

Athens, 17.07.2020

**Minutes of the 80<sup>th</sup> MHPSS Technical Working Group at Babel Day Centre**

Chaired by Nikos Gkionakis, Maria Ntetsika

**Participants:** ARSIS, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, Network for Children's Rights, MsF Swiss, GCR, IOM, MdM Greece, ADDMA, Solidarity Now, Babel Day Centre

**Agenda:**

-Updates from the field and the other WGs

-AOB

<b>Updates from the field</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>MdM:</b> MdM is mainly focused on the implementation of the project on COVID_19 which provides psychosocial and material support to people most affected by the pandemic.</li><li>• <b>IOM:</b> The difficulty on the transfers of people living in Ritsona still remains. Since the public transportation is not often, IOM provides taxis to the POCs so that they can go to their appointments with doctors. The number of people with psychiatric diagnosis has been increased in the sites of IOM. They are mainly coming from the islands.</li><li>• <b>Network for Children's Rights:</b> There has been noticed an increase in the number of homeless unaccompanied minors. The majority of them have left the islands before the lockdown, but they now have access to services, so that they can become visible.</li><li>• <b>ADDMA:</b> The exits of the Estia programme still remains a difficult issue. The organization has not secured funding for the</li></ul>
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mental health services provided in Petralona. The issue of PAAYPA remains a challenge for the social workers. Still there hasn't been any formal information about the continuation of Estia programme by the organization.

- **ARSIS:** A letter was sent to the Ministry of Migration with the suggestions regarding the New Ministerial Decision on the Estia programme by a group of organizations. The New Ministerial Decision poses many issues to the organizations that want to work on the implementation of the programme. Another letter was sent to the Ministry focused on the restrictive measures that continue in the sites. According to the letter, this is a kind of institutionalized discrimination.
- **GCR:** They also face a difficulty on issuing PAAYPA, which prevents unaccompanied minors to have access to OAED card and free transportation card. Many of them are, therefore, obliged to stay in the site. The situation in Elaionas site becomes worse and worse every day, with many newcomers residing in tents at the moment.
- **Solidarity Now:** Solidarity Now decided not to participate in the implementation of the Estia programme II, as they don't agree with the new framework posed by the New Ministerial Decision. 30<sup>th</sup> of August will be the last day of implementation of Estia programme for Solidarity Now, unless an extension for one to two months will be agreed. Around 200 professionals are estimated that are working in this programme for Solidarity Now in Athens, Ioannina and Thessaloniki. Beneficiaries can receive services in Solidarity Centre only if they have already scheduled an appointment through email, phone or facebook.
- **MsF Swiss:** A press release was conducted the previous days focused on the existing exit strategy, since MsF are worried for PoCs that they have multiple health issues and they are now homeless.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Babel:</b> A new project is starting at Babel Day Centre focused on the support of health workers during COVID_19 epidemic. The project will be consisted of the following components: webinars, on-line sessions, website with useful material. A research made by the University of Athens on the psychosocial effects of the pandemic, the majority of the participants was mainly worried for the economic effects rather than the impact on health, secondly they were worried that they could transfer the virus and then that they could have the virus themselves.</li> </ul>
<b>Updates of the task force on the on-line work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next meeting of the TF will take place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. The invitation is to be sent as soon as possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda for the next WG</b>	<p>-Discussion and updates on the current situation</p> <p>-AOB</p>

The next MHPSS WG meeting is going to take place on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of September** at **09:30 -11:30**.