

Actions Report for 2018

“Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation



A. SOCIAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Day care center in Kalamata



Introduction

In 2018 the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation took on an integrated planning project that covered all its key areas of concern (society, rural development, culture, environment). Below you will find an overall assessment of the actions, according to sector:

A. SOCIAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

The actions resulted from the directions and decisions of the Board of Directors in the preparation of the 2018 budget as well as from proposals made during the year by the members of the Board of Directors.

1. Day care center in Kalamata - SOS Children’s Villages

Description:

The program was introduced in 2017 with the aim of providing support to families struggling with unemployment or those of low income. It has two key parameters: one focusing on supporting children, and the other on supporting parents and offering advice on issues such as family management, vocational training and finding employment. The first parameter (children support) has been implemented in four more Greek cities; the second parameter (education and employment consulting) is unique in Greece. In 2018 seventy-six children participated, and twenty-five people used the family

management and education consulting service.

2. Archdiocese summer camps

Description:

In 2018 the Holy Archdiocese of Athens continued to receive support for its summer camps, which accept children according to financial criteria.

3. General Benevolence Fund

Description:

The Foundation has been a steady supporter of the Holy Metropolitan Church of Messinia’s soup kitchens. The Church provides financial aid to the poor on a monthly basis; it also offers exceptional financial support to the ill and the poor for their medical needs, hospitalization, or other similar requirements.

4. Program for the integration of new refugees “Stepping Stone”

Description:

The “Stepping Stone” program has been designed by METAdrasi and the Foundation, and has been implemented by METAdrasi, with the Foundation’s support. “Stepping Stone” aims at providing the necessary support for the integration of new refugees who wish to remain in Greece, by offering basic education and vocational training. The program

are planning to stay in the country. More specifically, it offers: teaching of basic Greek, basic training on their legal rights, as well as consulting and training on basic social skills, so that they might be better equipped to understand their cultural and social surroundings, prior to and during practical training. Depending on needs, other workshops were created (e.g. sewing, computer courses and women's empowerment), in order to further support skills development and integration. The Foundation is actively working towards procuring practices and means for the program's operation.

5. Social clubs & associations in Athens and Messinia

Description:

Clubs and associations mainly from Messinia require yearly support in order to continue their operation. The Foundation covers approximately 1/3 of all requests.

6. Support of the Friends Association of People with Special Needs, Kalamata

Description:

For the third consecutive year, the Friends Association of People with Special Needs (SYFAMEA) has initiated a series of creative afternoon workshops for people with special needs.

The "Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos" Foundation supported the Association's actions.

7. "Thales II: Mapping and Evaluating Greek Nonprofits"

Description:

The aim of this suggested project is to continue the evaluation of NGOs based on the results of the "Thales – Greek NGO evaluation" project, to bring in new organizations for evaluation and to improve the methodological criteria by introducing more quality ones, able to demonstrate the unique role of some organizations.

8. Get Into

Description:

Prince's Trust International is introducing a program in Greece. The Foundation's aim is to provide training and vocational support to young people (16-30 years old) who for various reasons haven't had access to education. The Foundation works with young people and also businesses, in order to provide training to the young and suitable employees to businesses. The goal for 2018 is sixty people.

Program for the integration of new refugees
"Stepping Stone"



Prince's Trust Programm, "Get Into"



B. ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ

Precision farm station
installation



Center for Agri-Food Entrepreneurship in
Messinia



.9. Support hubs

Description:

The aim of the program is on the one hand to support innovative small-scale actions of maximum social impact for the benefit of vulnerable groups, and on the other hand to reinforce structures and develop skills for the aforementioned organizations. The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation supported the section titled “Actions for children support – Children’s health.”

10. Scholarships in memory of P. Foteas

Description:

The Municipality of Kalamata, funded by the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation, offered five scholarships to university students from Messinia. The scholarships, in memory of P. Foteas, are awarded every year based on criteria of excellence and income, and continue for four years, depending on the students’ performance.

