

## Project ‘CROSS THE BORDERS’

Erasmus+ - KA1 (Youth Workers Mobility)

2017-3-IT03-KA105-012694

Lead Applicant: Gruppo Umana Solidarietà (G.U.S.), Italy

Partners:

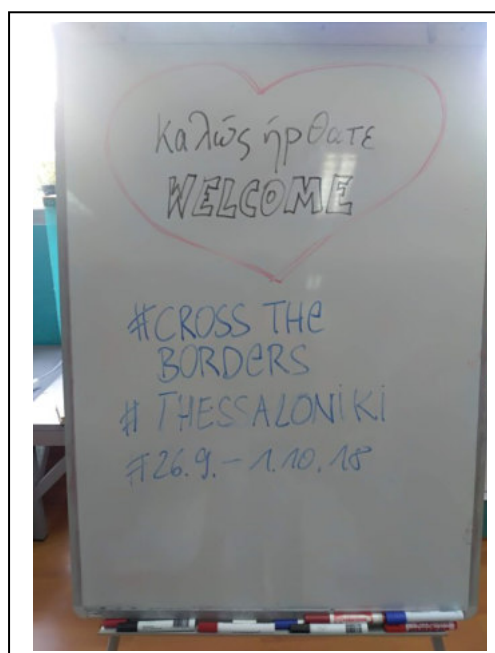
- GREECE: Antigone - <http://www.antigone.gr/en/home/>
- HUNGARY: ICRP - <http://culturalrelations.org/>
- SPAIN: PROJUVEN - <http://projuven.org/en/>

The main aims of “Cross the borders” are to share best practices, to increase competences, skills and knowledge and to find new and common paths for youth workers in EU to work effectively on sustainable inclusion and antidiscrimination strategies for migrant youth and the new hosting societies in Europe, learning to work in close collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, with a special focus on to raise awareness and understanding on migrants vulnerable to radicalization.

### ACTIVITY 2 : *Training Course* : OPEN YOUR MIND!

**PLACE:** *Thessaloniki, Greece*

**DATE:** *from 26/09/2018 to 01/10/2018*





## **BRIEF INTRODUCTION**

The aim of the training course is to increase and to enhance knowledge and skills of youth workers on intercultural dialogue, inclusion and respect for diversity in their work with young people, particularly migrants/refugees/asylum seekers.

Every training day ends with a daily reflection and evaluation.

### **26/09/2018**

- **“Welcoming”**

The first activity is aimed to introduce the FACILITATORS to the group and to let the participants know each other. The group pursues ice-breaking and presentations. It's very useful to get familiar with each other and to create a working atmosphere.

- **“What is Cross the Borders?”**

The first activity is about to explain what is “Cross the borders” project without speaking and realizing a little scene in groups of 5 people: breaking stereotypes, cooperation, integration, expanding concepts, right to move and to have a chance, free societies, equality, knowing different ways to look at the world.

- **“Knowing me/knowning you 1”**

At first the participants are encouraged to pick a card, that can represent himself/herself, and to sit in couple, asking questions about the chosen characters: why you choose that character, how did you reach Thessaloniki, how do you feel, which are your expectations. Every person in the couple describes to the partner his “situation” and writes on a paper some notes, then speaks to the Group and explains what he/she understood.

The second step is a team-building activity and consists in sitting in circle and describing something “nice” about the person sits near to you.



- **“Our organizations!”**

Every association group realizes a short description of the belonging association, with a power point support. The members of the group can make questions to better understand each other.

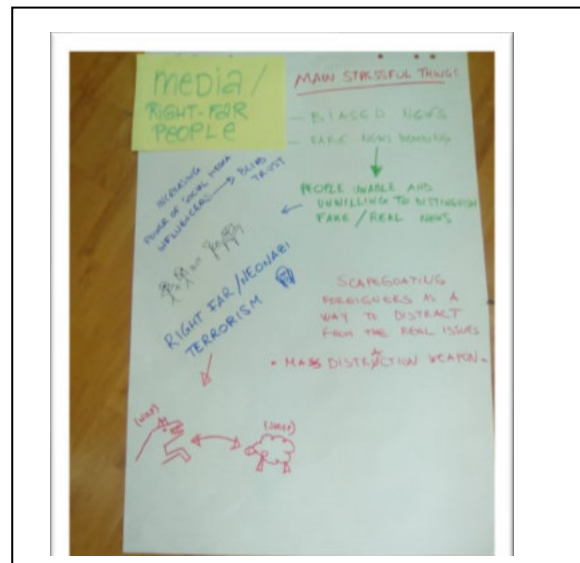


- **“Knowing me/knowning you 2”**

At first every member introduces himself/herself speaking about his/her Country, education, job, belonging organization and the most difficult issues in the job.



