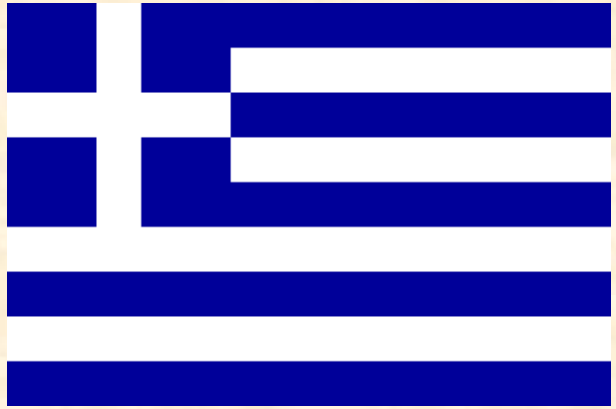

MUNICIPALITY OF AGIA PARASKEVI

Reshaping Crucial Strategies to fight unemployment through Social Economy
RECRUIT

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Secretary-General of the Municipality of Agia Paraskevi

Brief Municipality's Profile

The Municipality of Agia Paraskevi has about 80.000 inhabitants. It is located at the foot of Ymittos mountain range and borders with the Municipalities of Papagou-Holargos, Halandri, and Peania.

Within its administrative boundaries there are four (4) Metro Stations, the motorway of Attiki Odos and the Ymittos Ring Road.

The Municipality employs more than 600 people. Within its administrative boundaries are situated the National Centre for Scientific Research (NCSR) "Demokritos", the American College, the French School, Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Communications and the Greek Broadcasting Corporation (ERT).

ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗΣ

Brief Municipality's Profile

The administration of the Municipality is committed to making Agia Paraskevi a competitive, sustainable and attractive European city. Sustainable mobility, social cohesion and the protection of the environment are among its top priorities.

Agia Paraskevi has a significant research, cultural and educational capacity and it can influence the regional policies. Agia Paraskevi is a member of the Central Union of Local Authorities of Greece (KEDE), which is a very important body for policy making.

The Municipality of Agia Paraskevi wishes to actively participate in the recent developments in various fields (social, economic, scientific, etc) as the latter are formed internationally, Therefore, participates in actions and initiatives showing its disposition of extroversion and international cooperation.

Mayor’s Greetings

Mayor Vasilis Zorbas and the Municipal Council wish to express their full support to this program, as we strongly believe that it will activate social forces to address many contemporary problems of our city.

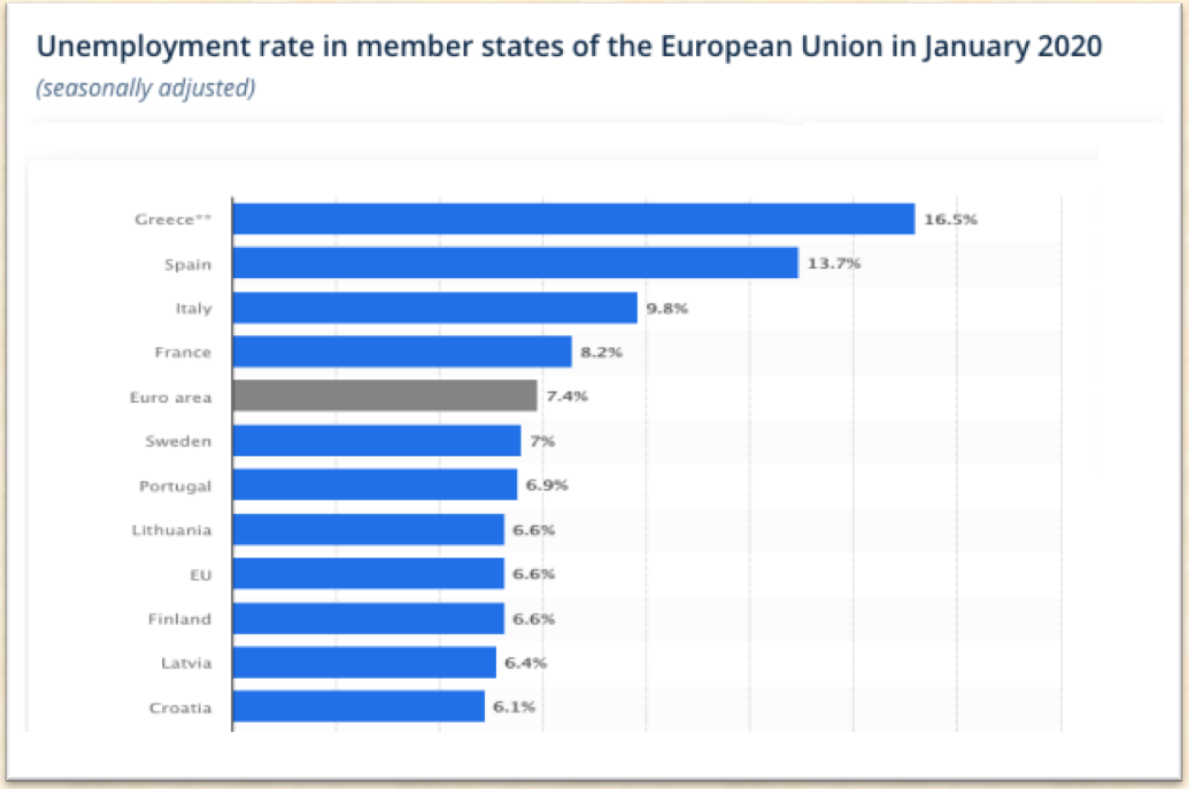
Mayor Zorbas sends his warmest greetings to all partners and looks forward to meeting you all in Agia Paraskevi, after the hygienic crisis have been ended.

