

ΜΕΡΙΜΝΑ ΑΤΟΜΩΝ ΜΕ ΑΥΤΙΣΜΟ



Κέντρο Υποστήριξης για
τον Αυτισμό Ν. Ημαθίας
"Μ.Α.μ.Α."



Holistic Support for **Autistic** Individuals and their **Families**

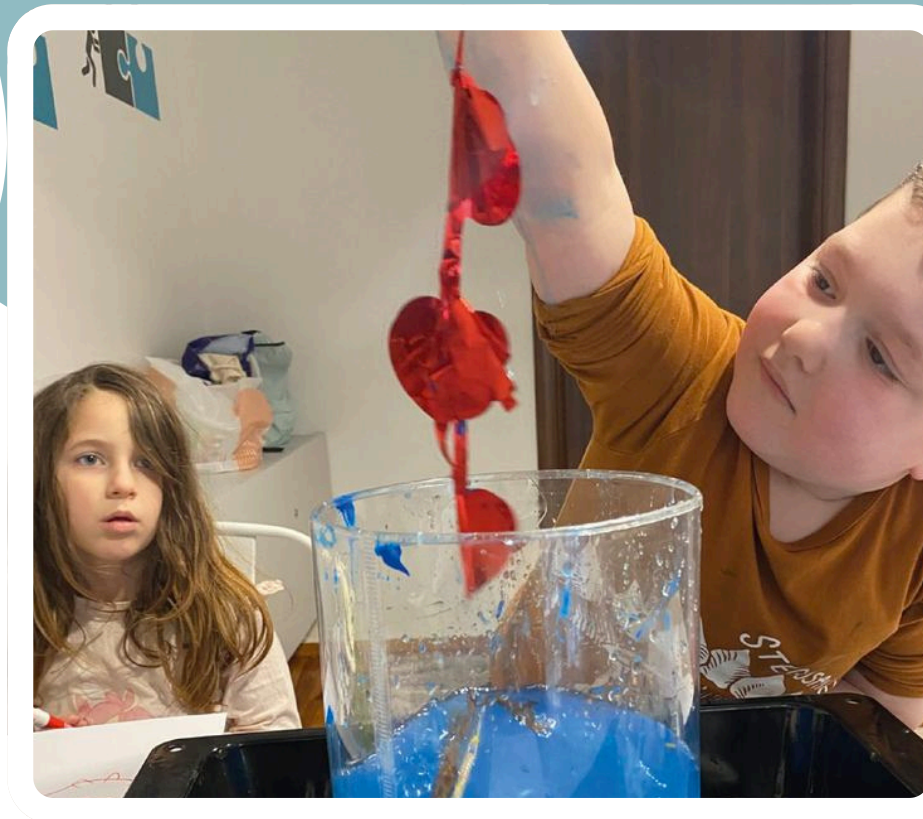


Με τη συγχρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



Πρόγραμμα
Κεντρική Μακεδονία

The Operation of the Autism Support Center "M.A.M.A." as a Model of Social Inclusion and Integration