11. Social Grocery of Messini

Description:

The Foundation subsidized the Social Grocery of the Municipality of Messini in order to provide meals for the participating families during the Christmas holidays.

B. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

These actions came about after the suggestions made to the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation were evaluated, via contacts, developments and actions that took place during 2017 and 2018. They are based on the Foundation’s initial action plan, and are in line with the proposals and priorities of the study titled “Plan for sustainable rural development in Messinia,” carried out in 2013 in collaboration with the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE). Its modules and aims are in full accordance with the study’s plan and suggestions.

1. Center for Agri-Food Entrepreneurship in Messinia

Description:

The Center for Agri-Food Entrepreneurship in Messinia was created in 2016; it was the result of the collaboration between the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation and the American Farm School’s School of Professional Education – Perrotis College. The aim of the Center is to support entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector in Messinia. It offers experiential educational programs aimed at providing entrepreneurship education, promoting business ideas and developing skills related to production. The average duration of the seminars is twenty-eight training hours, aimed at those who wish to know more about key agri-food sector topics.

Some of the educational seminars that took place in 2018 were the following:

- Food Standardization, Processing & Preservation
- Processing/Standardization of Olives
- Processing/Standardization of Olive Oil
- Utilization of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants
- Agritourism
- Cheesemaking (in Tripoli)

2. Gastronomy seminars 2018

Description:

The 2018 seminar was part of the 8th Kalamata School of Tourism initiative, in collaboration with the Messinian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The aim of the seminars is to promote and establish the Messinian culinary tradition, and also to reinforce the use of local products. Seven professionals from the area presented some fascinating culinary combinations and demonstrated how to creatively utilize Messinian products. During the theoretical part of the seminar, the participants listened to a series of interesting talks, which highlighted the value of integrated management of a Messinian culinary experience for every visitor to the area.

3. Agricultural research programs

Description:

This project studied specific aromatic/medicinal plants (Nepeta camforata, Sideritis clandestina and Hypericum perforatum) that grow on Taygetus and are in danger of becoming extinct or exist in very small numbers, but have rare medicinal properties. The Technological Educational Institute of Peloponnese carried out the biochemical analysis of the tissues, and created reproduction and cultivation protocols that will allow local farmer groups to utilize them in a coordinated manner.

4. Evaluation by Ernst and Young

Description:

The report presents the results of the SROI (Social Return on Investment) analysis for the Foundation's investments between 2012 and 2017, related to its key areas for action: rural development, social welfare, and cultural development in Messinia. Below you will find an overview of the Foundation's performance in its key areas for action for the period 2012-2017:



Gastronomy seminars 2018



Seminar on Rural Development



5. The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation’s seminar on rural development

Description:

The open seminar titled “Opportunities and challenges facing new entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector” took place for the fourth consecutive year, and was attended by more than 140 producers and rural economy professionals. The seminar included talks by acclaimed scientists and successful entrepreneurs, who shared their invaluable knowledge and experience on issues of agri-food entrepreneurship. The aim of the seminar was to highlight the requirements and key focal points for establishing a successful agri-food business.

Olive Oil Tasting Program



6. Continuation of olive oil tasting program

Description:

The educational program titled "Promoting the quality of olive oil through tasting," designed at the initiative of the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation, is taking place for the sixth consecutive year, with a large number of participating students. The program has been attended by more than 1,000 students so far. Its main aim is to teach children about the connection between olive oil quality and all life stages of the olive tree and crop. Via the program they become familiarized with all stages, from cultivation practices to

processing and standardization. Particular emphasis has been placed on the human sensory organs as reliable tools for receiving information. The educational program can be attended by secondary education schools in Messinia, after contacting the "Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos" Foundation.

7. Olive Oil Festival

Description:

The Agricultural Cooperative of Kalamata has been organizing the annual Olive Oil Festival in Kalamata since 2015, with the aim of connecting producers, training them, and promoting quality cultivation in the area. The Olive Oil and Table Olive Festival was designed in the last two years, based on the Agricultural Cooperative of Kalamata’s development and creative potential, in collaboration with important entities and distinguished scientists from all over Greece.

