

ISSUE 19  
JUL. - SEP. 2024

# Quarterly MAGAZINE



HELLENIC RED CROSS



WHEREVER THERE'S A NEED  
#hellenicredcross



# Message from the President of the HRC

Dear members of the Red Cross,

The history and everyday life of the Red Cross are shaped by countless acts of courage, faith, and humanity. The growth of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) is an inseparable part of the historical evolution of humanity, and its presence in the modern era is self-evident. With a new starting point of utility and a promise of a new horizon, the Administration, Volunteers, and Employees of the HRC send the most optimistic message.

By ensuring unity and reforming the function and effectiveness of the organization's services, we have highlighted the essential role that the Hellenic Red Cross plays in addressing and solving the country's critical issues.

The adoption of innovations and progressive actions has led us to be present and pioneers in all the major events of both the country and abroad.

Consistent commitment to the iconic principles of Humanitarianism and Solidarity, the targeted response to the multifaceted problems of our time, and the systematic and structured public awareness give the HRC a prominent role as a protagonist, establishing it as the foundation of human society. We strengthen our international role, establish our position in the global community, and cut the umbilical cord of inertia, self-interest, and intellectual stagnation that had insisted on dominating within the Organization.

By achieving consistency, methodical excellence, and responsibility, we shape a



spectrum of social priorities, evaluating the needs of Humanity as an obvious fundamental priority.

With self-awareness and mindfulness, we move forward in highlighting the essential role of the HRC through managing and addressing the problems of human society.

With Red Cross greetings,

The President of the H.R.C.

*Dr. Antonios Argerimos*

Pharmacist, Major General (ret.)



## C O N T E N T S

The Hellenic Red Cross's Superhuman Efforts to Support Citizens and Firefighters on the Fire Fronts of Northeastern Attica 4-5

Inauguration of the State-of-the-Art National Crisis Coordination and Management Center of the HRC 6-7

13,600 Citizens Visited the HRC Booth at the 88th Thessaloniki International Fair 8-9

The Hellenic Red Cross Honored as the First Volunteer-Humanitarian Organization in Greece at the Hellenic Responsible Business Awards 2024 10-11

More Than 600 Emergency Incidents Managed by the Hellenic Red Cross at the Acropolis 12

The Hellenic Red Cross is Strengthened with Equipment from the USA 13

The Hellenic Red Cross Organized a Major Concert for Peace and Solidarity at the Herodeion 14-15

The Hellenic Red Cross Collected 506 Units of Blood 16-17

Memorandum of Cooperation with the Municipality of Thessaloniki 18

Memorandum of Cooperation with the Municipality of Filothei-Psychiko 19

The Hellenic Red Cross Worthy Supporter in the Organization of the EKO Acropolis Rally 20-21

The Hellenic Red Cross Celebrated World First Aid Day with a Major Event for All Ages in Syntagma Square 22-23

The Hellenic Red Cross Honored World Dog Day with a Major Event for Our Furry Friends in Syntagma Square 24-25

The Hellenic Red Cross Actively Participated in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Book Festival at Pedion tou Areos 26

The Hellenic Red Cross Celebrated World Youth Day with a Major Event in Syntagma Square 27





# **The Hellenic Red Cross's Superhuman Efforts to Support Citizens and Firefighters on the Fire Fronts of Northeastern Attica**

The volunteers and staff of the Hellenic Red Cross, demonstrating boundless mental reserves and greatness of spirit, mobilized from the very first moment of the large fire that broke out in Varnava on August 11, 2024, constantly standing by the firefighters who were battling the flames in the fire fronts of areas such as Grammatiko, Anatoli, Nea-Makri, Penteli, Varnava, Stamatia, Drosia, Dionysos, and others. Specifically, the specially trained teams of the HRC, staffed with volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers and nursing personnel with rescue vehicles and a Mobile Health Unit, operated alongside the Fire Service, offering First Aid, Basic Health Services, and essential supplies to residents and firefighters. Most of the incidents they successfully managed involved mainly shortness of breath, eye irritation, and minor burns from the ongoing fight against the flames. The volunteers also provided enormous assistance to pets and domestic animals that were abandoned in the aforementioned areas. The volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers rescued dozens of animals from house yards that were threatened by the flames, transporting them to a safe place.





## Inauguration of the State-of-the-Art National Crisis Coordination and Management Center of the HRC

On Thursday, July 18, 2024, at the historic, iconic building of the Hellenic Red Cross on September 3rd Street, the Hellenic Red Cross inaugurated its state-of-the-art National Crisis Coordination and Management Center. The event was attended by the Administration of the HRC and numerous representatives of the country's political and state leadership.

This is a historic moment and a decisive step towards enhancing the HRC's ability to respond immediately and effectively to emergency situations (such as fires, floods, earthquakes), as it is equipped with cutting-edge technologies. The HRC extends its heartfelt thanks to the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) for this excellent initiative,

which, in collaboration with companies such as EYEONIX SA, SAMSUNG SDS EUROPE, SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS HELLAS, and NOVA, installed the state-of-the-art National Crisis Coordination and Management Center, worth over 2 million euros, to upgrade the valuable services of the HRC to Society and Humanity.





# 13,600 Citizens Visited the HRC Booth at the 88<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki International Fair

The Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) actively participated in the 88th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) 2024, aiming to inform and raise public awareness about its activities. A total of 13,600 citizens visited the HRC's booth, where free first aid seminars were offered, and citizens were informed about the importance of volunteerism. At the same time, the humanitarian actions of the HRC were presented, enhancing interest in participation in future campaigns and initiatives that support vulnerable social groups.

The opening of the Hellenic Red Cross booth (booth 15, stand 22) at the 88th TIF took place successfully on Sunday,

September 8, 2024, with the presence of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, the General Secretary of the HRC, Mr. Georgios Skoumas, and numerous representatives of the country's political and state leadership. It is noted that before the start of the event, a rappelling demonstration was carried out - a descent technique by Samaritan-Rescuers of the Thessaloniki Regional Department of the HRC on the central overpass of the TIF.

The event was attended by the Minister of Health, Mr. Adonis Georgiadis, who spoke in highly complimentary terms about the work and actions of the HRC, especially in the

Health Sector, where the HRC takes a leading role, carrying out continuous health promotion activities with its experienced nursing staff and volunteers, focusing on the vulnerable population groups of the country.

It should also be noted that the Organizing Committee of the International Cycling Tour of Greece, on behalf of the Ministry of Sports, presented a commemorative plaque to the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, for the enormous contribution of the HRC to the conduct of yet another top sporting event in the country.







## The Hellenic Red Cross Honored as the First Volunteer-Humanitarian Organization in Greece at the Hellenic Responsible Business Awards 2024

The Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) is proud to announce its award at the Hellenic Responsible Business Awards 2024 (July 9), being recognized as the first Volunteer-Humanitarian Organization in Greece. The honorary award was received by the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos.

This significant recognition re-

wards the enormous contribution of the Hellenic Red Cross to Greek society through various human-centered actions and initiatives aimed at alleviating human suffering, promoting health, and supporting vulnerable social groups.

It is also noted that the Hellenic Red Cross was distinguished in the «20under40 CSR» cate-

gory of the Hellenic Responsible Business Awards 2024, which highlights new professionals in the Public Relations sector under the age of 40. The Communications & Press Office Manager of the HRC, Mr. Konstantinos Gavrilidis, and the Head of International Relations and Partnerships of the HRC, Ms. ThaliaFonasaki, received this honorary award.

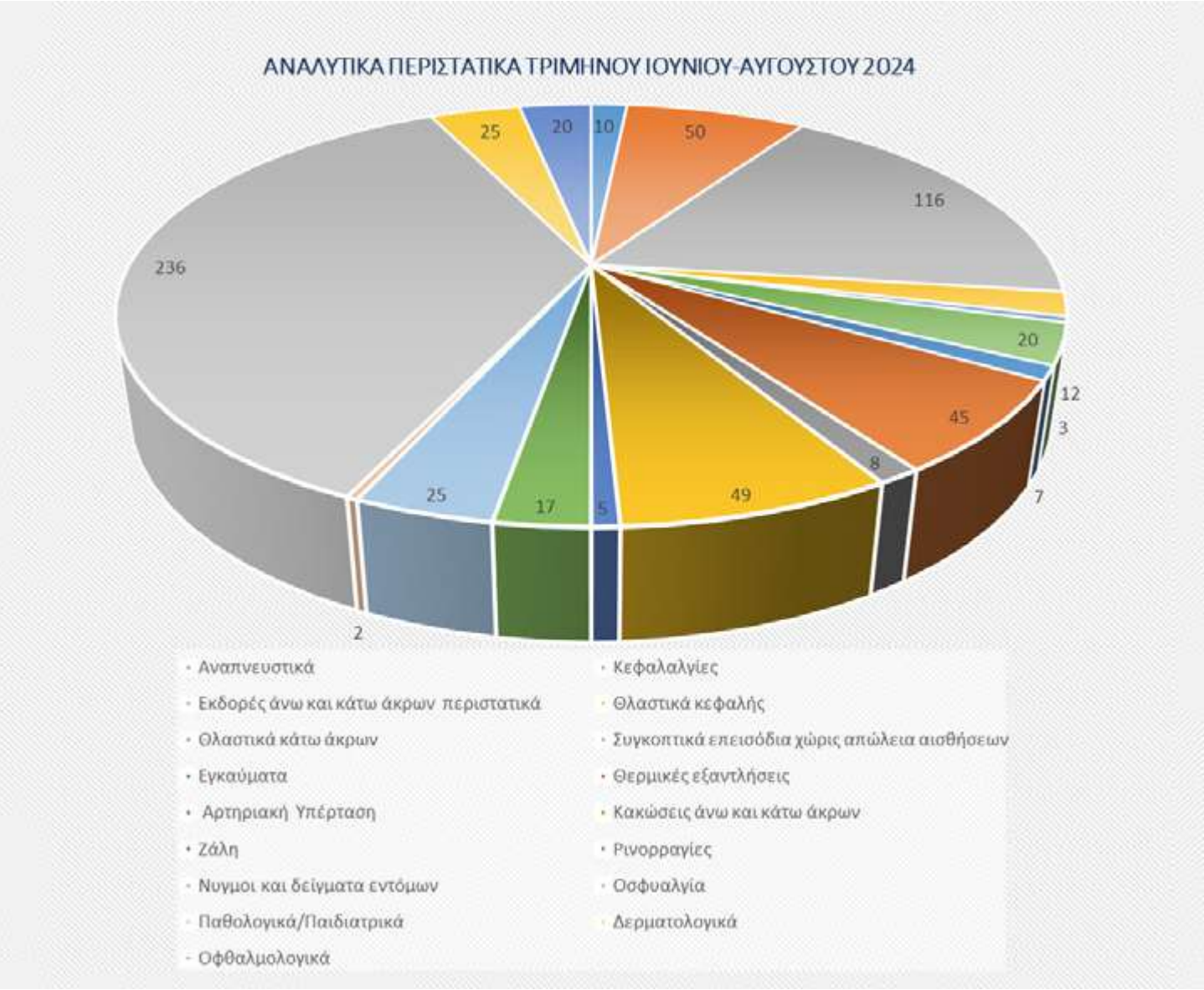


# More Than 600 Emergency Incidents Managed by the Hellenic Red Cross at the Acropolis

Between June and August 2024, the Hellenic Red Cross dealt with more than 600 incidents at the archaeological site of the Acropolis and the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, according to a summary table. It should be recalled that since 2019, the Hellenic Red Cross has been providing health support to the Sacred Rock of the Acropolis, offering First Aid to visitors and citizens at the archaeological site.

Personnel and certified volunteers from the HRC's Health, Samaritan, Rescue, and Lifeguard Divisions patrol the archaeological site from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM in scheduled shifts, using the First Aid Stations provided by the 4th Ephorate of Antiquities and the Ministry of Culture and Sports. The goal is to provide First Aid, inform both Greek and foreign visitors about heatwaves (during the summer period), and pre-

vent and manage injuries and incidents resulting from falls, heatstroke, sunburn, etc. Due to the improvement of access routes with the use of an elevator and the paving of the main road, visitor accessibility has increased, exceeding 20,000 people daily, making the presence of a first aid station and daily patrols at the Sacred Rock essential.



# The Hellenic Red Cross is Strengthened with Equipment from the USA

The American Embassy in Athens, recognizing and endorsing the multifaceted humanitarian and rescue work of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) on the fire fronts of Northeastern Attica and throughout Greece, decided to enhance the experienced staff and volunteers of the HRC across Greece with

modern rescue and medical equipment in order to be even more effective in emergency situations that may arise in the future.

