



Athens' Pledge to the European Pillar of Social Rights

The socio-economic crisis in Greece over the past years as well as the recent COVID-19 pandemic have inevitably exacerbated social inequalities in Athens, affecting mainly families with children, single-parent families, lonely people, the elderly, people with disabilities and minorities. The right to proper housing is an inalienable right for all people and an absolute prerequisite for social cohesion.

Commitment to principle 19 concerning "Housing and assistance for the homeless"

City of Athens Reception and Solidarity Center (KYADA), the "flagship" of social services in the city, supports individuals and families living below the poverty line by providing them with basic goods (food, medicines, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, clothes and shoes), relevant services (social laundry) as well as psychosocial support. During the COVID-19 lock-down, KYADA handled 1.441 requests for home delivery of food and medicines, with a total of 5.036 food and medicine packages being delivered at home, while 8.236 food packages were received in person by the beneficiaries.

Furthermore, KYADA has initiated two new programs for a total of 480 families affected by the coronavirus. The eligible families will be supported every fortnight with the necessary grocery supplies for their household (food, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, etc). They will also receive - if needed - psychosocial support by KYADA's scientists (psychologists, social workers).

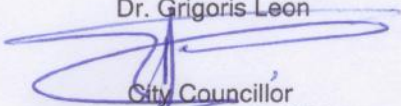
In the middle of the coronavirus crisis, a new state-of-the-art shelter for the homeless was created, the **City of Athens Multipurpose Homeless Center**, which consists of a **dormitory**, where every homeless can come and find a safe place to sleep. Apart from that, a **hostel** accommodates people on a more permanent base providing the homeless not only with a place to live and free meals, but also with all the psychosocial support they need for their reintegration in the labor market and the society. Furthermore, an increasing number of people have managed to enroll in subsidized housing and subsidized employment programs.

As it is estimated that one out of two homeless people living on the streets is addicted to drugs, the creation of an **Addicted Homeless Hostel** for their accommodation and care was a top priority. Within its first two months, the Hostel already houses 90 addicted homeless offering accommodation, meals, nursing care, counselling, psychosocial support and the opportunity to join detoxification programs.

At the same time, all relevant actions and programs are running tirelessly, such as the Streetwork teams, the open soup kitchen and the social medical services to the homeless. Very soon **two social clinics (Social Pathology - Surgical Clinic, Social Mental Health Clinic)** and a **Social Dental Clinic** will start their operation with the aim to offer these people the medical care they need, as relevant studies have shown that low-income people have worse physical and mental health.

Our main aim is to allow homeless people and the have-nots to regain their lives by becoming productive again, return to work and successfully reintegrate into the society.

Athens, September 14, 2020

Dr. Grigoris Leon

City Councillor
& President of KYADA