



## PRESS RELEASE

### **A successful visit of the “MAST movement... for Breast Cancer!” in the Municipality of Piraeus**

*Information and prevention are valuable, and mammography screening is necessary for women over the age of 40*

*Breast cancer treatment is possible during its initial stages; hence, early diagnosis is extremely important*

Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The “**MAST movement**”, a life journey of the **Hellenic Cancer Society (HCS)**, was successfully continued in the **Municipality of Piraeus**. This is a **large campaign for the prevention and information about Breast Cancer**, whose aim is **for every woman, in every corner of the country, to be informed, to prevent and to be cured** from breast cancer.

The “**MAST movement**” is realized with the support of **KEDE** and **EDDYPPY**, as well as the kind sponsorship of **ELPEN**. In fact, this is an activity of significant social contribution for ELPEN, since the company does not produce, nor does it market oncological drugs.

Within the context of the “MAST movement” program, and in collaboration with the Municipality of Piraeus, the **Mobile Mammography Unit** of the HCS settled at Dragatsi pedestrian walkway on **Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, and at «Gennimata» Park, Kaminia, on **Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**. During the visit, approximately **70 free mammograms** were offered to **women** from vulnerable population groups, that is, unemployed and uninsured women, who have no access or are unable to undergo mammography screening. Journalist Mrs. Clelia Charissi, who is the campaign’s face, was also present and acquainted with the women who visited the MMU in Piraeus.

Mr. **Giannis Moralis**, Mayor of Piraeus, noted: “*Within the context of a broader effort run by the Municipality of Piraeus to support population groups who have financial*

*difficulties –and they are not few–, we have accepted with great joy the proposal put forward by the Hellenic Cancer Society, in order to jointly provide free mammogram examinations to women who are financially weak and do not have the possibility to get examined elsewhere. We are well aware of the fact that breast cancer is a plague that afflicts numerous women; therefore, we would be willing to continuously repeat such initiatives.»*

**Breast cancer is the most frequent malignancy** appearing in Greek women nowadays, with an estimated **5000 new cases** emerging **every year**.

In order to diagnose breast cancer early, there are three possibilities: (1) **Auto-examination of women**; (2) **Clinical examination by a physician**; and (3) **Mammography**. The latter is the most common examination for breast cancer diagnosis, and its **diagnostic capacity is very high**. In fact, it can reveal a malignancy before it can be detected through clinical examination. Taking into account the possibilities of our country's healthcare system, as well as the particularities of the disease's presence in Greece, the **HCS recommends that all women over the age of 40 undergo regular preventive mammography every two years**.

In spite of its high incidence, breast cancer is becoming less threatening for life and its quality, thanks to numerous significant medical advances, which have yielded more effective and personalized therapeutic interventions, but also because more women undergo preventive examinations, and therefore, the disease is discovered during its early stages, when treatments are more effective and can lead to cure.

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