



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Smile of the Child

and

Apprentis d' Auteuil

Today, the 5th December 2017, in Paris, 'The Smile of the Child', Non-profit Association, with headquarters at 1 Spirou Loui str., 15124 Marousi, Athens, Greece, represented by Mr. Costas Yannopoulos, President of the Board of Directors, and 'Apprentis d'Auteuil', with headquarters at 40, rue Jean de la Fontaine, 75016 Paris, France, represented by Mr. Nicolas Truelle, Director-General,

agree on the following:

I. Introduction

'**The Smile of the Child**', in Greek 'Το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού', is the largest internationally recognized non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization in Greece in the critical field of child protection, search and rescue of missing children, support of children and families with children in need, as well as free public health service for children, both in prevention and treatment.

The Organization was created in 1996 by Costas Yannopoulos, inspired by the wish of well-being for all children in the world, expressed by his ten-year old son Andreas before he succumbed to brain cancer. Over its 22 years of activity 'The Smile of the Child' has made a difference for more than 1.200.000 children and their families, without distinction of background, origin, religion or any other criterion. The 480 personnel (social workers, psychologists, ambulance staff, etc.) and the nearly 1.998 active volunteers create a substantial impact, earning 'The Smile of the Child' both nationwide and international recognition. This recognition is reflected in a series of

MoUs with national authorities and institutions and active, even leading positions of 'The Smile of the Child' in international fora, as shown in the list in annex III.

The operational commitment of 'The Smile of the Child' is structured along four main objectives and main target groups of children in need of protection and care: children victims of any form of violence, children in poverty or threatened by poverty, children with serious health problems, and missing children. 'The Smile of the Child' operates services all across Greece that are coordinated by Centers for Direct Social Intervention (CDSI), ensuring the necessary interconnection and regional implementation of all services at the operational and organizational levels.

The Organization has the capacity to mobilize a wide spectrum of infrastructure and actions all across the country with the aim to provide a holistic support to children and families in need.

'Apprentis d'Auteuil' is a Catholic Foundation, which was founded in 1866, and is recognized since 1929 by the French State as a foundation of public utility, acting in close proximity to children, young people and their families in vulnerable situations in more than 250 services in France. The organization operates in the fields of child protection, education, training and insertion and support of families in their parental role, as detailed in annex II.

The Foundation's goal is to give every young person, of any geographical, cultural and social origin, the chance of receiving a good education and training, enabling him or her to find their place in society, helping them directly and supporting their family. Over 150 years, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' has constantly evolved to meet the challenges of the times and prevent exclusion. Every day, over 5.500 employees and as many volunteers, including 1.000 who are regular volunteers, support over 25.000 young people and their families.

At the international level, the ambition of 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' is to act, everyday more and more, with other actors in the field of education and insertion throughout the world, and together, provide adequate solutions to the needs of vulnerable young people and families. Its international activity rests on two main pillars:

- (1) working in partnership, in alliance;
- (2) acting on the basis of its educational project and its action in France.

At its level and in its own way, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, and to the implementation of the International Convention of the Rights of the Child (ICRC).

In Europe, more particularly, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' builds and maintains partnerships with counterpart actors and is active in European networks (see Annex III), with the goal of sharing best practices and knowledge on shared issues and fostering innovation in order to improve its work. Since 1993, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' has thus implemented projects funded by the European Union, aiming at improving the training, employability, and inclusion of the young people and families supported in the devices of the Foundation, promoting their openness to other cultures, languages and European populations as well as promoting skill development of professionals.

II. Principles of Commitment

'**The Smile of the Child**' operates according to a series of principles, which constitute 'its spirit'. A child in need must be helped and not be asked first for its family descent, or for its passport.

The main principle which distinguishes 'The Smile of the Child' from other similar organizations is the holistic approach in the support and protection of children, through the mobilization of the full range of activities in each individual case. Over its existence of more than two decades, 'The Smile of the Child' has developed in-depth child protection and assistance activities for children victims of violence, missing children, children with serious health problems and children living in poverty or threatened by poverty. In order to really help resolve a child's troubled situation, all dimensions of its problems need to be dealt with.

