Acknowledgement of receipt by KMP principal.	

Objective “Education in democratic citizenship” through workshops, cultural exchange and voluntary work.

Coordination: Athénée of Luxembourg (for activities in Luxembourg). KMP high school (for activities in Greece)

Education in democratic citizenship is an important interdisciplinary component of education at the AL and encourages students to actively participate in public life, to use their rights and to discharge their responsibilities with the necessary knowledge and skills. AL has a long tradition of promoting civic education and education in democratic citizenship through various interdisciplinary projects and activities.

AL is involved in European projects and participates in the programme “École ambassadrice du Parlement européen”. The AL is also a member of the UNESCO school network.

AL currently implements a project called “O politikòj polithj; - Are we responsible citizens?” with a 10th grade class. This on-going project aims at increasing awareness amongst students and teaching staff on the evolution of citizenship throughout European history, in general, and during the Greek crisis, in particular.

The Luxembourg National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO, via its President Ms Simone Beck, will provide non-financial support and advice for bridge-building activities between KMP high school and AL.

In line with the aforementioned AL traditions, the project aims at promoting students’ active participation in public life and a better understanding of civic and socio-political issues.

The following activities will be programmed in Greece and Luxembourg to reach this objective:

In Greece:

1. AL and KPMHS students and/or other volunteers (selected by AL NGO in cooperation with the Luxembourg “Service National de la Jeunesse”) do voluntary work at the “O Topos Mou” centre in Katerini under the supervision of “O Topos Mou” professional volunteers. Voluntary work may include sorting and distributing food baskets for disadvantaged people; sorting and distributing medication and medical supplies at the “O Topos mou” solidarity pharmacy; sorting and distributing needed items at the “O Topos mou” solidarity center to refugee camps. Volunteers may also provide assistance at the “O Topos Mou Center” in preparing and running the annual solidarity Christmas market. Volunteers may be housed at the “O Topos Mou” centre in Katerini.
2. AL students and/or other volunteers (selected by AL NGO in cooperation with the Luxembourg “Service National de la Jeunesse”) participate in workshops on social and socio-political issues at the “O Topos mou” solidarity center in Katerini. Volunteers may be housed at the “O Topos Mou” center in Katerini.
3. AL students, KMPH students and/or other volunteers (selected by AL NGO in cooperation with the Luxembourg “Service National de la Jeunesse”) participate in building a watch tower in Plaka Litchorou to fight forest fires and do voluntary work at the watch tower.
4. AL students, KMPH students and/or other volunteers (selected by KMPH and/or AL in cooperation with the Luxembourg “Service National de la Jeunesse”) participate in reforestation activities around Mount Olympus.

5. AL and KMPH students team up to explore Mount Olympus. Activities may include trekking, exploring history and mythology, exchanging country and school specific experiences etc.

In Luxembourg:

1. Information, education and sensitization workshops on Greece and the Pieria region are held at the AL. These workshops target interested AL students and teaching staff.
2. AL students collect school material, food items, medication and medical supplies as well as other relevant items for distribution by "O Topos Mou". Lists of needed items are provided by "O Topos mou".
3. AL students and teaching staff organise fund raising events (AL Christmas market sales, concerts etc.) to finance project activities.

Objective "HEALTH": Improve access to basic health services of disadvantaged students in the Pieria region that have limited access to government-sponsored basic health care services by providing prophylactic dental care services and vaccinations for selected students.

Coordination: Doctors of the World Luxembourg, Doctors of the World Greece

Basic health services in Greece are free of charge. Nevertheless, some students, especially from disadvantaged rural areas, have limited access to these services which are dispensed at urban centres. Health centres may not have enough vaccines available or lack specific vaccines. Moreover, people may have to contribute in various ways (provide and pay for vaccines, pay for transportation etc.), which is an additional financial burden for disadvantaged families. Dental health care services are not available free of charge.

The percentage of students in the Pieria region that have limited access to basic health services, in particular dental health care and vaccinations, differs from school to school. The amount and type of needed vaccinations might differ from school to school and is determined by Doctors of the World in collaboration with local health and school officials on a year-to-year basis.

The project aims at providing the same services to children and their families from refugee camps.