Then people are divided in groups to reflect about four topics: “Money and time”, “Situation with other people”, “Media/Far right people”, “Problem and politics”. Every group realizes a billboard to set ideas and to better explain to the others.



The third activity is an exchange of “imaginary friends”: every person walks around the room embracing an imaginary friend, that is one of the group, and introduces him/her to the others with a representative sentence.

- **“Experiential group game on diversity”**

In this activity the facilitator puts a colored sticker on the forehead of every participant and ask to divide into groups. The aim of this game is to let the stereotype emerge, because everybody automatically goes in a group according to the same color, although the instructions were about “groups” and not about “same color groups”.



- **“Stations”**

Participants are invited to discuss, divided in groups, about marginalization in their everyday life, underlining also problematic issues and potential solutions. The chosen topics are about “LGBT”, “Homeless”, “Gipsy”, “Ghetto”.

- **“Closing circle”**

This is the evaluation activity during which every participant writes on a billboard a sentence to describe the day’s work and what he/she likes or not.

**27/09/2018**

- **“Visit to Praksis”**

Praksis (PROGRAMS OF DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND MEDICAL COOPERATION) is an independent Non Governmental Organization whose main goal is the design, application and implementation of humanitarian programs and medical interventions.

Their main goal is the elimination of social and economic exclusion of vulnerable social groups and the defense of their personal and social rights.

Their beneficiaries: Greek poor, homeless, uninsured, economic immigrants, asylum seekers/ refugees, unaccompanied minors, trafficking victims, sex workers, children begging in the streets, injection drug users, Roma, HIV positive people / PLWA, Hepatitis B and C patients, MSM (Men having Sex with Men), prisoners, people released from prisons, Greek families that face the repercussions of the financial crisis: any person that faces social or/and financial exclusion and is deprived of basic goods.

The axes constituting their job are prevention, direct intervention, support, lobbying and advocacy.

Praksis implements programs throughout Greece and mostly in Attica, Central Macedonia, Lesvos Island and Patras area. Simultaneously, the association has mobile medical units travelling to the Northern Aegean islands, to the Dodecanese, as well as to Northern Greece.

Basic services provided by Praksis through specific programs are: direct and free of charge Primary Health Care and Pharmaceutical Provision, basic hygiene services (showers, hygiene kits, clothing etc.), psychological support, social support, work counseling and promotion to labor, legal counseling, financial support in specific programs, side supportive services, housing.



- **“Doctors Of The World”**

Doctors of the World, founded in 1990, is a medical humanitarian non-governmental organization and is a member of Médecins Du Monde International which consists of 15 delegations (Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America).

**The guiding principle is that every human being has a right to humanitarian assistance, irrespective of their gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, ideology or political persuasion.** MDM is, therefore, guided by the principles of neutrality and impartiality. Being neutral, however, does not preclude MDM from speaking out about human rights abuses witnessed in the field. Where possible, MDM draws attention to such abuses either by means of diplomacy or through the media. MDM is an independent NGO, whose modus operandi is characterized by its swift, small scale and targeted delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in danger.

Médecins du Monde – Greece, since the beginning of its operations, has been implementing several projects within Greece and abroad, in order to provide medical as well as other services to marginalized populations that cannot access healthcare services and medical care.

MDM has several social structures:

- Accommodation Centre for Unaccompanied Minors. The aim is to protect young homeless unaccompanied minors and to address the impact of the phenomenon of children and adolescents exposed to the risk of exploitation. In addition, it contributes to the inclusion in Greek schools education, as well as in other support networks. It is operational since August 2016, 7 days a week, throughout the year, as well as on holidays and public holidays.

- Night Shelter for the Homeless. It provides night-care services, personal care and hygiene, psychosocial support, legal assistance, counseling, health, welfare and social reintegration.