'The Smile of the Child' consciously embeds itself in the existing societal patchwork of initiatives and endeavors already undertaken by authorities at all levels, be it local, regional, national or beyond. The manpower and equipment of 'The Smile of the Child' are not designed, built or deployed to compete with efforts made by municipalities or other authorities or to substitute themselves by the latter: on the contrary, the structures set up by authorities very much belong to our society, are therefore valuable and deserve to be strengthened and improved.

The operation and underlying structural organization of 'The Smile of the Child' have been growing steadily since the origins in 1996. In this process, continuity has been a major characteristic. 'The Smile of the Child' has a solid policy record that no extension of activity and establishment is viewed to be a temporary involvement. Wherever 'The Smile of the Child' establishes a Home, a Direct Social Intervention Center, a Support Center, it remains. In fact, this attitude reflects the spirit of 'The Smile of the Child' to think long term, as befits an organization committed to children and their future, an aim that by nature cannot be other than long term oriented. It also reflects the desire of 'The Smile of the Child' to foster well rooted links with and in society, a prerequisite for maximize impact.

It is important to mention that 'The Smile of the Child' is a certified Organization from the Hellenic Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Solidarity for the provision of first, second and third-level services of social care, one of only two organizations in Greece.

'**Apprentis d'Auteuil**'s educational mission is based on a Christian view of mankind and places trust at the centre of its approach. It recognises the uniqueness and sacred value of each man who belongs to the same community, the human family, of which the unity does not abolish in itself the individuals, the people and cultures but makes them more transparent to each other, more united in their legitimate differences.

'Apprentis d'Auteuil' works toward ensuring the respect of dignity, equality, and the recognition of the inalienable character of one's rights. Its motto "Trust can save the future" reflects its two most important beliefs:

1) that it's never too late for young people. Whatever their difficulties, obstacles or wounds, they can succeed if they get the right kind of professional, caring support. The Foundation wishes to give a chance and the proper tools to enable all children and young people to succeed in becoming free and responsible women and men in society, no matter their history so far;

2) that it's the same for families. Treated with respect and compassion, they can regain confidence in their ability to educate their children.

'Apprentis d'Auteuil' considers that childhood requires specific attention, support and care, and that family, as a basic unit of society, for the growth and well-being of all its members, in particular children, must also receive support and assistance to fulfil its role in society. Thus, the Foundation wishes to offer to every child and young person the possibility to be the main actor of his/her own development. It builds, with each one, his/her future with an approach of co-education and not of substitution (doing "with" him, and not "for" him).

It is important to mention that 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' is a Foundation of public utility, meaning it is certified by the French State as promoting the public interest since 1929. Therefore, over half of the Foundation's activity is funded by the State. Moreover, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' is known in France among both public and private stakeholders for its holistic support towards children and young people in need in France in different fields (social services and child welfare, education, vocational training, job programs), and at various stages of childhood (early childhood, teenage years and transition to adulthood).

III. Goals of partnership

Goals of 'The Smile of the Child's international activity

'The Smile of the Child', aiming solely at providing assistance to children, both in Greece and worldwide, has among its fundamental principles the forging of international partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies that share similar goals and values.

Since the early beginning of its foundation, "The Smile of the Child", has been cooperating and exchanging experience with International governmental and non-governmental organizations, agencies and children's rights networks from Europe and around the world. The Organization has collaborated with key international actors in adopting best practices and examples in the main areas of its focus; by now, however, "The Smile of the Child" is also in a position to showcase its own significant 22-year experience and transfer its know-how to third countries.

The importance of International Cooperation for 'The Smile of the Child' essentially resides in it being:

* A supporting force to the Organization's effective day to day field activity, by setting up and actively contributing to networks and cooperation schemes which, at the international level,

- facilitate and enhance the exchange of experience and practices,
- bundle forces for action
- and provide a framework in order to share information, both generically and case specifically.

