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Press Release

HSBC

The Tour of Peloponnese on Bikes, by HSBC

The 7-day **"Tour of Peloponnese on Bikes"** organized by HSBC was completed on October 4th with great success. Its purpose was to provide financial support for the Association of Friends, Parents and Guardians of "Children with Chronic Rheumatic Diseases" which is based at the Hippocration Hospital of Thessaloniki.

With this unique way HSBC aims to help the association, provide all possible forms of scientific, social, financial and moral support to children who suffer from chronic rheumatic diseases.

The Bike Tour idea combines the efforts of the cyclists with the children's dreams for a better quality of life. So, HSBC embraced this idea and undertook all organizing costs. Mr. **Dimitris Politis**, Managing Director & Head of Global Banking, HSBC Greece, and Mr. **Panagiotis Kartsanis**, HSS Settlements Officer (Local Clients), HSBC Greece, took part in the Tour of Peloponnese on Bikes, traveling a distance of 870 kilometers.

Mr. **Dimitris Politis**, the cyclist who came up with the idea of the tour, said: "*When an idea finds positive response, then an initiative is born and, when the initiative is implemented and appeals to everyone, then we can achieve truly great results".*

According to Ms. **Tonia Petrovits**, Public Affairs & Communications Manager, HSBC Greece, "*The participants' idea and desire is to turn this activity into an institution not only at the level of HSBC Greece but also at a European level, wherever HSBC is present, so that every year a different country can be selected to host the bike tour."*

The President of the Association of "Friends of Children with Chronic Rheumatic Diseases", Ms. **Florentia Kanakoudi – Tsakalidou,** Emeritus Professor of the Medical School of the Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki, thanking and congratulating HSBC's cyclists for their expression of solidarity and support, stated: *"Social solidarity is not only a matter for the state but it also concerns its citizens. Initiatives such as the "Tour of Peloponnese on Bikes", which aims to support such a deserving cause as that of the Association Against Juvenile Rheumatic Diseases, can become an example to be followed by other organizations as well, where their everyday contact with the public can be a guarantee of success".*

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