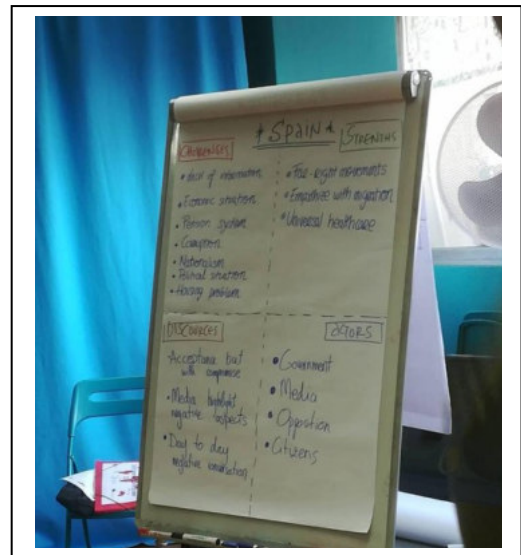
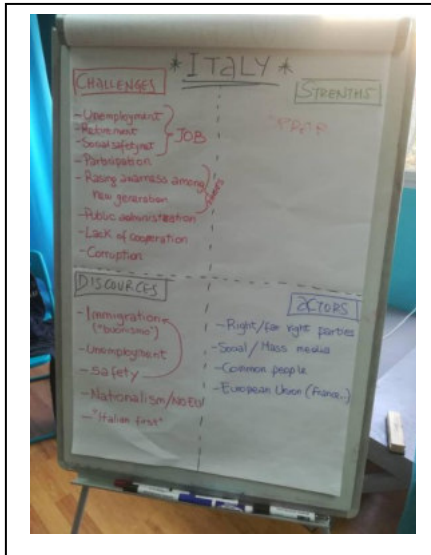
- Open Polyclinics. They operate mainly with volunteer doctors of different specialties (internists, pediatricians, surgeons, gynecologists, dermatologists, cardiologists, ophthalmologists, orthopedic surgeons, radiologists, pulmonologists, ENT, psychiatrists, neurologists), nurses and psychologists who provide free medical and pharmaceutical care and psychosocial support to persons with limited or no access to the National Healthcare System, such as undocumented migrants, refugees, uninsured and homeless persons.

- Social Pharmacy. It provides, free-of-charge, medicines, medical supplies and parapharmaceutical products to persons with limited or no access to the National Healthcare System, such as, amongst others, unemployed, uninsured, destitute, elderly persons, low pensioners, homeless persons, migrants, single parent or large families, persons with disabilities.



• **“Discussion about Refugees Crisis in Greece and Europe”**

The participants, divided in group according to nationality, are invited to discuss and to represent in a billboard the main issues about crisis in their Country. The billboard is structured un four parts: “Challenges”, “Discourses”, “Actors”, “Strenght”.





- **“Tour in Thessaloniki”**

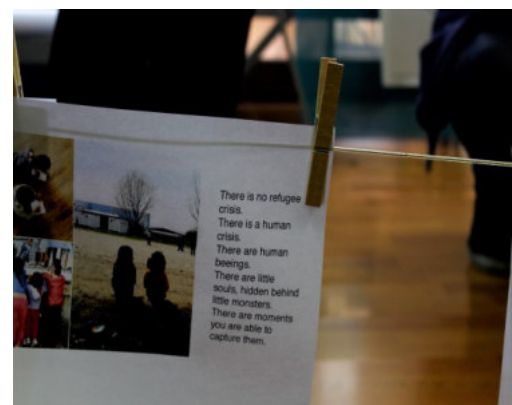
Participants have the great opportunity to visit the city with a guide, discovering the multicultural past and present of the city.



**28/09/2018**

- **“Morning Circle”**

This is an energizing activity: every participants receives a paper inviting him/her to choose a picture that represents his/her idea of crisis.





- **“Information about Refugees in Greece and Greek Council for Refugees”**

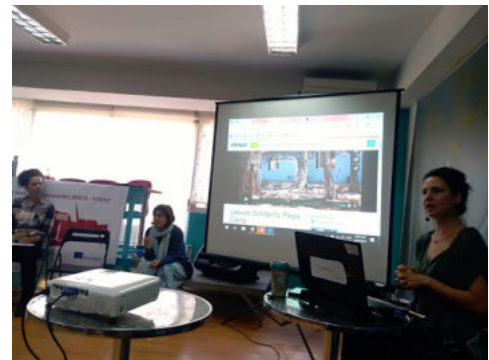
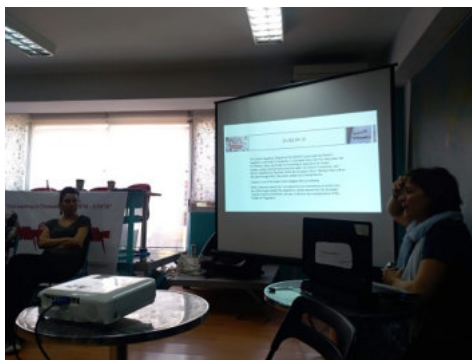
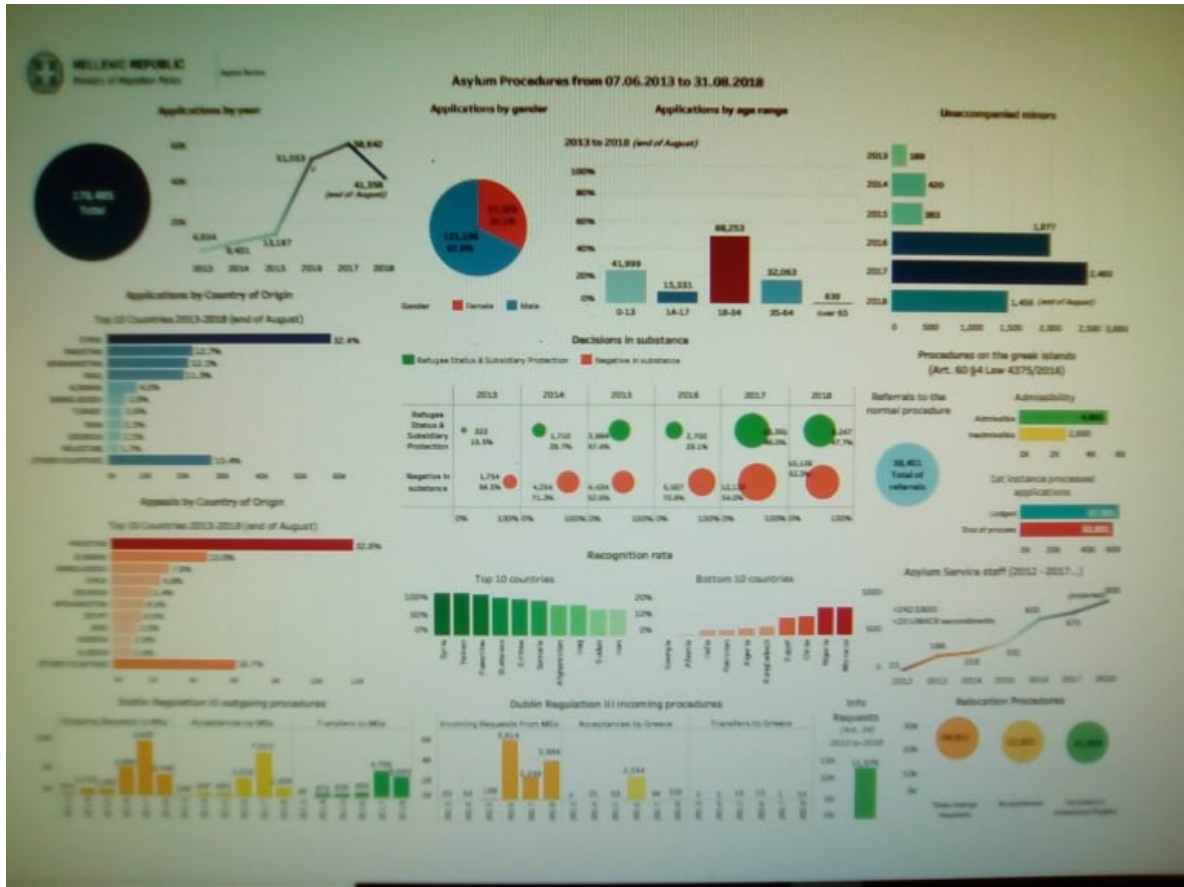
Members of Council speak about Refugees in Greece. The Asylum Service was established under Law no. 3907/2011. It is the first autonomous institution in Greece that is in charge of the examination of international protection claims.

