



Promitheas

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Bridging the gap

We stand against social inequalities

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The year 2025 marked a transitional and demanding period for Promitheas, as the organization entered a new phase of identity, strategy, and growth. Expanding our mission beyond a disease-specific focus toward a broader public-health role required institutional adaptation, internal restructuring, and continuous effort to maintain stability while evolving. At the same time, the realities we encounter daily - barriers to healthcare access, fragmented services, social exclusion, and delayed diagnosis among vulnerable populations - reaffirm the urgency of our work. Despite the challenges, this transition has strengthened our conviction that Promitheas can play a decisive role in addressing some of the most critical health inequalities of our time. Looking ahead, we remain optimistic that through partnerships, evidence-based advocacy, and community-centered interventions, the organization will continue to expand its impact and contribute meaningfully to ensuring that no vulnerable person is left without access to timely and quality healthcare.

Our vision is a world where every person has equal opportunities for a healthy, dignified, and creative life. A world where health is not a privilege, but a right. Where people's voices shape policy, and health equity becomes a lived reality.

Promitheas was founded in 2012 as the first Patient Association for liver diseases in Greece.

Through its long-standing presence in the field - from prisons and the streets, to the Community Hub and remote islands - it has revealed a deep and multifaceted gap in access to healthcare, especially for socially and economically vulnerable groups. A gap that transcends the limits of a thematic mission and calls for systemic solutions.

In 2025, Promitheas integrates this experience into the core of its identity and evolves into an organization with an expanded social mission: to defend the universal right of all vulnerable populations to health.

No barriers. No exceptions.

03 ——— Our Mission, Vision & Principles

Our Mission Promitheas' mission is to ensure that every citizen has uninterrupted and equal access to quality health-care services, timely diagnosis, appropriate medical care, and full respect for their fundamental rights.

Our Vision The mission of Promitheas is to ensure that every individual has uninterrupted and equitable access to quality health services, timely diagnosis, appropriate medical care, and full respect for their fundamental rights.

Our Principles **Accountability**
Our approach is grounded in scientific evidence. Guided by research and academic knowledge, we collaborate with experts and institutions to design and implement the programs we deliver.

Empathy
We deeply explore the needs of the people we serve and work closely with their peers to understand their challenges and lived experiences. This approach enhances the effectiveness and impact of our programs by increasing engagement and commitment.

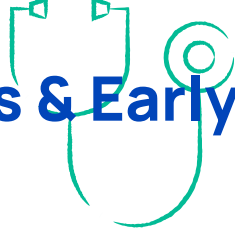
Integrity
The data, expertise, and knowledge we have gained are made available to public authorities and partner organizations to collectively strengthen their work. We actively promote collaborations and the exchange of best practices across institutions and stakeholders.

Collaboration

Promitheas works with all sectors of society and acts as a vital link between decision-making bodies and communities. As an organization, we are defined by flexibility and adaptability, ensuring that the voices of patients are heard and considered in health-policy decisions.

Inclusion

We respect diversity and fight against stigma, marginalization, and exclusion. We ensure that vulnerable communities are heard so that no one is left behind. We collaborate with all people without discrimination based on gender, religion, or race.

 **Access & Early Diagnosis**

Prevention & Education 

 **Advocacy /
Institutional Influence**

Organizational Development 

Safeguarding Access to Treatment

Through evidence-based advocacy, Promitheas has achieved significant policy reforms, continuously defending the rights of individuals living with liver diseases.

2023 – Legislative reform for healthcare access in prisons:

We succeeded in securing a key legal amendment guaranteeing that incarcerated individuals without a Social Security Number (AMKA) can access essential healthcare services.

2021 – Nationwide access to Naloxone:

Following years of institutional advocacy, the legal framework was amended to allow naloxone—an essential, life-saving medication that prevents opioid overdose deaths—to become available to the entire population.

2019 – Prix Galien Gold Award for impact on HCV treatment access:

Promitheas received the Gold Award from the prestigious “Prix Galien” institute for its contribution to the negotiations that ensured universal access to innovative hepatitis C treatments.

Prior to our efforts, restrictive criteria excluded 3 out of 4 patients; by 2017, continuous advocacy led to the removal of these barriers and full access for all.