* A channel for ‘The Smile of the Child’ to enhance, abroad and indirectly also in Greece itself, the notoriety, recognition, acknowledgement and support of its work and role,

* A platform to advocate and radiate the Organization's values and vision regarding the wide range of child related issues it covers, in view of influencing agendas and policies of decision makers at international level.

Goals of ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’s’ international activity

Since 1994, ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ carries out an international activity within the framework of partnerships based on a long standing relationship of cooperation with local operators working for young people in difficulty and their families, which is based on shared common values: transparency, trust and reciprocity, and a principle of subsidiarity.

‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’s’ international activity aims at:

- improving the quality of support of young people and families in France and in the world through the sharing of educational and pedagogic experiences;
- enriching and consolidating the local initiatives thanks to a technical, methodological, educational and/or pedagogic support;
- enlarging educational and job prospects of young people supported by ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ in France, and by its partners abroad;
- advocating for young people and families in difficulty towards national and international decision-makers.

‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ organises its international activity in alliance around four programs: Protection of the most fragile children / Children in street situations, Families and Parenthood, Crosscultural Education, Vocational training, Insertion & Employment / entrepreneurship.

The international activity is developed at three levels:

- Projects/actions on the field,
- The implementation and animation of spaces and methods to share experiences and the capitalization of knowledge,
- Advocacy actions to raise awareness and make known the cause of young people in difficulty.

More specifically, ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ has recently defined four key priorities for the strategic development of its international action over the period 2017-2021, which are to:

- focus, in France and abroad, on the most fragile young people and families, as well as the professionals that support them,
- enrich and consolidate its partnership-based approach,

- focus its action on its four main programs (With Families, Child protection/Street children, Entrepreneurship and Crosscultural Education) as well as projects for which the work in partnership at the international level provides added value,
- assess and measure the impact of our international work on its work in France and vice-versa.

IV. Fields of cooperation

In light of the aforementioned principles of commitment and respective goals, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' and 'The Smile of the Child' wish to further develop in the future the collaboration that was initiated in 2013.

Previously, the two Organizations have collaborated on several projects in the fields of child protection, education and support to families (such as, exchange of practices between professionals, participation in a "Community of best practices and knowledge on families"), and within the framework of European networks (ex. Eurochild, Educ-Europe).

The two Organizations now wish to further develop their cooperation in these fields, as well as extend it to other issues of their utmost concern at the present time, including the educational care of unaccompanied minors and young refugees and support of young people aged 18-25 years old towards their successful integration into society.

In order to further this collaboration on these different issues, the two Organizations consider several means of intervention, which are presented hereinafter.

The validity of the terms of the present Memorandum of Understanding shall be evaluated and re-examined accordingly by the two Organizations in three years' time, namely, in 2020.

1. Exchange of expertise and good practices / Trainings of professionals

Both Organizations have a long lasting experience in the field of child protection and support. The aforementioned experience, which also reflects the specific characteristics, the similarities and the differences between the two countries – France and Greece – can be shared among the professionals of the two Organizations.

The exchange of expertise and good practices can focus on various fields, such as volunteers' management, methodologies on the operation of Homes for children, training modules for professionals, tools and mechanisms in the provision of social and psychological support, etc.

One of the most important means for sharing expertise and good practices is the organization of exchange visits or workshops for professionals. Exchange visits are particularly useful for the professionals who work in the Homes for children that the two Organizations operate.

These visits will give them the opportunity to explore and experience a different work environment and to then deliver and share this experience with their colleagues.

Moreover, both Organizations acknowledge the importance of specialized and targeted training for their professionals, in order to improve and develop their skills, increase their performance and improve the quality of their services, for the benefit of their target groups (vulnerable children and families). Trainings will be on common fields of interest and via different means, for example face-to-face or virtual training sessions.

For the exchange visits and trainings, both Organizations will seek funding from the EU or other national/European/international institutions.

2. Co-building of projects

The two Organizations have already submitted joint proposals within co-funded European Programs and Initiatives and the goal is to identify more common fields of interest, within which they can implement transnational co-funded projects.