The objective of the Asylum Service is to apply national legislation and to abide by the country’s international obligations regarding the recognition of refugee status and, more generally, the granting of international protection to aliens who have fled their country due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, and who are unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country. To this purpose, the law provides that the Asylum Service receives, examines and decides on all applications for international protection lodged in Greece. The Asylum Service also contributes to the formulation of Greek policy on international protection and cooperates with international organizations and the European Union institutions in the areas of its remit.

The Asylum Service is composed of the Central Administration and the Regional Asylum Offices and asylum units. The Central Administration plans, directs, monitors and controls the actions of the Regional Asylum Offices and Asylum Units throughout the country and ensures the necessary conditions for the pursuance of their activities.

The Asylum Service also provides administrative support to the Appeals Authority, which was established by the same law and examines appeals against negative decisions on applications for international protection.

It is an autonomous body reporting directly to the Minister of Migration Policy; it is headed by a Director appointed by the Minister of Migration Policy, following a public call of interest, for a three-year term.





### Content

#### Refugees in Greece

- Thessaloniki, city of refugees
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- „Hot spots“
- The situation 2018



### ***Thessaloniki, city of refugees***

After the defeat of Greece in the Greco-Turkish War 1919-22, a population exchange took place between Greece and Turkey.

The Treaty of Lausanne 1923 agreed on a obligatory population exchange: a major part of the Greek refugees from Anatolia found a new home in and around Thessaloniki.

In return, the Turkish population at Thessaloniki left the town in the direction Turkey.

Over 160,000 ethnic Greeks deported from the former Ottoman Empire – were resettled in the city, changing its demographics.





### **Dublin III**

The Dublin Regulation (Regulation No. 604/2013; sometimes the Dublin III Regulation; previously the Dublin II Regulation and Dublin Convention) is a European Union (EU) law that determines the EU Member State responsible for examining an application for asylum seekers seeking international protection under the Geneva Convention and the EU Qualification Directive, within the European Union. Member State will be the state through which the asylum seeker first entered the EU.

Greece is one of the states where refugees first are entering.

When someone submits his / her application for international protection, he / she will be fingerprinted. The fingerprints will be entered into the European Central Database EURODAC, the aim of which is the implementation of the "Dublin III" Regulation.

So people try to reach Middle and North Europe illegal and try to give their fingerprints as late as possible.



### ***Borders between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia***

Migrants arrive from the Middle East making the 6-kilometre water crossing to the Greek islands which are close to Turkey and are thus a quick and easy access border into Europe

Some arrived also always via the Evros border crossing from Turkey.

As of June 2015, 124,000 migrants had arrived into Greece, a 750% increase from 2014, mainly refugees stemming from the wars in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Greece appealed to the European Union for assistance.

In November 2015, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia began erecting a fence along its southern border with Greece, with the intention of channeling the flow of migrants through an official checkpoint as opposed to limiting the inflow of migrants. Beginning in November 2015, Greek police permitted only Syrians, Iraqis, and Afghans to cross into Macedonia.

In February 2016, Macedonian soldiers began erecting a second fence meters away from the previous one.

On 1 March 2016, the Greek government asked the EU for 480 million euros in emergency funds to shelter 100,000 refugees.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia closed its border with Greece on 9 March 2016 where 12,000 to 13,000 migrants were stuck at Idomeni on the Greek side, while the total number of migrants throughout Greece was estimated to be more than 50,000.



### **Relocation programm of the European Union**

The EU relocation program was funded by the National Program of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020 and led to the decrease of management of migrant's flows in Greece given that 93% of the eligible asylum seekers were successfully relocated.

Germany (5,376), France (4,399), the Netherlands (1,748), Sweden (1,658), Finland (1,202), Portugal (1,193) and Spain (1,126) are the EU Member States which have received the largest numbers of asylum seekers, within the framework of the relocation program.





### ***The situation 2018***

People arriving in Greece via the Evros region from Turkey are staying in Thessaloniki.

The camp Diavata, designed for 800 people is overcrowded these days with about 2000 people.

Many people are living in the streets of Thessaloniki, without protection or supplies.

Some people went or have been transferred to the camps in Lagadikia, Alexandria and Nea Kavala.