Why this program is so crucial for Greece ?

Greece has been recording one of the highest rates of unemployment among the 27 EU Member States the last decade.

Despite the substantial decrease of unemployment over the last years, the ongoing pandemic crisis of COVID – 19 is already having a major substantial negative impact, especially for young people.

According to the European Commission's forecast (Spring 2020) unemployment is expected to rise up to 19.9 percent in 2020, dropping to 16.8 percent in 2021.



Why this program is so crucial for Greece ?

The forecast for economic growth in the EU is also ominous for Greece causing a recession of 9.7 percent for 2020, the steepest economic decline predicted in the Union.

The impact of the lockdown and the public health protection measures imposed is particularly severe for the tourist and hospitality sector, which is estimated to contribute, directly or indirectly 25% of national GDP, including many thousand seasonal jobs.

Why this program is so crucial for Agia Paraskevi ?

Social cohesion, on national, regional and local level, is critically affected by these extremely high levels of unemployment, while its main consequences are mainly reflected at urban centers. As a part of the wider geographical area of Athens, the capital of Greece and of the Region of Attica, the Municipality of Agia Paraskevi has also been seriously impacted by the economic crisis and recent coronavirus pandemic. Citizens are losing their jobs and local enterprises, mainly in the sector of services, are facing vital economic challenges.

What we believe ….

The new administration of the Municipality of Agia Paraskevi believes that the Local / Regional Authorities (LRAs) need and have to play a more substantial role in view of the efforts for economic recovery especially in the present circumstances which have been formed by the wide spread of the CoViD-19.

The LRAs :

- ✓ are working on the spot,
- ✓ have a better knowledge and understanding of the real problems and concerns of their citizens
- ✓ their actions can have a direct, immediate and tangible effect in addressing the problems.

What we have done (so far) ….

Therefore, we have been working in fighting poverty and social exclusion, by establishing and operating **three Social Structures** to provide medicines, food and goods **to vulnerable groups and people in need**.

- ✓ **Social grocery** which provides food and other goods of first aid to beneficiaries
- ✓ **Social restaurant** which provides daily food to poors, jobless and elderly citizens
- ✓ **Social pharmacy** which provides drugs, sanitary material and para-pharmaceutical products to poor and uninsured citizens

What we have done (so far) ….

In parallel, Municipality of Agia Paraskevi has organized

- ✓ **Municipal Health Centers** which provides medical advices and guidance and
- ✓ **Municipal Woman Center** which provides to its beneficiaries with the possibility to develop new skills
- ✓ The Institution **"ARGO"** which provides prevention from addictions and promotes psychosocial health

The Municipality also cooperates with other public or private bodies, associations or organizations, in local, peripheral or national level,

- ✓ for the promotion of social actions through social-economy initiatives
- ✓ for the support of small and medium-sized enterprises of Agia Paraskevi.

What we expect from this program

- ✓ …. to work together and create at local level a pool of experts that can enable collaboration in the field of social economy at local, regional and European level.
- ✓ to exchange good practices and to learn from each other how to fight unemployment
- ✓ to activate local social forces to cooperate and support our less privileged citizens
- ✓ ….. and many more

THANK YOU

European Commission | Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises