## FOSTERING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

ciation of Social Response SKEP

Or Children and Youth

Education removes barriers for people with disability

# SKEP IN NUMBERS

Carried out

Educational Programs per School Week on an annual basis Conducted Interactive Workshops for more than **18.000** students, with & without disability

Raised awareness among more than

**200.000** Young People

### EDUCATION REMOVES BARRIERS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

The Association of Social Responsibility for Children and Youth - SKEP is a nonprofit organization established in 2008 in Athens, Greece, striving for a barrier-free and rights-based Inclusive Society.

Since the beginning we have been implementing Disability Awareness Educational Programs aiming to deconstruct stereotypes and reshape attitudes.



# SKEP AT A GLANCE





DISABILITY AWARENESS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

SKEP

WWW.HOPONINCLUSION.COM DISABILITY AWARENESS HUB ADVOCACY AND POLICY MONITORING

# WHO WE ARE

We at SKEP have dedicated ourselves to fighting social exclusion and the lack of visibility of people with disability.

#### Three facts we all need to know in order to comprehend this issue:

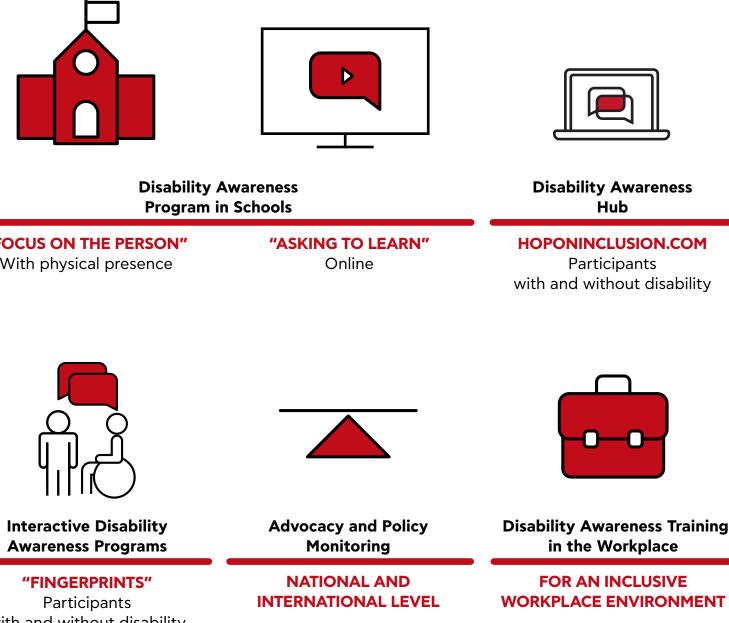
- According to the World Health Organization 15% of the global population lives with a disability
- The World Report on Disability states that the worst enemy for people with disability is the negative attitude of society
- In a world that is influenced and shaped by our attitudes, stereotypes, prejudices and our bad practices (parking in handicap spots, etc.) we must realize that what excludes disabled people from being part of our daily lives are the obstacles society places in front of them. It's not just the lack of accessibility of spaces, it's mainly our mindset
- **Vision:** An all-inclusive society where everybody feels accepted and useful
- **Mission:** The social inclusion of people with disability as well as socially vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Target Group: Everyone, the young and the less young...
- **Topics of Interest:** Battling ignorance and deconstructing stereotypes
- **Methodology:** Implementation of Disability Awareness Educational Programs





# WHAT WF DO

Through Diversity Awareness Educational Programs, SKEP strives to deconstruct **Disability Awareness** stereotypes and **Program in Schools** reshape attitudes **"FOCUS ON THE PERSON"** towards diversity, With physical presence starting from the early school years all the way to society as a whole. The ultimate goal is to coexist harmoniously **Interactive Disability Awareness Programs** in a constantly "FINGERPRINTS" changing and **Participants** evolving world. with and without disability



# OUR PROGRAMS ARE





Approved by the Ministry of Education

**ŤŤĿ** 

Coordinated by SKEP's executives and collaborators, with and without disability



Nationwide



#### Free of charge

Supported by sponsorships and donations from companies, foundations, private corporations and individuals

We do not receive any financial aid from the Greek public sector













# SKEP AND EDUCATION

Education is the answer to social insensitivity, apathy and indifference. SKEP emphasizes the role and importance of schools for developing social consciousness, thus leading to the elimination of prejudice and the inclusion of socially vulnerable groups.

## **Disability Awareness Programs in schools**

### **"FOCUS ON THE PERSON"**

with physical presence

"ASKING TO LEARN" online

#### **Main Features:**

- Conducted in Schools & Universities.
- Address primary & secondary general education students within the school curriculum, as well as university students.
- Consist of an Experiential Non Formal Educational Program: Open Informative dialogue promoting awareness. SKEP's motivational speakers with disability talk about crucial issues concerning people with disability, in a direct and honest way.
- Implemented & coordinated by SKEP's motivational speakers (youth with physical impairments).

The Educational Program "Focus on the Person" is included among the best <u>case studies</u> of **UNESCO** and **the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education.** 



## A DISABILITY AWARENESS HUB TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER

### **DRIVING PEOPLE TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE MINDSET**

www.hoponinclusion.com, is an innovative website that operates as a Disability Awareness Hub, driving people to develop an inclusive mindset by improving their ability to connect with each other and learn to live together.

This initiative is conceived and run by SKEP.

It addresses and hosts the wider public, including people with and without disabilities, vulnerable social groups, educators, professors, students, experienced NGOs and civil society professionals, along with institutional body representatives from Greece and abroad. Through an interactive and dynamic approach (Live sessions, podcasts, blogs, online educational programs etc.) www. hoponinclusion.com will operate as a means of communication enabling users to connect and commit, thus sharing information, ideas, knowledge, experiences, suggestions. The website provides free of charge, wellstructured and fully developed topics to be used as an educational tool, both within schools and by the wider public.

In a world which is influenced and shaped by our behavior we want you to take a step and find more of your time to listen, look, learn, think, ask and speak up!

#### www.hoponinclusion.com







Disability Awareness Campaigns Hop On Inclusion

#### **DISABILITY? FORGET THE STEREOTYPES!**

Let's create a world with new standards.



3.2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Disability Awareness Campaign and Call to Action Hop-On Inclusion TV Spot Hop On Inclusion Video Full Version 1<sup>st</sup> Disability Awareness Campaign







12.2022

## SKEP'S STEPS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Following 15 years of experience in creating and effectively implementing innovative educational programs in schools, we actively support the inclusive education process.

### IN GREECE

### **1<sup>ST</sup> INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE** "Promoting Respect and Acceptance of Diversity in Schools"

- Organized by the Marianna V.
  Vardinoyannis Foundation and SKEP, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 at the Zappeion Megaron, in Athens, Greece.
- Held under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos.
- Focused on the significance of implementing new educational tools preparing students to accept and embrace diversity.

### **SKEP'S PROPOSAL** FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

- Proposal of a innovative educational program titled «A society for All», based on Empathy and on the development of students' Social and Communicative Skills.
- Presentation to the Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Mrs. Sofia Zacharaki, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2019.





## SKEP'S STEPS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

### ABROAD

### **SKEP AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

The invitation of the United Nations to participate in the 14th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), marks a significant honorary distinction for Mrs. Athena Kritikou, SKEP's Founder & President.

The Conference took place at the UN headquarters, in New York, USA, from June 15 to June 17 2021.

Mrs Kritikou alongside four other internationally distinguished speakers, participated in Roundtable 3, focusing on the "Right to education: challenges with inclusive education and accessibility during COVID - 19".

SKEP's participation in the event was held under the auspices of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations.



SP #SDGs #GlobalGoal

Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities** 

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## SKEP'S STEPS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

#### ABROAD

### **SKEP AT UNESCO**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, **SKEP held an interactive debate, titled "Discovering and defining my personality in school"** under the auspices of the Permanent Delegation of Greece to UNESCO. An extensive analysis of best practices and international scientific data was presented by academic experts and disability advocates focusing on opportunities and equal rights of people with disability.



## DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS TRAINING IN THE WORKPLACE

New research by academic institutions demonstrates that **diverse and inclusive teams are more innovative, engaged, and creative in their work.** Companies who have greater workplace diversity outperform their competitors and achieve higher profits!



SKEP's team of executives with and without disabilities will implement The Disability and Accessibility Awareness Training within your workplace. During the training, your executives will be introduced to the concepts of social acceptance, equality and responsibility, with an experiential and interactive approach.

#### The training will focus on the following topics:

- Understanding & accepting diversity
- Understanding and becoming familiar with concepts such as:
  - ש Disability
  - ↘ Accessibility / Access
  - ↘ Inclusive Communication
  - > The importance of an inclusive attitude & mindset both individually and as a company
  - > Practical guidelines for daily interaction with people with disabilities

# IMPACT



Based on evidence, SKEP's programs seem to contribute to students' positive attitude and familiarization with the notion of disability.

### IMPLEMENTED WITH SKEP'S INITIATIVE

PILOT INTERVENTION STUDY - June 2015

"Attitude Change in Primary and Secondary Education Students following their Interactive Cooperation with Disabled Youth".

- Main purpose of the study: To examine the attitudes of adolescents without disability towards disabled people and the level of discomfort they report when they interact with them.
- Sample group: The questionnaires were administered to 296 high school students from both public and private schools.
- Findings: The results showed significant improvements in attitudes and the level of discomfort reported after the completion of the program. The findings emphasize the importance of interaction and the implementation of such programs to combat discrimination and arbitrary prejudice.



**QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS** of the educational program "Focus on the person", within the school context.

The program's evaluation during the school year **2017-2018** was held:

- on **340** primary & secondary education mainstream students within the Attica area
- within the school context and during the school curriculum

Feedback received from students revealed that SKEP's Educational Programs:

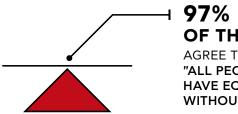
- Raised thoughts and feelings regarding disability
- Helped them understand the daily obstacles faced by people with disability as well as the potential they possess
- Contributed to the change of attitudes, perceptions and feelings about disability

The Pilot Intervention Study and the Qualitative Analysis were conducted in cooperation with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Psychology, Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi Ph.D.

# SURVEY

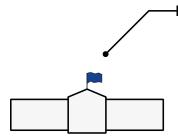
conducted by SKEP in collaboration with prorata PANHELLENIC PUBLIC OPINION POLL "TRACING ATTITUDES, PERCEPTIONS AND BEHAVIOR TOWARDS DISABILITY"







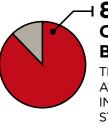
AGREE THAT "ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION"



#### 83% OF THE PARTICIPANTS

BELIEVE THAT THE STATE SHOULD PLAY THE MOST DECISIVE ROLE IN BATTLING STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICES REGARDING DISABILITY

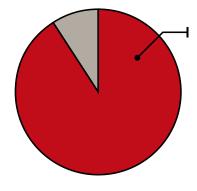
SCHOOL PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BATTLING DISCRIMINATION.



A 88% OF PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE THAT THE LACK OF DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS PERPETUATES STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICES

#### 78% OF PARTICIPANTS HOLD THE VIEW

THAT THE LACK OF DISABILITY AWARENESS PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS STRENGTHENS STIGMA AND MARGINALIZATION



# **91%** OF THE PARTICIPANTS AGREE

WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF DIVERSITY



# AWARDS

#### SKEP awarded by the Bravo Sustainability Dialogue & Awards 2019

Bravo Sustainability Dialogue & Awards is an institution for dialogue, highlighting initiatives that promote Sustainable Development and support the creation of the Greece of tomorrow.

It emphasizes the promotion of a systematic social dialogue, aiming to create a broader culture on Sustainable Development issues.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, SKEP's "Educational Disability Awareness Program in Schools: Focus on the Person", was awarded under the pillar 'Society', as an initiative that contributes and supports the Greece of tomorrow. SKEP awarded by the "Models of Excellence 2017" by the "CITIZENS MOVEMENT for an Open Society"

H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos awarded SKEP's Founder and President of the Board, Mrs. Athena Kritikou. Upon receiving the award, Mrs. Kritikou stressed that "Obstacles can be turned into opportunities, adversity into advantage, and endings into a new beginning".

## SKEP awarded at the 2nd French-Greek Innovation Forum Mazinnov2

On the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, the 2<sup>nd</sup> French-Greek Innovation Network Forum "Mazinnov2" took place in Technopolis, with the initiative of the Embassy of France in Greece and the Ambassador Mr Christophe Chantepy. SKEP participated in the "Imagine Greece of Tomorrow" series of pitches, where it presented its innovative Disability Awareness Program "Focus on the person" and was awarded with both the Prize in its respective category and the Grand Jury Prize.



www.skep.gr

SOCIAL AWARENESS OR INDIFFERENCE?

> THE CHOICE IS YOURS!