



email: osokethea@yahoo.com

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To:

The World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC)

The European Federation of Therapeutic Communities (EFTC)

Please Notify your Members

PRESS RELEASE (published in Greece, November 9, 2023)

It is with great concern that we are following developments, starting with the Bulletin Press Release of the Ministry of Health dated November the 1st about the new bill on the Psychiatric Reform and in particular the establishment of the N.O.P.A.E. (National Agency for the Prevention and Treatment of Addictions) which will include all the organisations and bodies approved to date for the prevention and treatment of addictions and other addiction-related activities.

With this press release we would like to declare a resounding NO to these developments

and our complete and utter disagreement with the bill. We declare clearly in all directions that we will fight with all of our strength for its withdrawal.

From the very first moment of the founding of the OSOKETHEA we have raised our concern about the deterioration of the KETHEA's dry programs and social rehabilitation. Our long history of rehabilitation has armed us with experience and we know full well that no amount of waiting will benefit us and our families.

Today's developments are a continuation of the European Union's policies and the Greek governments' policies to date on rehabilitation. The trend is to support and promote "harm reduction" programmes, and the ensuring a "functional user" rather than research and treatment of the causes that lead to addictions.

The chronic degradation, understaffing, the removal of the self and the reduction of funding for the dry programs of the KETHEA are typical examples.

But now the whole field of rehabilitation in our country is suffering. The administrative and logistical consolidation of everything into one organization, only leads to dysfunctions and chronic problems. All the organizations and all public programs are in immediate danger of losing their identity, history and their methods of treatment! The approved agencies and rehabilitation programs are already being constantly monitored and supervised by the Ministry of Health. The existing therapeutic pluralism gives a plethora of networking opportunities between the different rehabilitation centres and different public programmes and works well over time, when there is a need.

The claim of the Ministry of Health press release that "the purpose is to eliminate stigma and fully meet the needs of the population" fills us with ANGER.

If this is indeed the purpose, then we suggest that the Ministry, instead of tabling this, for no good reason, centralized bill, to proceed with:

- Strengthening the dry treatment programs with permanent rehab-qualified personnel to allow for a "therapeutic continuum".
- Strengthening the structures with new premises and logistical infrastructure.
- Organizing an information campaign throughout society on the scourge of drugs by specialised staff, with the participation of family associations and our Federation of Family Associations of KETHEA.

We are sounding the alarm; these developments do not only concern our children and our comrades and the members of their families all over Greece, but all of us. All children, all parents, all people, the whole society, all of us.

We call upon all the Boards of the KETHEA family associations to inform their members about the serious developments.

We demand the immediate convening of the General Assembly of the KETHEA.

We ask for practical support from all institutions in the fighting initiatives that we will decide in the next days.

We, the Families, the society and KETHEA are in need of your support

Federation of Family Associations of KETHEA