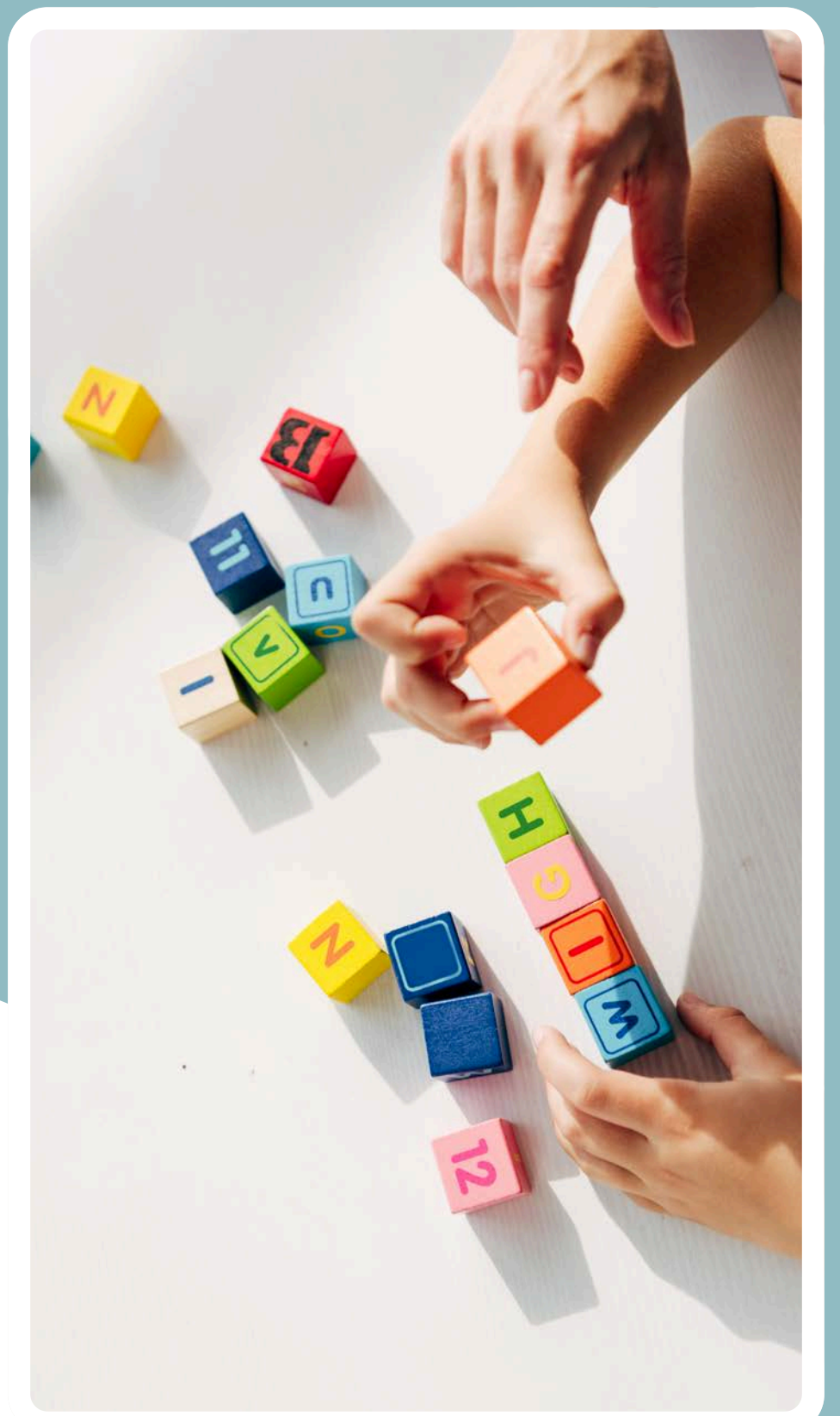
Presenters:

Eleni Georgiadou-Stefanaki

Mother of an autistic adult
President of the Organization Care for
People with Autism, Veria, Greece

Dr. Eirini Anagnostou

School and Developmental Psychologist
Scientific Associate of the Support Center





Who We Are

- Care for People with Autism (M.A.M.A.) – Imathia Prefecture Greece Central Macedonia
 - Established: 2015 | Based in Veria
 - Non-profit parents' association
 - 2 Creative Activity Centers for People with Disabilities (ages 5-27) – 70 beneficiaries
- June 2025: Establishment of the Autism Support Center – 98 beneficiaries
 - Coverage: Entire Imathia region

SYSTEM STRUCTURE IN GREECE

Organization of Care in Greece for Children and Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and Their Families

Four Main Pillars:

1. Assessment –
Diagnosis – Disability
Certification – Access
to state benefits

2. Therapeutic
Support



3. Education

4. Post-adulthood
Support





Diagnosis & Therapies

Multidisciplinary assessment through public child guidance centers, diagnostic centers, and hospitals



SERVICES INCLUDE:

Speech
therapy

Occupational
therapy

Special
education

Psychotherapy &
parental counseling

These services are covered by insurance

Education & Adulthood

1

Parallel support within mainstream schools

2

Special education structures:
Special primary and secondary schools
Vocational training workshops (ages 4-22)

3

Day care and rehabilitation centers (mainly after age 22)
Creative activity centers for people with disabilities (ages 5-55)

4

Personal assistant scheme (currently in pilot phase)





System Challenges



Understaffing



Long waiting
lists and delays



Regional
inequalities



Significant burden
on families

FUNDING & CONCLUSION

Healthcare services
funded by the
National Health
System



EU-funded programs
(ESPA) and voucher
schemes

Conclusion:

Despite formal provisions, there are significant gaps
in practical implementation.