More than 20,000 free liver elastography tests:

With the support of major philanthropic foundations in Greece, we have provided free elastography examinations to over 20,000 patients, reaching vulnerable

populations such as older adults, people who use drugs, and individuals in correctional facilities.

International recognition of prison-based programs:

Promitheas' prison health programs have been acknowledged in the World Health Organization's Best Practice Manual on viral hepatitis. This recognition reflects our commitment to improving the lives of individuals living under challenging conditions.

Within five years, we screened 60% of the country's entire prison population—approximately 6,000 incarcerated individuals—significantly strengthening national prevention efforts.



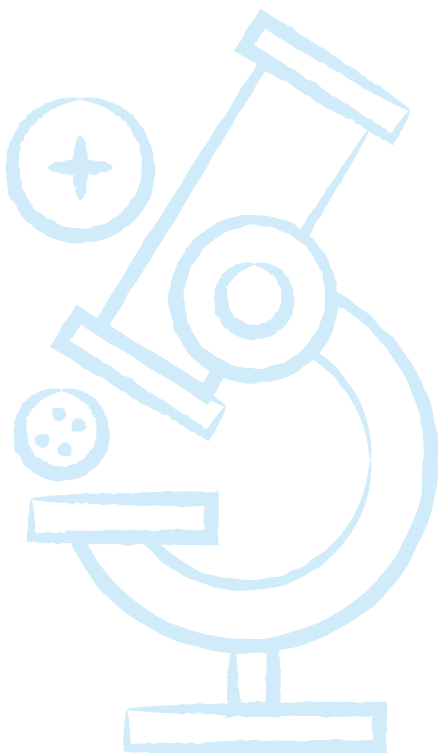
Strengthening access for vulnerable populations to high-quality prevention, care, and psychosocial support services is a core strategic priority for Promitheas. Our interventions focus on critical public health challenges - including obesity and metabolic conditions, cardiovascular and liver health, mental health and substance use, as well as gender-based violence - with particular emphasis on situations where health needs intersect with multiple and overlapping forms of social vulnerability. Promitheas operates in contexts where access to the healthcare system is limited or nonexistent, supporting individuals and communities affected by poverty, social exclusion, institutional barriers, and complex psychosocial needs. Through low-threshold services, community-based and mobile interventions, and structured linkage to specialized care, we work to reduce health inequalities and to ensure the effective realization of the right to health. For Promitheas, access is not merely the provision of services; it is an act of social justice and a fundamental mechanism for empowering populations who are too often rendered invisible.

Project	Details	Outcome
Access4All in Greek Prisons III	Diagnostic testing interventions for Hepatitis C (HCV), Hepatitis B (HBV) and HIV, combined with structured linkage to care in correctional facilities across Greece. The project is implemented in collaboration with hepatology units of major public hospitals and in coordination with the General Secretariat for Crime Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection.	The project screened a total of 1,264 individuals across two correctional facilities, significantly strengthening early diagnosis and linkage to care in prison settings. In Diavata Prison, 764 people were tested through two structured interventions, leading to the identification of 51 confirmed HCV-RNA positive cases and the initiation or progression to treatment for 34 individuals. In Korydallos Prison I, 500 individuals were screened, 81 were anti-HCV positive and 51 were confirmed with active HCV infection. The majority have already secured eligibility for prescription, with treatment initiation ongoing. Overall, the project reinforced collaboration between correctional authorities and public hospital hepatology units, improved access to confirmatory testing and treatment, and advanced efforts toward hepatitis elimination among incarcerated populations. An informative video was also produced.
Viral Hepatitis COMmunity Screening, Vaccination, and Care (VH-COMSAVAC)	“VH-COMSAVAC” was an innovative program for refugees and migrants, aiming to reduce Hepatitis B and C, increase HBV vaccination, and improve linkage to diagnosis and treatment, while generating evidence for future health policies.	The project delivered awareness activities, rapid testing for Hepatitis B and C, HBV vaccination, and linkage to care in collaboration with Laiko General Hospital, screening 788 people and identifying 47 anti-HCV, 17 HBsAg, and 3 co-infected cases. Of those with access to care, 16 active HCV and 6 active HBV infections were confirmed, most initiated or completed treatment, and 14 individuals were vaccinated against Hepatitis B. A video highlighting the testing interventions carried out in Greek prisons was also produced.