Specifically, an amount of \$140,000 was allocated for the purchase of cutting-edge equipment that will be im-

mediately utilized by approximately 200 Samaritan-Rescuers and nursing personnel of the HRC throughout Greece, who strive to save human lives in every emergency, both domestically and internationally.







**The Hellenic Red Cross Organized  
a Major Concert for Peace and  
Solidarity at the Herodeion**

The Hellenic Red Cross offered a spectacular show with educational content to 4,500 spectators during the major concert it organized at the packed Herodeion on September 16, 2024, with the ultimate aim of promoting the universal message of peace and solidarity.

In his speech, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, thanked the HRC volunteers for their enormous, multi-faceted humanitarian contribution, and he stressed the utmost necessity of spreading the supreme values of peace and solidari-

ty among nations at a time when humanity is facing serious challenges.

The major concert of the HRC, coordinated by composer/performer Paschalis Tonios, featured artists such as Gerasimos Andreatos, Petros Gaitanos, Doros Demosthenous, Stathis Drogosis, Ilias Liougos, Theodoros Kotoniatis, Savveria Margiola, Penny Baltatzi, Georgia Dagaki, Sofia Papazoglou, Paschalis Tonios, Dionysis Tsaknis, Kostas Triantafyllidis, Mpakis Tsertsos, Manolis Famellos, Lakis Chalkias, and Betty Charlafti. The presentation of the concert

was carried out by journalist Ms. Eleni Chrona, and the narration was done by Mr. Nikitas Tsakiroglou, while more than 300 choir members from nine recognized choirs from Attica participated.

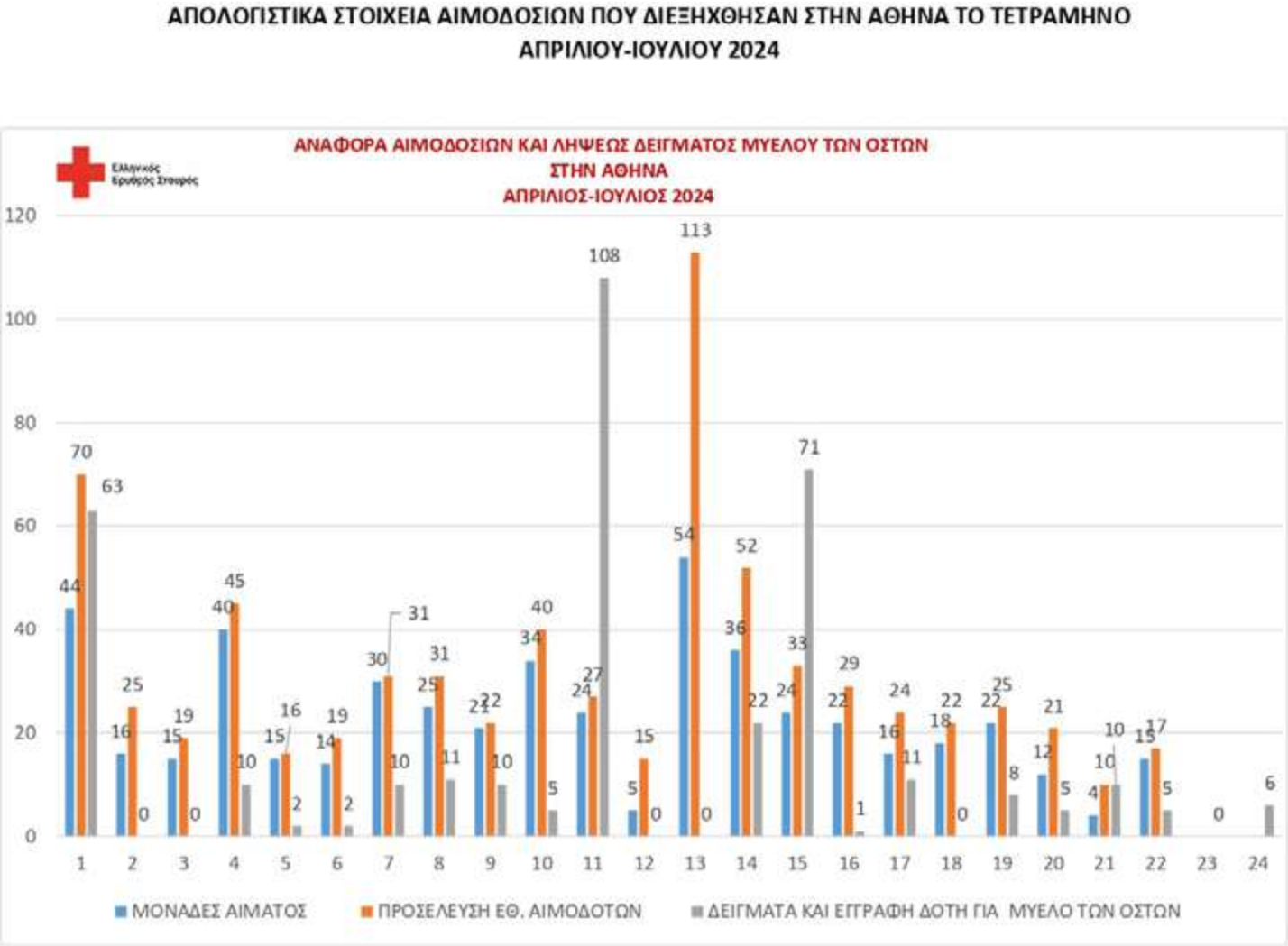
It is noted that the major concert of the HRC was attended by representatives of the country's political and state leadership, representatives of the armed forces and security bodies, as well as the Most Reverend Bishop Chrysostomos, on behalf of the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece.



