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The Association of Friends of Elliniko, in partnership with the [European Economic and Social Committee](#), is pleased to invite you to our panel discussion on

# Seven years of austerity: lessons learned and next steps for Greek healthcare

Date: Wednesday 18 October 2017

Time: 17:30 - 20:00

Venue: EESC headquarters, Jacques Delors Building,  
rue Belliard 101, Brussels 1040, Room JDE 51

Interpreting: EL/EN/FR

**with**

**Dr Anna Ritsatakis, formerly World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe,  
expert in health and equity**

*Briefing on current health situation in Greece and long-term outlook*

**Elias Tsolakidis, founder of the Kapnikos Stathmos social initiative and community  
pharmacy, Katerini**

*The civil society response to the social and health crisis as a result of austerity*

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## Athens

*Meeting the health and medical needs of those affected by austerity*

**Jose Leirião, EESC member and rapporteur for the opinion on Lessons learned for avoiding the severity of austerity policies in the EU**

and

**Georges Dassis, EESC president**

*Closing comments and the views of the EESC*

[Click here to register](#)

Since our meeting in June last year, Friends of Elliniko has been continuing to raise money and send medication to Elliniko and other community projects in Greece. Some of our members have been to Greece to volunteer and support these projects and we have continued to maintain close contact with those on the ground.

Now, with the Greek healthcare system still buckling under the pressure of austerity, the EESC is preparing to draft an opinion on the lessons learnt from austerity and Friends of Elliniko has the opportunity to provide valuable input.

In partnership with the [EESC](#), we have organised this panel discussion to give those working relentlessly on social projects in Greece the chance to voice their first-hand accounts of the reality of austerity and to offer their perspective on the way forward. Our panellists will be followed by an interactive discussion and, as friends and supporters of Elliniko, we would very much appreciate your contribution to this debate.

To join us to hear about the reality of austerity first-hand from those working on the ground in Greece and help us shape the way forward by giving us your views on the next steps, please register [here](#) by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 10 October .

We look forward to welcoming you!

Discussions and networking will continue from 8.15 p.m. over drinks and a buffet supper at a nearby restaurant. Further details will be communicated in due course.

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