In particular, both Organizations seek to develop two types of projects:

- Partnership projects for the training and exchange of practices between professionals and transfer of innovation,
- Exchange projects involving beneficiaries (the young people and families supported by both organisations).

Regarding the first, the current refugee and migration crisis is one of the most critical fields in which the two Organizations wish to intensify their collaboration. Knowing that they share the same values for the successful social integration of refugee and migrant children in the French and Greek society, respectively, the proposed projects will focus on various activities, such as accommodation, education, social and psychological support, etc.

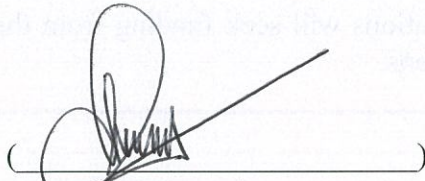
Regarding the second, the two Organizations wish to develop projects placing at its heart the active involvement of beneficiaries with the aim of fostering intercultural experiences and empowerment, which will benefit their integration into European society, as well as the support work carried out by both Organizations. Such projects shall be developed in a second phase, on the initiative of the operational teams, after exchange visits between professionals have already taken place and common interests have been identified. They shall take the form of youth exchanges, international educational and solidarity action projects, etc.

3. Advocacy

Both Organizations wish to develop, with other actors at the European and international levels, advocacy initiatives and actions with the aim of influencing governmental and political choices, as well as changing mentalities or mind-sets of societies towards young people and families that have been left on the margins of

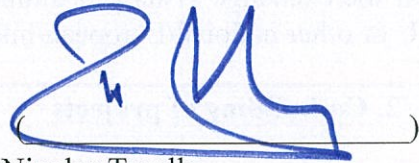
society. In such advocacy work, the two Organizations commit to ensuring in the best possible way that the voices of young people and families can be heard more loudly by decision-makers and civil society.

In that regard, 'Apprentis d'Auteuil' and 'The Smile of the Child' will also seek to carry out such actions, by making the best use of their own means of intervention and resources (use of ECOSOC status at the United Nations, networks, volunteers, use of media, etc.) and by seeking to support the active participation and empowerment of the concerned young people and families.



Costas Yannopoulos
President of the Board
The Smile of the Child

Date: December 5th 2017



Nicolas Truelle
Director-General
Apprentis d'Auteuil

Date: December 5th 2017

ANNEX I: Locations of ‘The Smile of the Child’ - establishment and operations

- a. Homes: 5 Athens area, 6 in other cities: Kyllini, Aigio, Corinth, Corfu, Thessaloniki, and Kavala, and 3 Daycare Homes: Vrohitsa, Mitikas, Kalivia Agriniou
- b. Centers of Direct Social Intervention (CDSI): Thessaloniki, Marousi, Kareas, Larisa, Patras, Crete (Heraklion, Chania), Lesvos, Kavala, Airport (disaster recovery area)
- c. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children including the operation of 3 Help/hotlines (National Helpline for Children SOS 1056, European Hotline for Missing Children 116000, European Helpline for Children and Adolescents 116111), Amber Alert Hellas mechanism
- d. Support Centers of Children & Families: 13 in total: Marousi and Ilion, Nea Makri, Thessaloniki, Patras, Pyrgos, Corinth, Tripoli, Chalkida, Corfu, Chania, Laris, Heiraklion and Kavala, including logistics of commodities (trucks and refrigerators)
- e. Day Center- The House of the Child (Athens): customized clinical mental health services for therapeutic treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation of children and adolescents victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence, as well as children or adolescents involved in cases of bullying.
- f. Mobile Capacity:
 - About 100 vehicles (jeeps, cars, ATVS, buses, etc.)
 - 3 mobile medical units of preventive medicine including the multi-functional medical mobile unit “Hippocrates”
 - 8 ambulances, with incubators and intensive care equipment (1 has conceded to E.K.A.V., permanently located at Aghia Sofia Children’s Hospital in Athens).
 - 5 fully equipped multifunctional containers (25sq2 m, WC, A/C), provisionally separated in two areas that can be used for medical tests, psychosocial and educational support and one module container 15sqm2 that in full development can reach 25 sqm2 which can be used for recreational activities for children.
 - “Thanasis Makris” Rescue Team: Team of internationally certified dogs and their handlers Search and rescue equipment for disappearances , Search and rescue equipment for child disappearances
 - “Odysseas”: Mobile unit to be deployed for educational activities and as temporary management crisis centre. Specifically, Mobile Lab of Information, Education & Technology providing information to children, parents and teachers on the proper use of technology as well as the use of new technologies via an interactive platform and organization of seminars by our specialized staff to professionals in the field related to the risks for children.