8. International Olive Oil Competition

Description:

The third “Athena International Olive Oil Competition” took place in Delphi. The participating samples at the ATHENAIIOC 2018 reached 359 in number (+22% compared to 2017), and for the first time foreign olive oils outnumbered Greek ones. The “Athena” competition was

created in 2016 in Athens following international standards, and it is the only one of its kind in Greece. In the future, it will “visit” various olive-growing regions in Greece, with the aim of promoting them internationally.

9. 22nd International Ethnological Food Research Conference in Kalamata

Description:

The Harokopio University, in collaboration with the American Farm School, organized the 22nd International Ethnological Food Research Conference in Kalamata, which took place from September 26th to September 29th. During the conference, distinguished nutrition scientists presented significant results.

10. Agricultural meetings

Description:

As part of the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation's main goals for always keeping Messinian producers up to date, a series of open presentations has been initiated in more areas of Messinia that are purely rural. During each presentation, the invited expert scientist presents specific practical issues in brief (quality improvement, production protection, olive tree diseases etc.), and then the producers and the audience have the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. The purpose of these educational sessions is to

inform professional farmers, new farmers, agricultural processors and other professionals in the field. Six meetings took place within 2018, in Gargaliani, Diavolitsi, Aghios Nikolaos, Stavropighio, Koroni and Filiatra, with the participation of approximately 150 producers and agricultural professionals.

C. CULTURE

1. Canopy for the archaeological site of Ancient Messini

Description:

Professor P. Themelis proceeded with the construction of a canopy for Ancient Messini's Gymnasium, in order to protect and bring out its monuments. The study was carried out with an earlier sponsorship, and most of the money for the canopy's construction was secured from public funds.

In 1986 the Council of the Archaeological Society commissioned Professor Petros Themelis to direct the excavations at Ancient Messini. The excavations, alongside renovation and reconstruction works on the monuments, have been ongoing since 1987 at a progressively faster pace. Most of the public and sacred buildings that Pausanias saw and described when he visited Messini during the time of emperor Antoninus Pius (155-160 AD) have been brought to light. In 2018 the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation funded the construction of a metallic canopy, which will be fit at the northeastern corner of the Gymnasium's arcade.

Agricultural meetings



C. CULTURE

Kalamata International Dance Festival



2. Kalamata International Dance Festival

Description:

The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation has been supporting the Kalamata International Dance Festival since 2015. The Festival is the key event of the city’s International Dance Center. The Foundation is the only private sponsor of the Festival, and its efforts have been highly appreciated by the Municipality of Kalamata and the Festival’s contributors.

3. Cultural associations of Kalamata and Western Messinia

Description:

Clubs and associations of Kalamata and Western Messinia are asking for support this year in order to continue their work. It is estimated that the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation covers 1/3 of the various requests.

4. Diavolitsi Cultural August, 2018

Description:

The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation supports the great variety of festivities taking place in Diavolitsi in August, at the “Stathia Constantakopoulos” open theater.

5. Archaeological excavation at Thouria

Description:

The excavations at ancient Thouria, approximately 10 km northwest of Kalamata, began in 2007 under the supervision of then-director of the 38th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of Messinia Dr. Xenia Arapoyanni, and have been ongoing under the auspices of the Archaeological Society at Athens and the direction of the Honorary Director of Antiquities. 2018 was an important year, as it marked the unveiling of a large part of the ancient theater discovered the year before.

6. Warrior tomb in Pylos dating to 1500 BC – Findings’ maintenance

Description:

In 2015 Jack Davis and Sharon R. Stocker of the University of Cincinnati discovered an unlooted shaft tomb with rich burial offerings near the Mycenaean Palace of Nestor in Ano Eglianos, Chora, at the Municipality of Pylos-Nestor. The tomb, which belonged to a warrior, dates to approximately 1500 BC (Late Helladic II period), and constitutes the most impressive exhibition of prehistoric wealth in burial tombs in continental Greece to have come to light in the last sixty-five years. The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation has taken on the task of the findings’ identification and maintenance for three years (since 2016).