The project aims at providing two basic health services:

- i. vaccinations,
- ii. prophylactic dental care

to selected high school students in the Pieria region via Doctors of the World Greece which implements all activities and reports to Doctors of the World Luxembourg. Beneficiaries are selected by Doctors of the World Greece in close collaboration with Doctors of the World Luxembourg.

Other health-related activities in support of disadvantaged people will be considered in the future according to needs identified during project implementation.

The amount of basic services dispensed is subject to available AL financial resources and is fixed on a year-to-year basis.

The project will call on Luxembourg dentists to volunteer via the "Comité de Solidarité avec la Grèce" (Luxembourg), Doctors of the World Luxembourg and other channels of communication if there is a need.

Logical Framework: HEALTH

	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Goal	Improved access to basic health services in the Pieria region.	N.A.	Regional health statistics	The financial crisis worsens and has further negative economic impact on rural population of Pieria region.
Outcomes	Improved health resistance of disadvantaged secondary school students in selected rural areas of the Pieria region.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Outputs	X students of selected schools in the Pieria region have received all basic and/or necessary vaccinations. X students of selected schools in the Pieria region have undergone prophylactic dental exams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of students vaccinated. - Number of students that have undergone prophylactic dental exams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doctors of the World - Greece report/statistics received by AL, - Doctors of the World Luxembourg. - KMPHS report received by AL. 	N.A.
Activities	Vaccinations done by Doctors of the World at selected Pieria region schools. Prophylactic dental care provided by Doctors of the World at selected Pieria region high schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of students vaccinated. - Number of students that have undergone prophylactic dental exams at their respective schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doctors of the World - Greece/Luxembourg report; - beneficiary schools report. 	N.A.

Objective “ENVIRONMENT”: Raise awareness and take action to help preserve the fragile environment around the Mount Olympus region by supporting initiatives to avoid forest fires.

Coordination: Kato Milia Pieria high school¹, Pieria region local authorities, local fire brigade, Luxembourg city fire brigade

The project aims at consolidating on-going activities which consist in avoiding forest fires around Mount Olympus. Local teachers, students, parents as well as other interested citizens have volunteered to watch out for forest fires and report any incidence to the local fire brigade which is on standby and able to intervene on alert. The wooden watch tower at Plaka Litochorou, set up by a citizens’ initiative, is equipped to alert the local fire brigade.

The present wooden watch tower will be replaced by a permanent stone structure in collaboration with “O Topos Mou”, local authorities and the local fire brigade, in line with the recommendations of a feasibility study by experts from Greek and Luxembourg fire brigades.

The architectural design, the building material as well as construction work is financed and implemented by the citizens’ initiative “O Topos Mou” in cooperation with local authorities and the local fire brigade in line with recommendations of the aforementioned feasibility study.

The project aims at financing the electrification and water supply of the new watch tower as well as some basic equipment. This project activity is subject to clearance from local authorities following the findings of the feasibility study.

Students from the AL and KMPHS as well as other volunteers from Greece and Luxembourg will be able to help building the new tower and watch for forest fires under the supervision of “O Topos Mou”.

Other project activities may include reforestation activities by KMPHS and AL students around Mount Olympus.

¹ KMPH high school receives and controls invoices from service providers for the following three activities: 1. electrification of watch tower, 2. water supply of watch tower, 3. reforestations activities. KMPH high school forwards controlled invoices to the Athénée Luxembourg which transfers due amounts to KMPH high school. Invoices are then paid by KMPH high school to selected Greek service providers.

Logical Framework: ENVIRONMENT

	PROJECT SUMMARY	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RISKS / ASSUMPTIONS
Goal	The preservation of Mount Olympus natural environment.			
Outcomes	Reduced environmental degradation around Mount Olympus.			
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch tower built and functional. - Forest fires detected and reported to local fire brigade. - Selected areas around Mount Olympus replanted with trees. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On site visits, statistics/reports by local fire brigade and "O Topos Mou" 	Pending technical recommendations by Luxembourg and Greece fire brigade experts
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have water and electricity supply installed at permanent fire watch tower at Plaka Litochorou. - Provide financial assistance for reforestation activities around Mount Olympus. - AL and KMPHS students participate in tree planting activities. 	Number of trees planted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invoices for water and electricity works and materials - Certificates of provisional and final acceptance of works. - Invoices for tree saplings. - On-site visits 	Sufficient amount of AL + KMPHS students interested in and available for participation in activities.

