

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, October 15th 2024

GEK TERNA Group and BlackLight launch the “Learning Without Seeing” program to 2,000 students in Crete

On the occasion of White Cane Safety Day, GEK TERNA Group announces its collaboration with [BlackLight](#), a social enterprise founded by individuals with visual impairments, to implement the “Learning Without Seeing” program in schools at Crete.

This innovative program primarily aims to familiarize children with blindness, foster an inclusive mindset, and ultimately combat instances of school exclusion for children with disabilities. It is a multisensory, experiential workshop for students of all grade levels, in which participants, among other activities, take on the role of a blind person by wearing blindfolds and are then challenged to move around, play, and learn in space. Through this role reversal, children develop empathy, cultivate a sense of participation and creativity, and nurture a sense of solidarity and critical thinking. The goal of this collaboration is for 2,000 students from 20 schools in Heraklion Prefecture to develop a culture of understanding and acceptance toward blindness and diversity through play and experiential activities.

On behalf of GEK TERNA Group, the Sustainable Development Director, Danae Kalantidi, stated: “It is an honor for us to collaborate with BlackLight on this exceptional initiative. Through the 'Learning Without Seeing' program, we aim to contribute to promoting the inclusion of vulnerable social groups in Crete, as well as fostering an inclusive society where understanding and support for individuals with visual impairments are fundamental values”.

From BlackLight, the Managing Director, Ms. Chrysella Lagaria, noted, “The implementation of this program in Crete will open new pathways for the integration of blind children into the region's schools, while also familiarizing the younger generation with disabilities. We sincerely thank GEK TERNA Group for their invaluable support”.

White Cane Safety Day, which is celebrated every year on October 15th, was established by the United Nations in 1969 as a day to raise awareness about the autonomy and social inclusion of people with visual disabilities. The white cane is a symbol of independence and freedom, as thanks to this tool people with visual impairments can move safely and feel confident in public spaces.

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About BlackLight: BlackLight supports businesses and organizations in designing and implementing **strategies for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities**. Founded in 2017 by blind individuals, it has since included partners with mobility and hearing impairments in its team. It is the first company in Greece developed in this sector and specializes in online and in-person training for staff on how to best respond to the needs of people with disabilities. The educational program “Learning Without Seeing” was designed and began implementation in 2017, receiving approvals from the Ministry of Education and having trained over 5,000 students to date.

For more information, visit BlackLight’s website www.black-light.gr or contact info@Black-Light.gr.

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