



Press Release

The second open event of the “**OPEN SOCIETIES AND SCHOOLS IN CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ENERGY TRANSITION (CLIMATE SCHOOL Be.At)**” project was successfully completed on Thursday 16th May, 2019 at “Technopolis” of the Municipality of Athens.

The project was implemented jointly by the Municipality of Athens and the Social Co-operative “Wind of Renewal”, the German citizens' initiative “Respect for Greece” (RfG) and the German “Independent Institute of Environmental Issues” (UfU).

During the opening ceremony, the artworks of 71 primary and secondary school students were presented.

The event was inaugurated by the **Mayor of the City of Athens, Giorgos Broulias**. The mayor referred to the project and other related actions of the Municipality for climate change.

Maria Iliopoulou vice-Mayor for the child, presented the actions implemented in the schools. Maria Iliopoulou mentioned that the program is part of the general action of the City of Athens in the framework of its commitment to adapt to climate change and save energy in school buildings. Furthermore, an extended research project was carried out under the authority of the Institute for Educational Policy and until the finalisation of the project a comprehensive action plan for climate protection and energy saving for the school buildings of the municipality will be delivered to the new municipal authority of the city of Athens.

The **vice-Mayor responsible for the environment Eleni Myrivili** stressed the fact that cities are playing a crucial role in climate change and can be pioneers in this effort.

The **regional director of education in Attica, Giorgos Kosivas**, noted that climate change is one of the major threats humanity faces and must be tackled now and not sometime in the future. We must take action and protect the environment with the cooperation of citizens, governments and other organisations.



The **director of primary education of Athens, Anastasis Papageorgiou** was represented by **Maria Dimopoulou**, responsible for environmental education, who underlined the importance of implementing energy saving programs in all schools, not only those of the municipality of Athens.

The **director of secondary education Ioanna Psina**, was represented by **Kostis Kontogiannis**. Ioanna Psina expressed her belief that students, through their participation have realised in a great extent the importance of climate protection.

Hilde Schramm, on behalf of the German citizens' initiative "**Respect for Greece**" (**RfG**), partner of the project, referred- among other issues- to RfG's contribution in conceiving the idea of the project and promoting the cooperation between Greece and Germany in climate protection issues.

Nikos Chrysogelos, on behalf of the Social Cooperative "**Wind of Renewal**" instead of greeting, called a group of children and together loudly said a slogan in favor of climate protection.

Later, **Kostis Kontogiannis**, the academic responsible of the program, discussed about the importance of the program and presented the implemented steps of the project.

The next part of the event included a short presentation of the implemented training of teachers, from the coordinators of Education for Sustainability, Achileas Mandrikas and Christina Papazisi.

The event concluded with a round table discussion of students and teachers, who presented their experience. In the round-table participated the students: Ilias Mathioudakis, Aggelos Asimakopoulos, Rafail Papoulias and Rania Stavreloupoulou and the teachers: Panagiotis Lazos and Vasiliki Ioakimidou.

On Friday 17th May 2019 approximately 1300 students and teachers, together with the Vice Mayor for the Child, Maria Iliopoulou and members from Respect for Greece, participated with great enthusiasm in a march for climate at the Dionysiou Aeropagitou pedestrian street, as part of the "**OPEN SOCIETIES AND SCHOOLS IN CLIMATE PROTECTION AND ENERGY TRANSITION (CLIMATE SCHOOL Be.At)**" project.

The march, accompanied by the Municipality of the City of Athens band, ended at "Technopolis" complex of the Municipality of Athens where the students were



devised according to their school class and read out loud their resolutions, which were afterwards handed to the Municipal authorities.

All participants were awarded by the vice-Mayor for the child, Maria Iliopoulou and the Mayor of the City of Athens, Giorgos Broulias. The 54th and 130th primary schools of Athens presented songs they had prepared.

After the award ceremony, students and teachers visited the exhibition of the student works related to the climate initiative, while a delegation of students, accompanied by two teachers talked about their experience and the need for raising awareness at the "Dames Spathi" radio show of the Municipality of Athens radio station, Athina 984fm.

The project participants:

The Municipality of Athens and the Social Cooperative Company "Wind of Renewal", the German citizens' initiative "Respect for Greece, RFG and the German "Independent Institute of Environmental Issues" UFU.

The program is implemented under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and aims at saving energy in school buildings and raising awareness of students on climate change.

71 schools and 200 teachers of Athens Municipality schools participated in the project.

The project is funded by:



The events were implemented with the cooperation of the Athens Municipal Radio

& Arcoiris.



The events are hosted by Technopolis of the Municipality of Athens