On 28. June 2018, the leaders of the 28 members of the European Union agreed on a paper about migration some points „to prevent a return to the uncontrolled flows of 2015“

It includes

- „additional efforts to implement the EU-Turkey Statement“, to „prevent new crossings from Turkey and to bring the flows to halt“
- the strengthening of external border controls, and boosting financing for Turkey and countries in North Africa

Regarding the Central Mediterranean route, the 28 EU leaders agreed to:

- step up efforts to stop migrant smugglers operating out of Libya or elsewhere
- continue to support Italy and other frontline EU countries
- increase its support for the Sahel region, the Libyan coastguard, coastal and Southern communities, humane reception conditions and voluntary humanitarian returns
- enhance cooperation with other countries of origin and transit as well as voluntary resettlement

EU leaders also supported the development of a concept of regional disembarkation platforms for people saved at sea. Such platforms, which were proposed by UNHCR and IOM, should allow to rapidly and safely distinguish between economic migrants and asylum seekers.

EU heads of state or government agreed that on EU territory, those who are saved, should be taken charge of, on the basis of a shared effort, through the transfer in controlled centres. These centres are to be set up in member states, only on a voluntary basis, and should provide rapid and secure processing allowing to distinguish between irregular migrants, who will be returned, and those in need of international protection, for whom the principle of solidarity would apply.

The European Council agrees on launching the second tranche of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey and at the same time on transferring € 500 million from the 11th EDF reserve to the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

EU leaders also highlighted the importance of a partnership with Africa, which would not only require increased development funding but also steps towards creating a new framework enabling an increase of private investment from both Africans and Europeans.





Antigone provided to participants very useful and significant links:

Lesvos Solidarity

<https://vimeo.com/192800577>

Mosaik

<https://lesvosmosaik.org/>

MORIA (TROS)

<https://www.facebook.com/.../vb.10965297317.../124366898371653/...>

moments of struggle

<https://theintercept.com/.../asylum-seekers-face-police-viol.../>

<http://homenewhome.gr/index.php/el/short-docs-el>

Μικρός Ντουνιάς

<http://www.mikrosdounias.eu/>

- **“Play School: Experience and Tips”**

Antigone’s members tell us how the playschool started in the Spring 2015, with Idomeni Camp Emergency. They received a call for aid by the municipality of Thessaloniky and managed the first meeting with a group of volunteers and coordinators. The team received intercultural seminars and supervision.

At first the team made recreational activities for children, especially outside with several games (drawing, football, basketball, singing, dancing).

Secondly a changes occurred and activities took place inside some containers, including also educational workshops.

In 2017 many children started to attend school in the camp. There was a classroom for playschool and study group: pre-school children had a lesson three days a week (from 12:00 to 13:00) with educational and creative games; school children (6+ years old) had a lesson three days per week (from 13:00 to 14:00) with homework, Greek and English language teaching.



The targets of this activity were:

- Safety
- Emotional support
- Recognition and expression of emotions
- Responsibility
- Autonomy for the kids
- Knowledge
- Teaching skills (artistic, creative and sports)
- Development of social skills
- Fun for kids.

To empower and improve the effectiveness of the activities, Antigone's team availed itself with interpreters who joined classes to make difficult concepts conceivable by everyone.

