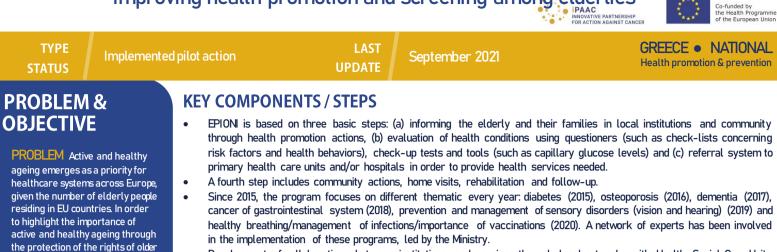
Organization and development of a national pilot program for the prevention and promotion of the health of the elderly (EPIONI):

improving health promotion and screening among elderlies



- Development of collaborations between institutions and services through local networks with Health, Social Care Units and Civil Society Institutions.
- The stakeholders participating in the implementation of the program are: public (mental) health units, public health authorities, healthcare regions, local and regional governmental structures for elderly, NGOs, Patient Associations, community organizations and associations, Holy Dioceses and other religion bodies, etc
- Next steps include enhancing the design and strengthening of environmentally friendly environments for older people in housing, in the city and in services. Planning includes also other cancer types (such as prostate cancer, breast, skin, etc.) The aim is to create tools (adjusted questionnaires and check-lists) and arise awareness (of screening) in terms of prevention in local and regional level.

KEY CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- The National Pilot Program for the Prevention and Promotion of the Health of the Elderly (EPIONI) started in 2015 as an initiative of the Ministry of Health (MOH).
- Based on yearly action plans, MOH cooperates with the seven Health Regions in Greece, which can organize actions at regional or local level through the respective health units.
- The National Action Plan for Public Health (NAPH) 2021-2025 is a strategic choice of the ministry of health for making prevention a way of living for all Greek citizens, under which an action plan for cancer will be implemented.

MAIN IMPACTS / ADDED VALUE

The implementation of EPION at national level facilitated the recognition and promotion of the health issues related to elderly people, while shifting the interest from cure and treatment to prevention. The coordination of actions, the implementation of programs with a homogenous identity, templates and orientation, the saving and better use of human resources and the monitoring of outcomes are amongst the added value provided by the implementation of the program.
Raising public awareness and informing the public about health issues and their psychosocial dimensions.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Covid-19 pandemic has largely affected primary healthcare programs (prevention and health promotion).
- Training of health professionals and life-long learning comprise a necessity for program success.
- Teamwork, interconnection between organizations, coordination at regional and national level and standardization of documents, procedures and guidelines are key factors of success.

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REFERENCES & DOCUMENTATION

• Ministry of Health (greek only)

people, the improvement of their

guality of life and that of their

families, the strengthening of

strengthening of their role at

social, economic and cultural

achieved by networking and national coordination of actions. OBJECTIVE The National Pilot

level, interoperability and close

Program for the Prevention and

Promotion of the Health of the Elderly (EPIONI) has a national

scope and a pilot character, in order to form the networks of the

collaborating stakeholders at

and to consolidate those processes that will ensure its sustainability through the years.

national, regional and local level

EPIONI is addressed to people over the age of 55 in order to achieve

the timely detection and diagnosis

of health incidents, the formation

of healthy attitudes and habits and

Directorate of Primary Health Care

Department C - Implementation of

Health Promotion and Prevention

the strengthening of the role of

non-communicable disease management and self-care.

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Ministry of Health

cooperation of stakeholders can be

autonomous living, social participation, integration and the