Project	Details	Outcome
Simplifying the Diagnosis of Chronic Hepatitis C in the Prison Setting with the Use of Dual HCV Core Antigen and Anti-HCV, Exploring Alternative Sample Collection Methods	The project piloted simplified diagnostic approaches for Hepatitis C in prison settings using HCV core antigen testing and alternative sample collection methods, while also promoting testing for Hepatitis B and D. The intervention has been completed, supporting faster diagnosis, timely linkage to care and more equitable access to healthcare for incarcerated populations.	At Korydallos Prison I, 305 individuals were screened, 81 were anti-HCV positive and 51 were confirmed with active HCV infection (HCV-RNA positive), with nearly all eligible for treatment through AMKA. A key innovation of the intervention was the implementation of a same-sample cascade of care model. Using a single blood draw, anti-HCV and HCV core antigen results were delivered on the same day, and samples from individuals testing positive were automatically processed for HCV-RNA, along with all required hematological and biochemical tests for treatment prescription. Molecular results and full laboratory work-up were available within four working days. / PAYPEK. This integrated diagnostic pathway represents a breakthrough in the correctional setting, eliminating delays between testing steps and enabling rapid treatment initiation. Under routine conditions in Korydallos Prison, the time from initial testing to treatment access may take approximately 7–9 months; through this streamlined cascade approach, the pathway to therapy was substantially accelerated. Overall, the project strengthened collaboration between correctional authorities and public hospital hepatology units, improved continuity of care, and advanced national hepatitis elimination efforts among incarcerated populations.

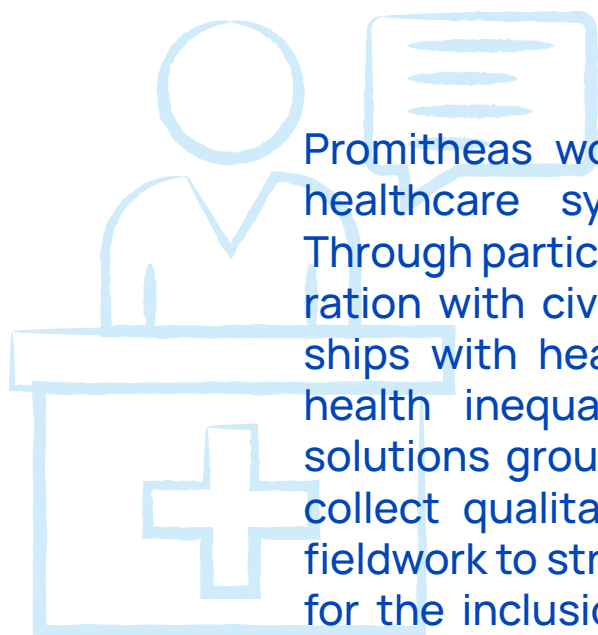
Project	Details	Outcome
ARISTOTLE 2024-2025	The “ARISTOTLE 2024-2025” program aimed to reduce Hepatitis C and HIV transmission among people who use psychoactive substances in Athens by increasing testing, diagnosis and linkage to care. The program has now been completed, delivering community-based prevention and therapeutic support to a highly vulnerable population.	A total of 688 participants (860 participations) were reached, with a mean age of 44.3 years; 81.1% were men, 55.7% were homeless, and 77.3% reported recent drug use. Anti-HCV prevalence was 67.2%, with 58.4% of anti-HCV-positive individuals having chronic infection, while HIV prevalence was 13.7% and 11.9% had HIV/HCV co-infection. 45% of individuals with chronic HCV initiated treatment during the program, supported by accelerated access through EOPYY. Notably, 50% reported a history of non-fatal overdose, underlining the high vulnerability of the population.
Delta Care Project	The Delta Care Project addressed the high prevalence of Hepatitis D and limited awareness among incarcerated individuals at Korydallos I Prison through targeted awareness activities and focused screening. By providing multilingual educational materials and targeted virological testing for Hepatitis D among people with Hepatitis B, the project improved knowledge, early diagnosis and access to care for a highly vulnerable population.	During the intervention at Korydallos I prison, 4 individuals were confirmed HBV-DNA positive, and 1 individual was also HDV-DNA positive, enabling timely clinical follow-up and strengthening early detection and access to care for this highly vulnerable population. In addition, multilingual educational materials on Hepatitis D-covering transmission, prevention and treatment-were developed and distributed to individuals with active HBV infection. The materials were made available in Greek, English, Arabic, Urdu, Georgian and Albanian, ensuring accessibility, comprehension and patient empowerment.