# The Hellenic Red Cross Collected 506 Units of Blood

The Hellenic Red Cross takes the lead in voluntary blood donations in Greece, organizing continuous blood drives to support those in need.

From April to July 2024, the Hellenic Red Cross organized 25 voluntary blood drives in Attica, with 706 volunteer donors participating and collecting a total of 506 units of blood, along with 360 bone marrow samples.



**ΣΥΓΚΕΝΤΡΩΤΙΚΑ ΣΥΛΛΕΧΘΗΚΑΝ:**

**506 ΜΟΝΑΔΕΣ ΑΙΜΑΤΟΣ**

**360 ΔΕΙΓΜΑΤΑ ΜΥΕΛΟΥ ΤΩΝ ΟΣΤΩΝ**

**706 ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΕΣ ΑΙΜΟΔΟΤΕΣ ΠΡΟΣΕΛΚΥΣΘΗΣΑΝ**







## Memorandum of Cooperation with the Municipality of Thessaloniki

The Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation aimed at implementing joint actions to strengthen the protection of vulnerable citizens and respond effectively to emergencies.

The memorandum, which will be in effect for the next three

years, was signed by the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Stelios Aggeloudis, and the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos. Within the framework of the memorandum, synergies will be developed with significant results in crucial areas of health, preventive medicine, rescue from danger, and training in these areas. The Municipality of Thessaloniki

will provide public spaces for awareness actions on a weekly basis (such as first aid, mental health, diabetes, climate change), and municipal halls for the organization of seminars, lectures, and actions, while it will also participate or co-organize social events and activities.

## Memorandum of Cooperation with the Municipality of Filothei-Psychiko

On July 31, 2024, the Mayor of Filothei-Psychiko, Charalambos Bonatsos, and the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. The aim of the cooperation

is to improve mechanisms for dealing with emergencies and strengthen the protection of vulnerable groups.

The Hellenic Red Cross will assist the Municipality of Fi-

lothei-Psychiko by providing medical coverage for sporting events as well as cultural events (such as concerts). It will also train the municipal staff in providing first aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).







### The Hellenic Red Cross Worthy Supporter in the Organization of the EKO Acropolis Rally

The presence of the Hellenic Red Cross at the EKO Acropolis Rally 2024 was dynamic and impressive, with its experienced and specialized Samaritan-Rescuers and necessary technical equipment, contributing decisively to the successful conduct of this year's EKO Acropolis Rally.

