

Athens, 5.2.2021

**Minutes of the 91<sup>st</sup> MHPSS Technical Working Group at Babel Day Centre**

Chaired by Nikos Gkionakis, Maria Ntetsika

**Participants:** HIAS, Zeuxis, ADDMA, Society of Social Psychiatry P. Sakellaropoulos, Network for children’s rights, MsF VoT, ARSIS, HR360, Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors/ Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors, IRC, UNHCR, Equal Rights, Greek Forum of Refugees, Velos Youth Center, DRC, IOM, Spyros Koulocheris, Babel Day Centre

**Agenda:**

- Discussion and updates on the current situation

-AOB

<p><b>Discussion and updates on the current situation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>UNHCR:</b> UNHCR has handed over the majority of the apartments from Estia programme to the Ministry. A small number of apartments remains under the umbrella of UNHCR but will soon be handed over to the Ministry as well. The prepaid cards are under the responsibility of UNHCR until June.</li><li>• <b>Network for children’s rights:</b> Many unaccompanied minors from Pakistan visited the offices of the organization the last month. A number of them lives in the streets and have face multiple difficulties including violence.</li><li>• <b>ADDMA:</b> Five hundred individuals are non-compliant for Estia programme but still remain in the apartments. Those people might be left on the street any time. A discussion on how to deal with this issue takes place within the organization. Only</li></ul>
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two individuals left their apartments the last period. Two psychologists continue to work in the framework of Estia programme.

- **ARSIS:** Minors who residing in the camps are not allowed to go to the schools in Northern Greece,. ARSIS has given a lot of effort to advocate against this decision and they closely follow the progress of this issue. Many children have not access to any services in the PROKEKA in the islands.
- **HR360:** HR360 continues to provide services in the camps as usual. The issue with the access and activation of PAAYPA remains unsolved in some cases.
- **Velos Youth Centre:** The educational and recreational group activities and the open-door policy have stopped due to restriction measures. The majority of the appointments take place remotely. The professionals try to provide the UAM with phone cards so that they can be able to connect through internet.
- **IRC:** The IRC programmes continue to operate normally in the islands, since they finally manage to secure the appropriate funding. IRC searches to hire a Senior Psychologist for the islands.
- **MsF VoT:** The PM+ helpers will be trained during the following days on PM+. An email with more information as well as the referral criteria will be shared with the group as soon as possible.
- **Spyros Koulocheris:** The Asylum Services treat the minors as if they were adults. The site of the Greek Ombudsman will be again open for reports. The last period it was under construction. A report for body search only to third country nationals was made for the Asylum Office in Alimos.

- **Greek Forum of Refugees:** The training of the interpreters for mental health settings together with the supervision continue to take place. The psychologists of the Forum offer voluntary psychosocial support to beneficiaries of EMANTES.
- **DRC:** DRC continues to provide services in the sites with decreased staff number. The majority of the children that are residing in the sites in Attica is going to school. However, those minors that need to follow classes remotely face difficulties due to connectivity issues.
- **IOM:** IOM continues to provide psychosocial support, as it used to, with two psychologists in almost all the sites. Some info sessions are to take place that will focus on providing information about the work of psychologists and about medical treatments to the individuals in the sites. The collaboration with KETHEA focused on the prevention of drug abuse in Ritsona site continues.
- **Unit for Social Integration and Support of Unaccompanied Minors:** An effort is being made to keep track of the unaccompanied minors with disabilities and to organize the transition phase from childhood to adulthood, during which many young people from 18-21 years old stop to receive any help.
- **Zeuxis:** Zeuxis continues to be in charge of the safe zone in Malakasa site. They as well face difficulties with the access of the UAM to education.
- **Equal Rights:** Equal Rights Beyond Borders assists refugees in Greece. They provide legal support to fight for their rights, and strengthen their opportunity for a brighter future. They work in refugee camps, along the borders, and in the countries where refugees settle. More information can be found in their website:

<https://equal-rights.org/en/about/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HIAS:</b> HIAS has started providing psychosocial support the last three weeks in Lesvos. The team is consisted by 1,5 psychologist and a social worker. They mainly focus on supporting people who are already receiving legal services from the organization. They are planning in the future to conduct group sessions for minors and adults.</li> <li>• <b>Babel:</b> An informative email will be shared for the new project of Babel that focuses on the provision of psychosocial support to patients with Covid_19. Babel started again receiving referrals for one day and it was “obliged” to stop again the other day since a large number of referrals was made. Moreover, there is a serious increase of homeless people, who are arriving at Babel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A researcher asked to follow the MHPSS TWG for the purpose of a European research programme called ADMIGOV that aims to promote an alternative migration governance model and takes seriously the principles laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (2015), the New York Declaration (2016) and later UN documents. All the members agreed with the participation and asked to receive more information on the purpose of the study and also to have access on the results of the study.</li> <li>• The difficulty that remains with AMKA for recognized refugees was discussed. A recognized refugee remains without AMKA or PAAYPA, until he or she receives the refugee card from the Asylum services, which, at the moment, may take a lot of time.</li> <li>• This platform which is made to support on the searching of medicaments was shared in the meeting:</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://givmed.org/med-for-u/needs/add">https://givmed.org/med-for-u/needs/add</a></p>

<b>Agenda for the next WG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Presentation of a new project focused on the provision of psychosocial support to patients with Covid_19 (Babel Day Centre)</li> <li>-Discussion and updates on the current situation</li> <li>-AOB</li></ul>
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The next MHPSS WG meeting is going to take place on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of February** at **09:30 -11:30**.