Prevention is a consistent and central priority for Promitheas, reflecting our commitment to responding to the real and evolving needs of the people we encounter in the field. Our preventive approach focuses on health and social issues that rarely occur in isolation but instead coexist and reinforce one another: obesity and metabolic conditions, cardiovascular and liver health, mental health burden and substance use, as well as gender-based violence - particularly in contexts characterized by multiple and overlapping forms of vulnerability. By addressing these interconnected challenges through early intervention, community-based awareness, education, and empowerment, Promitheas seeks to reduce risk factors, prevent disease progression, and mitigate long-term social and health inequalities. Prevention, for us, is not a one-off action but a sustained investment in resilience, dignity, and health equity.



Project	Details	Outcome
Speak Hepatitis	The project aimed to increase awareness and health literacy on viral hepatitis B, C and D among incarcerated women in the Women's Prisons of Thiva and Korydallos II. It focused on prevention, testing and access to healthcare services, while adapting all materials to the cultural and linguistic needs of the prison population.	A total of 1,000 multilingual leaflets (in six languages - Greek, English, Albanian, Bulgarian, Georgian and Romanian) were distributed, alongside meetings with prison management, social services, staff and incarcerated women to support implementation. An educational video tailored to vulnerable women was also produced, providing simple, accessible information on transmission, prevention and treatment.
Health4All – Culture and Health Literacy	The “Health4All - Culture and Health Literacy” project focused on making complex liver-health topics - such as viral hepatitis, liver cancer and Primary Biliary Cholangitis - understandable through simple, non-clinical language. By using accessible content, visuals and real-life examples, the program promoted health literacy and early prevention, ensuring that reliable information reached vulnerable populations.	A series of educational videos addressing viral hepatitis (B, C and D), liver cancer, Primary Biliary Cholangitis, fatty liver disease, vaccination, alcohol-related liver disease, Hepatitis C in prison settings, and the importance of early diagnosis was produced and disseminated across all Promitheas communication channels. The content translated complex medical information into clear and accessible messages, strengthening health literacy and awareness among the general public and vulnerable populations.

Project	Details	Outcome
I Deserve to Know Plus II	The nationwide project “I Deserve to Know Plus II” was successfully completed, providing free liver elastography to people aged 65 and over in six remote regions of Greece. The program strengthened prevention and early diagnosis of liver disease among older adults, addressed gaps in access to specialized care in remote areas, and generated valuable data to inform public-health planning.	A total of 645 liver FibroScan examinations were performed within the project, 602 of which involved individuals aged over 65. The interventions were carried out across six regions- Kos, Agrinio, Veria, Kavala, Kalamata and Chania- confirming strong participation among older adults and demonstrating the high demand for access to specialized liver diagnostics in remote areas. A project recap video was also produced, highlighting the impact of the initiative in local communities.
Pilot Program on Smoking Prevention and the Value of Healthy Nutrition & Physical Activity (Special Youth Detention Center of Volos)	The pilot program aimed to improve the health and quality of life of young adult incarcerated individuals at the Special Youth Detention Center of Volos. Through education and health-literacy strengthening, the initiative promoted smoking prevention, healthy nutrition and regular physical activity, fostering healthier habits and supporting successful social reintegration.	The pilot program implemented at the Special Youth Detention Center of Volos strengthened health literacy among young incarcerated adults by promoting smoking prevention, healthy nutrition and regular physical activity. Educational materials and videos were developed for both detainees and staff, while 86 detainees participated in baseline assessments and structured educational cycles (72 in smoking prevention and 70 in nutrition and exercise programs). An online training seminar engaged 31 staff members, and a motivational session with marathon champion Panagiotis Karaiskos reached 56 participants. The program also produced a policy document submitted to the General Secretariat for Crime Policy to support future health interventions in detention settings, alongside public dissemination through press and media coverage.