In 2017 the cleaning and maintenance of a unique agate ring became the reason behind a renewed interest in the site internationally.

7. George Lazaridis, wheelchair tennis champion

Description:

The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation supports the efforts of wheelchair tennis world champion George Lazaridis. In the previous year Lazaridis participated in fifteen international tournaments, reached the doubles finals eight times, and won seven times. Moreover, he reached the singles finals three times, winning once and coming second twice. Lazaridis visited schools in Kalamata and Meligalas and participated in camps and workshops. His goal for 2019 is to participate in as many tournaments as possible, with the aim of gaining a place among the world’s top forty athletes and securing his place at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. He is a founding member and president of the “Diaforo-zo” athletics association for people with special needs, based in Kalamata. He is the coordinator of the international wheelchair tennis tournament “Ancient Messene Open,” held for the first time in October 2016.

8. Greek Diaspora Project

Description:

This program is part of SEESOX and focuses on conducting research and finding solutions and networking for Greeks

around the world, in order to connect them with their homeland and utilize their experience, knowledge and networks. Moreover, it facilitates the contact and collaboration between them, as well as with entities and individuals in Greece.

9. The “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation Archive

Description:

Recording of Captain Vassilis Constantakopoulos’ archive.

10. Two-day seminar titled “Culture as a means of sustainable development in Messinia

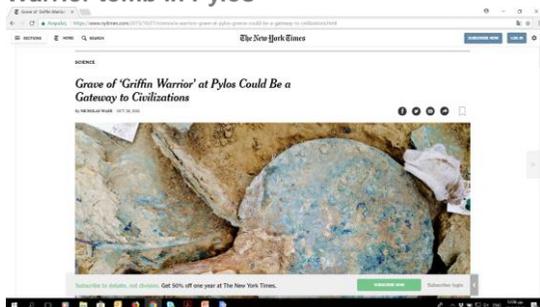
Description:

The informative event titled “Culture as a means of sustainable development in Messinia” was concluded with a turnout of more than 200 participants. The main aim of the event, which was attended by cultural institutions and foundations from the area, was to present the current situation regarding cultural affairs in Messinia, to identify any major issues, and to make proposals for the future. During the discussion, emphasis was placed on goodwill and strategic synergies. Closed meetings were held on the second day of the event, where forty participants from twenty entities identified the challenges and needs and laid the foundations for a strategic planning for the further development of the region's cultural landscape.

Archaeological excavation at Thouria



Warrior tomb in Pylos



Two-day seminar titled “Culture as a means of sustainable development in Messinia



International Conference for Marine Mammal Protected Areas 2019



Key points during this discussion were the social dimension of culture, its contribution to spatial and economic development and the need to place emphasis on knowledge and education.

D. ENVIRONMENT

1. Educational rural/environmental program

Description:

The aim of this action is to instill in teenagers an interest in the research on olives and olive oil, the foundations of our nutrition. To this end, a training program was created that comprised group "missions and activities," which required that participants extract information about the olive tree and its products. The area where the program takes place is selected by the visitor group, and could be an olive grove, an olive press, a restaurant or a supermarket.

2. HELMEPA

Description:

Costamare's annual donation to HELMEPA is made by the Foundation. It is an annual environmental education program that offers to approximately 6,500 young student volunteers the opportunity to be informed and take action to protect the marine

environment of our country.

3. International Conference for Marine Mammal Protected Areas 2019

Description:

WWF Hellas is the Greek division of the international environmental organization WWF – World Wide Fund for nature. With more than 5,000,000 supporters all over the world, WWF is active in more than 100 countries. In 2018 the “Captain Vassilis & Carmen Constantakopoulos” Foundation supported the largest conference on marine mammals and marine protected areas, which took place for the first time in Greece.