Target Groups and Mode of Operation

THE CENTER SERVES:

- Individuals on the autism spectrum and their families
 - Educators and healthcare professionals
- Social welfare organizations and universities
 - Volunteers and cultural organizations

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM:

Psychiatrists • Child psychiatrists • Psychologists • Social workers
• Speech therapists • Occupational therapists • Special educators
• Support staff • National and international collaboration network
• Focus on training and awareness-raising



What the Autism Support Center M.A.M.A. offers

- Holistic and FREE services

Free therapies:

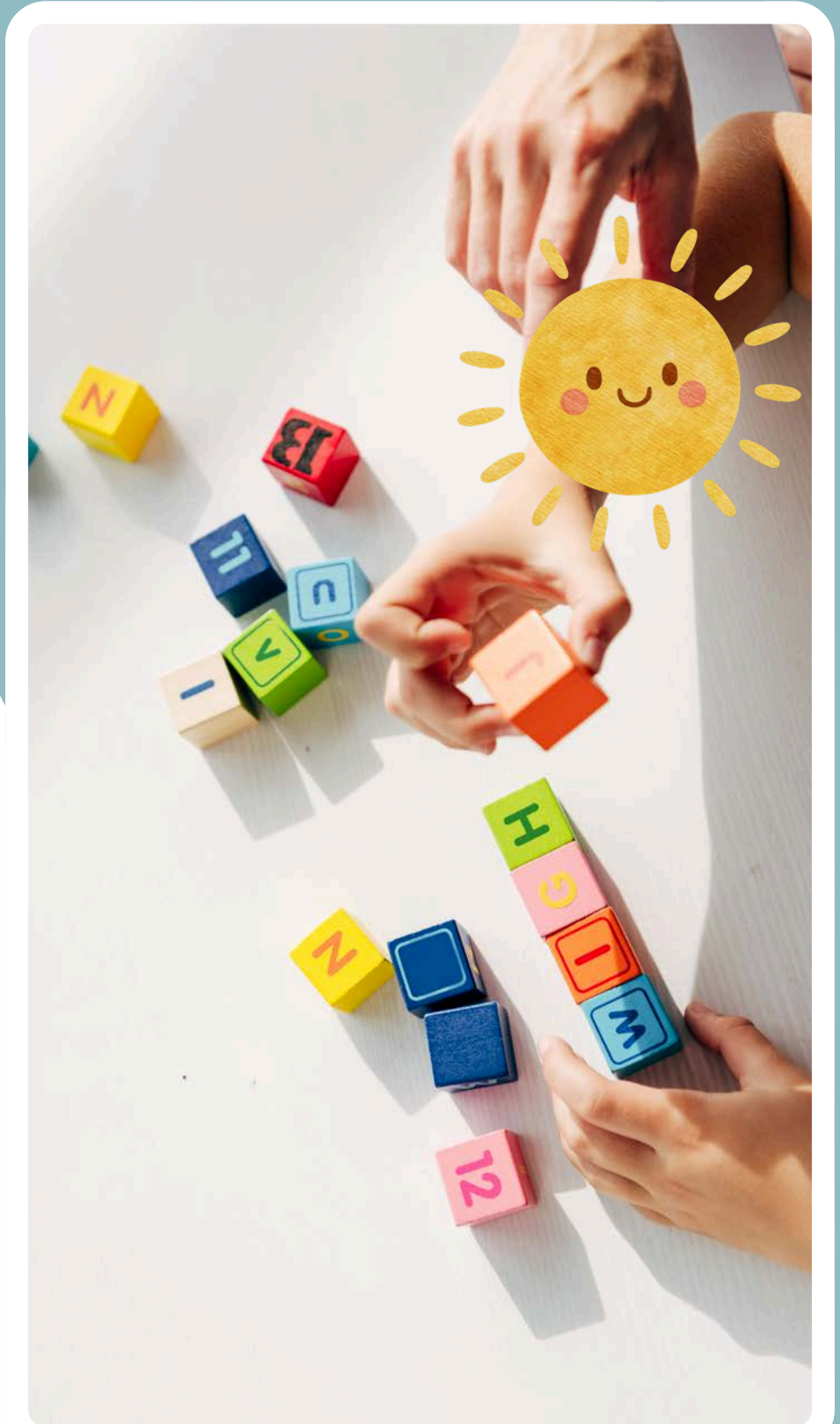
Occupational therapy • Speech therapy • Psychotherapy • Play therapy

- Social skills development & special education
- Independent and semi-independent living programs
 - Family counseling
- Creative workshops and community-based social activities
 - Service delivery: In-person • Home-based • Online
- Weekend operation, when most public services are closed