Promitheas works to bridge the gap between the healthcare system and vulnerable populations. Through participation in institutional bodies, collaboration with civil-society organizations, and partnerships with healthcare professionals, we document health inequalities and promote evidence-based solutions grounded in equity. At the same time, we collect qualitative and quantitative data from our fieldwork to strengthen public dialogue and advocate for the inclusion of health priorities in the national policy agenda.

Project	Details	Outcome
MyPBCVoice	MyPBCVoice aims to empower people living with Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC) in Greece and improve their access to high-quality healthcare. Moving beyond a purely medical approach, the project focuses on patient empowerment, information, education and peer connection, while highlighting unmet needs and challenges and supporting improvements in quality of life for individuals living with PBC.	The project has already delivered the first Greek website dedicated exclusively to PBC , digital questionnaires and forms to document patient needs , an interactive Facebook-based patient community , and a digital reporting mechanism to identify barriers to access to care and support evidence-based advocacy. Based on European epidemiological data (20–40 cases per 100,000 population), and extrapolating to the Greek population, it is estimated that approximately 4,000 people may be living with PBC in Greece . Next steps include the production of short videos and vidcasts featuring patients and experts, as well as the organization of thematic online webinars to further strengthen patient information, engagement and visibility.

Project	Details	Outcome
Naloxone Saves Lives	Naloxone Saves Lives is a harm-reduction program in Athens aimed at reducing opioid overdose deaths by expanding access to naloxone and providing training on overdose recognition and response. Through a community-based and human-rights-focused approach, the program strengthens local capacity and promotes safer, more inclusive public-health practices.	Greece is estimated to have approximately 12,000–17,000 high-risk opioid users, according to national and European monitoring data, representing a population at elevated risk of fatal overdose. Expanding access to naloxone is therefore a critical public-health priority with direct life-saving potential. Promitheas has played a key role in advancing coordinated overdose-prevention efforts in Athens through partnerships with municipal, national and international stakeholders. Beyond programmatic implementation, the initiative has contributed to two landmark legislative reforms in Greece: • 2021: Enabled the administration of intranasal naloxone by addiction professionals, emergency responders (including EMS), streetworkers and prison staff. Until then, naloxone was available only in injectable form and could be administered exclusively in hospital settings. • 2025: Introduced the full deregulation of naloxone, allowing any individual to administer it in cases of opioid overdose. With this reform, Greece became the first country in Eastern Europe to ensure broad community access to naloxone in multiple formulations, significantly strengthening life-saving capacity at the population level. At the operational level, a comprehensive harm-reduction communication campaign and a structured training guide for frontline workers are being developed to enhance overdose recognition, safe naloxone use and sustainable integration of prevention practices into public-health policy.



09 — Pillar IV | Organizational Development

Our goal is to strengthen the organization's governance structure and build strategic partnerships that contribute to achieving our mission, evaluating impact, and shaping the next strategic plan. A key priority moving forward is the rebranding of the organization, positioning Promitheas as a leading civil-society organization addressing major public-health challenges.

Strengthening the Board of Directors is central to our strategy, alongside the establishment of advisory and scientific committees to guide strategic direction and program design. At the same time, we are investing in a more structured fundraising strategy, including the recruitment of specialized professionals, the development of a comprehensive fundraising plan, and the adoption of a donation acceptance policy to ensure long-term sustainability.

In financial management, we are implementing modern tools and procedures to enhance budget planning, monitoring, and transparency, while training staff in effective resource management. We are also improving workforce planning and refining our program implementation model through collaboration with local partners. Continuous staff training in communication, team leadership and project management further strengthens efficiency and accountability. Finally, salary adjustments and staff wellbeing initiatives foster a work environment that promotes commitment, stability and long-term impact.

**Pilot Program on Smoking Prevention,
Healthy Nutrition & Physical Activity
Special Youth Detention Center of Volos, Greece**

This pilot initiative addressed long-term health risks associated with smoking and unhealthy lifestyles among young adult incarcerated individuals. The project assessed smoking prevalence, dietary habits and physical activity levels, identifying barriers to health promotion within the detention setting. Educational programs were delivered to raise awareness about smoking risks, healthy nutrition and regular exercise, alongside training sessions for correctional staff to strengthen institutional support for behavior change. Structured physical activities, motivational interventions and the development of a policy framework contributed to embedding sustainable, evidence-based health-promotion strategies within the facility.