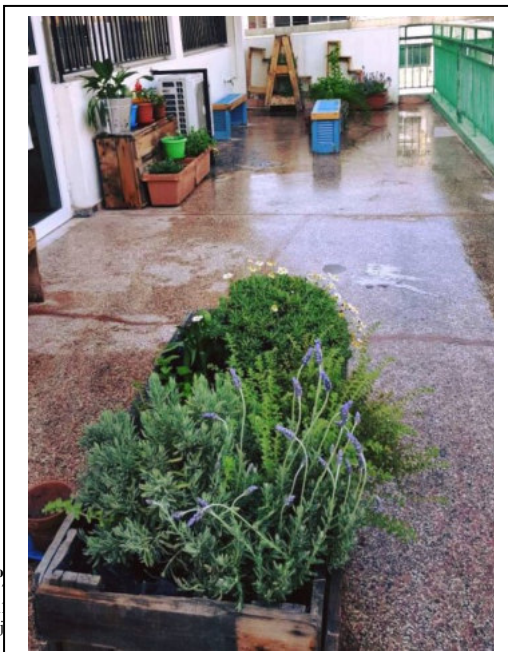
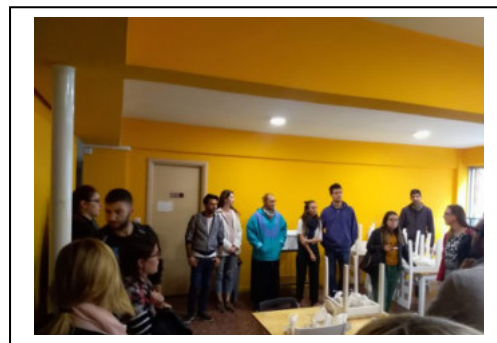
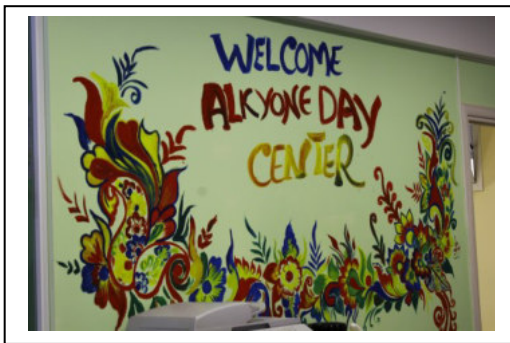
- **“Visit to Alkyone”**

Alkyone Refugee Day Center, an Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki initiative with the support of DiakonieKatastrophenhilfe, is opening aiming to address basic needs of refugees who are stranded in our country, and especially the most vulnerable ones.

Services Provided (Monday – Friday 10:00 – 16:00):

- Breakfast and lunch for 100 people daily
- Clothing distribution
- Access to washing and drying machines
- Psychosocial support (group of refugees and Greek people)
- Limited time housing in apartments
- Skills development workshops and seminar
- Activities and events aiming to cultural exchange, communication and interactivity between refugees and the local community (dance, make-up workshop, chess...).

The association has a playroom for children, a multifunctional room (paint workshops, group therapy), a terrace set up as a vegetable garden, a storage room for shoes and clothes where there is a tailor who sews bags from old clothes and makes little repairs.



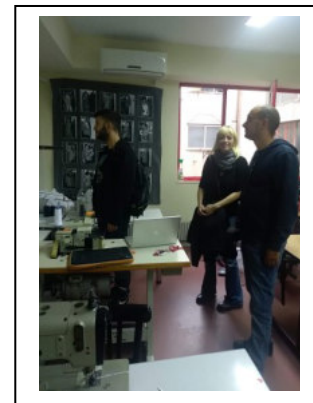
- **“Visit to Naomi”**

Naomi is a non-profit association, its purpose is intercultural, ecumenical and social. On the one hand, it consists in getting to know the religious, cultural and linguistic elements of the lives of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, mutual understanding and trust and the appreciation of the different cultural and religious ways of life are to be promoted among all participants.

Naomi provides social support and assistance with care and accommodation during transit or during the integration process for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. It should focus on families with children and single parents and other particularly vulnerable; ensures the promotion of skills in the production of, among other things, clothing, jewelry, accessories and craft or decorative items. The aim is to enable refugees to start their own production or employment in the medium term.

The association promotes mutual learning and teaching of foreign languages , use of computers, traditional art and handwork.

Naomi cooperates with authorities and institutions in Greece and abroad, as well as with private companies, non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations to develop joint projects and activities for refugees, but also to create better conditions for job creation.