Why It Is a Good Practice

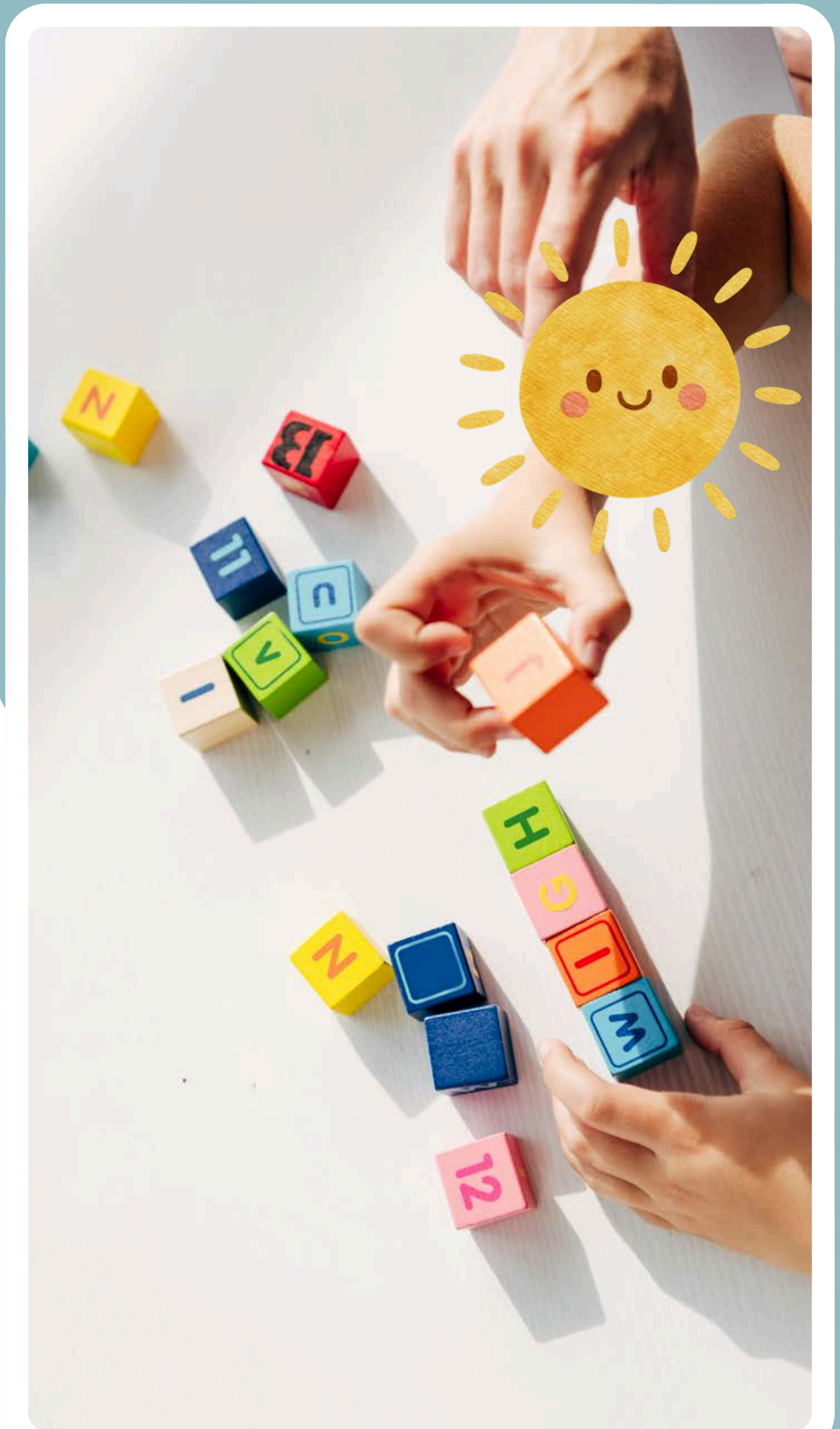
- Addresses critical gaps in state services
- Supports uninsured individuals and those over 22, who are often excluded from free therapies
- All services are provided free of charge
- Holistic and flexible approach
- Operates during weekends when other services are unavailable
- Promotes skills development and social inclusion





Closing Statement

- Through the Autism Support Center of Imathia, we envision a society where individuals with autism are not perceived as “different,” but as equal and valuable members of the community.
- Through proper support, awareness, and collaboration with society, we aim to create an environment of acceptance, understanding, and meaningful inclusion.







Links

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/mamav/posts/?feedView=all>

https://www.instagram.com/m.a.m.a_autism_veria/

<https://www.facebook.com/mamaveria>

<https://www.youtube.com/@mamaveria>

www.mamaver.gr



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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/center-for-autism-support-of-imathia-prefecture-veroia-greece/posts/?feedView=all>

<https://www.facebook.com/autism.center.veroia>

<https://www.instagram.com/autism.center.veroia/>



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Thank You!

Στηρί-*ζουμε*
το κάθε σου βήμα!



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