Notable Projects

Access4All in Greek Prisons III **Correctional Facilities of Greece**

Access4All III implemented large-scale diagnostic testing for Hepatitis C (HCV), Hepatitis B (HBV) and HIV across correctional facilities in Greece, combined with structured linkage to care for individuals diagnosed with infection. The project was carried out in collaboration with hepatology units of major public hospitals and in coordination with the General Secretariat for Crime Policy of the Ministry of Citizen Protection, strengthening early diagnosis, treatment initiation and continuity of care in prison settings.



Notable Projects

MyPBCVoice

MyPBCVoice empowered people living with Primary Biliary Cholangitis (PBC) in Greece by improving access to reliable information, peer support and quality healthcare pathways. The project moved beyond a purely medical model, fostering patient empowerment, structured data collection on unmet needs, community engagement and advocacy efforts aimed at improving quality of life and strengthening representation of individuals living with PBC.



MyPBCVoice

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Notable Projects

Delta Care Project **Korydallos I Prison**

The Delta Care Project addressed the high prevalence of Hepatitis D and limited awareness among incarcerated individuals at Korydallos Prison through targeted awareness activities and focused virological screening. Multilingual educational materials and targeted testing among individuals with Hepatitis B enabled earlier detection of HDV co-infection and strengthened access to clinical follow-up and care for a highly vulnerable population.



Simplifying the Diagnosis of Chronic Hepatitis C in the Prison Setting with the Use of Dual HCV Core Antigen and Anti-HCV, Exploring Alternative Sample Collection Methods

This research and innovation initiative piloted a simplified diagnostic model for Chronic Hepatitis C (HCV) in correctional facilities, combining dual HCV core antigen (HCVcAg) and anti-HCV testing with alternative sample collection methods. The aim was to accelerate diagnosis, reduce loss-to-follow-up and improve access to care in resource-constrained prison environments, while also promoting parallel testing for Hepatitis B and D. At Korydallos Prison I, 305 individuals were screened; 81 were anti-HCV positive and 51 were confirmed with active HCV infection (HCV-RNA positive), with nearly all eligible for treatment through AMKA or the PAYPEK approval pathway.



A key innovation was the implementation of a same-sample cascade of care model: using a single blood draw, screening, confirmatory HCV-RNA testing and all required laboratory work-up for prescription were completed within four working days. Under routine conditions, treatment initiation may take 7–9 months; this streamlined approach significantly reduced time-to-treatment. The project demonstrated the feasibility of rapid, integrated HCV diagnosis in prisons and generated practical evidence to inform national hepatitis elimination efforts among incarcerated populations.

Viral Hepatitis COMMunity Screening, Vaccination, and Care (VH-COMSAVAC)

VH-COMSAVAC was an innovative program targeting refugee and migrant communities, aiming to reduce Hepatitis B and C prevalence, increase HBV vaccination coverage, and improve linkage to diagnosis and



treatment. By combining screening, vaccination referral and structured data collection, the program generated evidence to inform future public-health interventions and health-policy development for underserved populations.

[A video](#) highlighting the testing interventions carried out in Greek prisons was also produced.

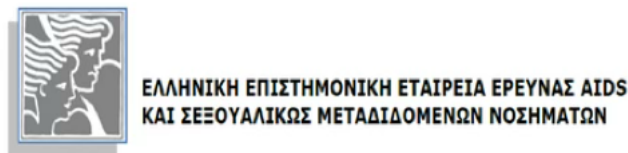
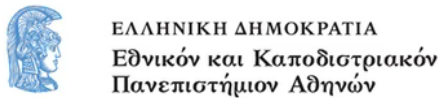
ARISTOTLE 2024–2025