ANNEX II: ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ fields of activity and devices

‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ operates in the following main fields of work: child protection, education, training and insertion and support of families in their parental role.

1 - Child protection

At the request of departmental councils, ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ takes in children and adolescents in danger or at risk. The reception arrangements are wide-ranging and depending on the situation, can cover anything from at-home support to comprehensive care of very unstructured young people. In the vast majority of placements, links with the parents are actively encouraged, or even re-built. This mission extends to unaccompanied minors considered at risk due to the lack of legal representation in French territory. Over 1,300 unaccompanied minors are taken in by ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’.

2 – Education (Fighting school dropout rates)

In all its schools and high schools, ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’ has developed appropriate educational solutions for vulnerable young people and specific re-boot programmes allowing them to return to a traditional school cursus after a few weeks. Through its educational boarding schools, young people have accommodation and receive strong educational support to let them get their bearings and re-learn the rules, particularly in the key period of schooling from the age of 11-15.

3 – Training and Insertion Programs

Alongside schooling in its vocational high schools or general education, the Foundation offers training through apprenticeships to those who are really struggling in school and likely to leave school without a diploma. For young people without qualifications or family support, ‘Apprentis d’Auteuil’s’ professionals offer social support, schemes to help them choose a career, refresher courses for further education and help to access housing and healthcare.

4 – Support to families (Parenthood)

By developing nurseries, social residences, mother and child venues and Open Family Homes, we help parents make the right educational choices from early childhood, to become aware of their skills and take ownership of their responsibilities. All actions to preserve the quality of the family relationship and prevent the occurrence of major difficulties.

ANNEX III: List of Memberships and Associations with International Fora

'The Smile of the Child'

Global

- **United Nations:** special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**) and association with the UN Department of Public Information (**DPI NGO**), New York;
- Member of the Board of Directors at the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (**ICMEC**), Washington DC.

Europe

- Member of the Board of Directors of the European Federation Missing Children Europe (**MCE**), Brussels;
- Member of the Child Helpline International (**CHI**), Amsterdam;
- Member of the European Network for children's rights **Eurochild**, Brussels;
- Member of the European Network **Educ-Europe**, Paris
- Member of the European Emergency Number Association (**EENA**);
- Member of Fundamental Rights Platform of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (**FRA**), Vienna (key partner of the Council of Europe);
- Member of **EU Civil Society Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings**;
- Founding member and coordinator of the **European Antibullying Network (EAN)**, Brussels;
- Hub operator for the Southeastern European Center for Missing and Exploited Children (**SEEC**) and representation of ICMEC as a focal point in Southeast Europe;
- February 2015, EP, Brussels: awarded the **European Citizens' Prize 2014** by the Vice-President of the European Parliament Mrs. Sylvie Guillaume.

'Apprentis d'Auteuil'

Global

- **United Nations:** special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**), Geneva;
- Founding member of the international Alliance **Action for Youth and Families (AFFY)**, Paris;
- Lead member of the international network **Consortium for Street children (CSC)**, London;
- Board member of the international network **International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)**, Paris;
- Board member of the international organisation **Plan International France**, Paris;
- Member of international platform **Convergences**, Paris;
- Member of Anna Lindt Foundation, Alexandria.

Europe

- Member of the European Network for children's rights **Eurochild**, Brussels;
- Founding member of the European Network **Educ-Europe**, Paris.