

## Press Release

31/12/2015

“I’m in!”

**An Innovative Pilot Programme carried out in cooperation  
between MYTILINEOS Group and the “Together for Children” Association  
To combat the School Drop-out phenomenon**

A strategic choice of **MYTILINEOS Group**, in line with its responsible operation and its commitment to enhance its contribution to society, is to **support selected social programmes** which can substantially contribute to the efforts to **strengthen social cohesion and address the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding during a difficult period for Greece**.

To this end and **with a strong interest in children’s education**, **MYTILINEOS Group**, in direct cooperation with the **“Together for Children” Association**, developed the Innovative Pilot Programme **“I’m in!”**, whose objective is to help mitigate the effects of **School Drop-out, i.e. of children quitting school early, before completing their basic education**.

**The implementation of the programme is fully financed by MYTILINEOS Group**, with Group executives taking an active part in the Programme’s key planning stages. The detailed action plan was developed by the **“Together for Children” Association**, drawing on its valuable knowledge and long experience in the development of social programmes, with the scientific support of the non-profit organisation **“MERIMNA”** and the **“Prolepsis” research organisation**, which worked closely with a team of **volunteer teachers from the 2nd Experimental Lyceum of Athens and the Centre for School Psychology Research and Applications of the University of Athens**.

**In its current pilot stage**, the Programme comprises of **three key modules** which complement each other and cover the needs of the schools of the **7th School Community of the Prefecture of Attica**, as well as those of other beneficiary population groups.

**Module 1:**

***Supplementary education programme for 30 students with learning and family difficulties***, who are vulnerable to school drop-out. This module consists of **300 teaching hours** covering literature, mathematics, physics and chemistry, in parallel with the implementation of **15 experiential actions** that seek to strengthen the psychological resilience and self-confidence of the 30 participating children, by developing their social attitude and skills. This provision is accompanied by a **free nutritious and healthy lunch, school supplies, new shoes and other material goods** that substantially help alleviate the children’s food insecurity.

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**Module 2:**

***Teacher training programme in managing students with learning difficulties, aimed at boosting their psychological resilience.*** This module comprises of **30 hours of counselling** and guidance for the educators who will teach in the Programme, and **34 hours of training** by psychologists focusing on managing students with psychological problems, as well as on handling school crises. This training regards the Programme's teachers as well as other teachers from the 7<sup>th</sup> School Community, who wish to attend.

**Module 3:**

***Material and psychological support programme for vulnerable families,*** offering **free attendance of up to 8 family counselling sessions** at the Counselling Centre of the "Together for Children" Association, as well as the provision of **free meals for up to five families for a period of six months, provided they meet the corresponding income criteria.**

**The Programme's key objectives for the school year 2015-2016 are:**

- To achieve a 60% success rate in keeping in school the children who will participate in the programme and who run a high drop-out risk during the current school year.
- To improve the children's learning performance.
- To lessen their food insecurity rate.
- To improve their psychological resilience and social functioning skills
- To provide 100% of the teachers participating in the programme with the tools that will allow them to better handle high drop-out risk students and the specialised knowledge for handling school crises.