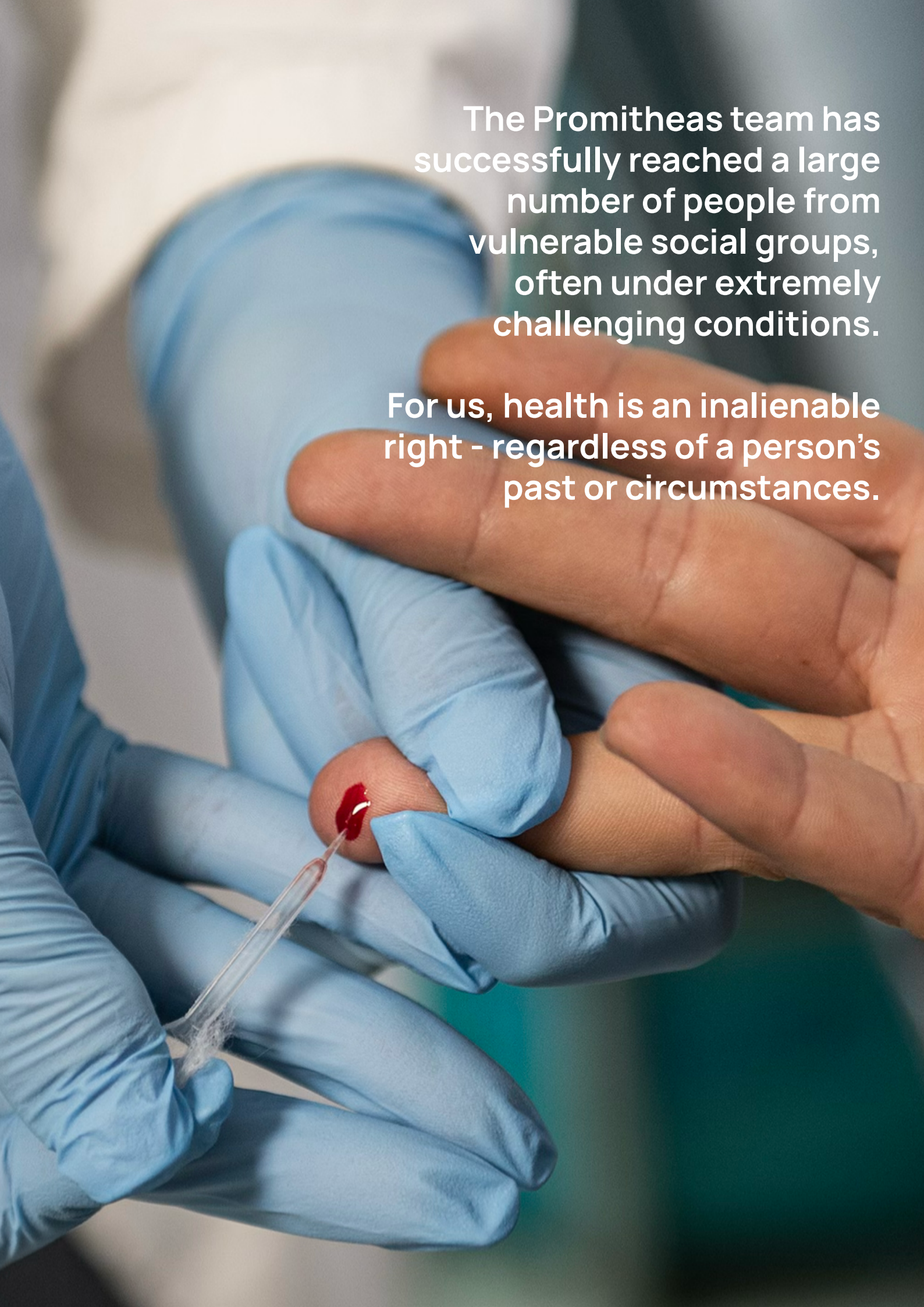


The ARISTOTLE 2024–2025 program focused on reducing Hepatitis C and HIV transmission among people who use psychoactive substances in Athens. Through community-based testing, epidemiological monitoring and structured linkage to care, the program improved diagnosis and treatment access for a highly vulnerable population. The initiative contributed valuable data to support targeted harm-reduction strategies and public-health planning.



Collaborators





The Promitheas team has
successfully reached a large
number of people from
vulnerable social groups,
often under extremely
challenging conditions.

For us, health is an inalienable
right - regardless of a person's
past or circumstances.

13 — Social Media & Public Engagement

Promitheas continued to strengthen its digital presence and public outreach through multi-channel communication and regular engagement with its audiences.



Facebook:

440,800 content views



Instagram:

27,200 content views



LinkedIn:

21,796 content impressions



TikTok:

633,978 video views



1 monthly newsletter



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Facebook

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Promitheas