Specifically, the volunteers of the HRC from 15 Regional Departments across Greece (Athens, Elassona, Lamia, Heraklion, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Katerini, Kissamos, Komotini, Larissa, Xanthi, Patras, Rethymno, Chalkida, and Chania) used 16 rescue vehicles (4x4) equipped with medical

and rescue equipment (cutting machines, rescue ropes, etc.), providing full Medical and Rescue Coverage across all routes of the EKO Acropolis Rally in the regions of Central Greece, the Peloponnese, and Attica, starting from the opening ceremony, which was conducted with honors by the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos (September 5), until the grand finish in Lamia (September 8), intervening promptly and effectively in dozens of emergency incidents throughout the four-day racing event.

It should be noted that the volunteer Samaritan-Rescu-

ers of the Hellenic Red Cross were the first to rush to the scene when a citizen's vehicle caught fire in the forest of Pavliani, subsequently assisting in the firefighting efforts by the Fire Service and ensuring that the fire did not spread to the forest area. Additionally, they provided First Aid to a spectator in Eleftherochori, Lamia, who experienced a serious health problem with severe shortness of breath, providing him with oxygen until his condition stabilized, and he was safely transported by helicopter to Lamia for further examinations.





# The Hellenic Red Cross Celebrated World First Aid Day with a Major Event for All Ages in Syntagma Square

In the context of celebrating World First Aid Day (September 14), the Hellenic Red Cross organized a major event in Syntagma Square to raise public awareness and familiarize citizens with First Aid, with the presence of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos. Health educators and

volunteers from the Health Division of the Hellenic Red Cross conducted First Aid demonstrations, provided management instructions for handling emergency incidents in sports venues, and distributed informational material to hundreds of citizens participating in the HRC's event. The aim was to

raise public awareness about the need for prevention and the acquisition of knowledge and skills through First Aid training, enabling individuals to gain a sense of self-confidence and readiness to respond promptly and effectively to injuries and emergency situations.







## The Hellenic Red Cross Honored World Dog Day with a Major Event for Our Furry Friends in Syntagma Square

To mark World Dog Day, the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) successfully organized a major event in Syntagma Square, attracting an overwhelming public response, with the aim of educating citizens on the proper provision of First Aid to our furry friends.

Specifically, trainers in Dog First Aid from the Samari-

tan-Rescuer and Lifeguard Division of the HRC conducted dog First Aid demonstrations as part of the innovative program for Greece, namely the Dog Search and Rescue Team (K9) of the Hellenic Red Cross, which is exclusively implemented by the HRC throughout Greece. Dog First Aid involves simple actions that anyone can and should take

to restore a dog's vital functions in danger, prevent the worsening of its condition, and reduce pain until a veterinarian can take over. Additionally, volunteers from all the Divisions of the HRC distributed thousands of informative leaflets with instructions on creating a practical and functional First Aid kit for dogs.







## The Hellenic Red Cross Actively Participated in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Book Festival at Pedion tou Areos

As part of the 52nd Book Festival at Pedion tou Areos, the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) organized activities for all ages on September 22, with the presence of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, and the Deputy Advisor for Parks and Forests & Animal Health of the Region of Attica, Ms. Rita Pikrou-Moraitaki.

Specifically, the HRC participated in the Festival with a theatrical event aimed at children and adolescents, as well as interactive educational games from the HRC Mobile Health Team, aiming to familiarize them with the supreme values of humanitarianism, social solidarity, and love for the environment and animals. Additionally, social workers

from the HRC's Social Welfare Division informed citizens about Mental Health First Aid, an innovative educational program implemented by the HRC, which includes knowledge for caring for, supporting, and providing practical help to individuals who have experienced or are experiencing a crisis or emergency.

## The Hellenic Red Cross Celebrated World Youth Day with a Major Event in Syntagma Square

The Hellenic Red Cross celebrated World Youth Day (August 12) by organizing a major event for children and adolescents in Syntagma Square, attended by the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos. Specifically, the Youth Division

of the HRC organized activities for children and adolescents, aiming to spread the Red Cross spirit and the supreme value of volunteerism among the youth. The children had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities and inter-

active games inspired by the 7 Fundamental Principles of the Movement, learning about the long history of the world's largest Humanitarian Organization through crafts, constructions, painting, and more.





# **Εκπαίδευση πολιτών στις Πρώτες Βοήθειες Ψυχικής Υγείας**

από έμπειρους  
ψυχολόγους και κοινωνικούς λειτουργούς του Ε.Ε.Σ.



Contact us:

**[www.redcross.gr](http://www.redcross.gr)**