**29/09/2018**

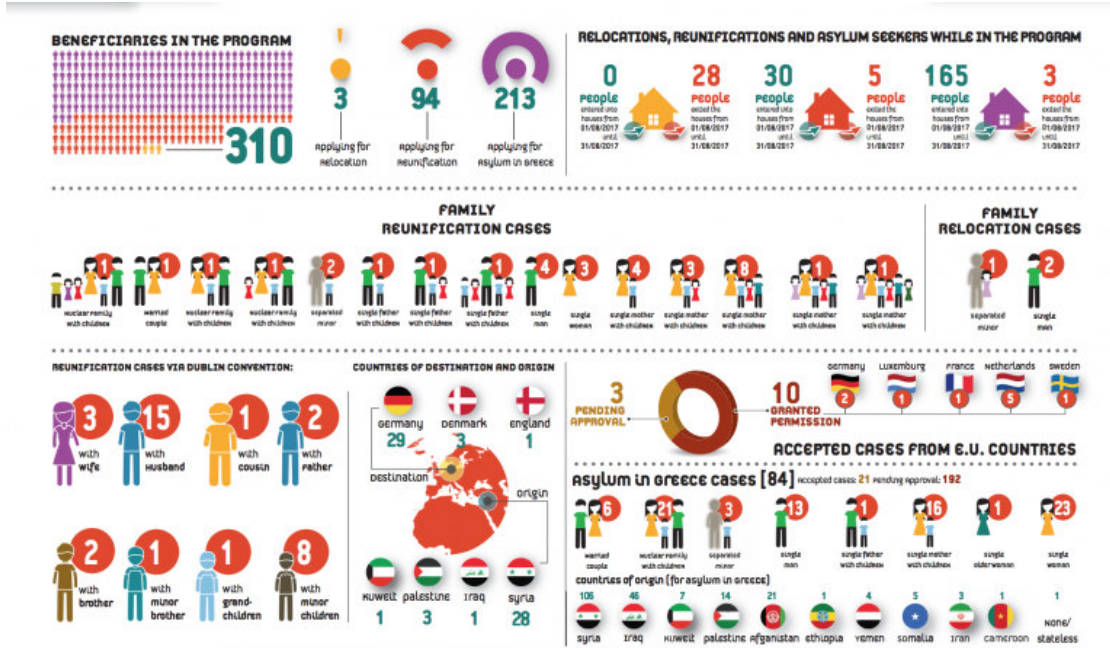
- **“Travel to Kilkis e visit to Omnes”**

Omnes is a grassroots organization which originates from a volunteer movement born in the region of North Greece and which nowadays, is implementing its inclusive vision gradually through a housing program, an inclusion center and a livelihood component.

In this association there are interpreters, lawyers, social scientists, nurses and more foster people's process of social inclusion.

There are certified teachers within 3 classrooms and one computer lab providing language and other vocational education on a daily basis. Other professionals and volunteers are creating recreational activities for all. The multi-language books available in the library and the children space pleases the young ones while the free wifi area will soon guarantee additional online education opportunities.

Besides funding the pilot housing program, Help Refugees assisted OMNES in creating a crucial space to foster inclusion, since August 2017, as they became the sole supporter of the OMNES legal department.



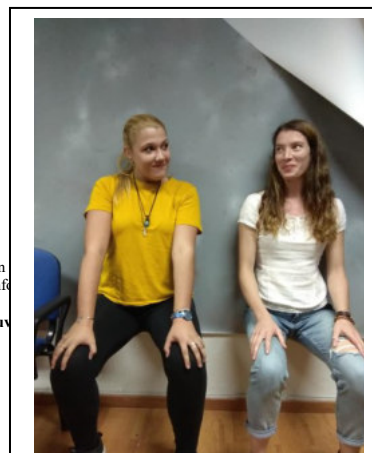




- **“Challenge game night!”**

The facilitator invites participants to join some team building activities: “paper/scissor/stone” game, “smile not” challenge, “Flamingo” challenge, “Crocodile” challenge”, “Toilet” challenge.

The purpose of the game is to work on the group building.



**30/09/2018**

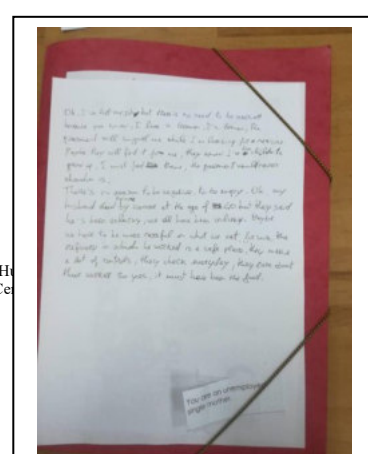
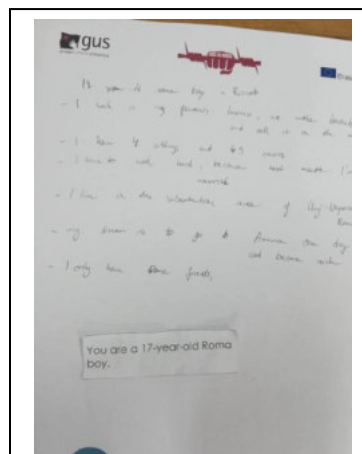
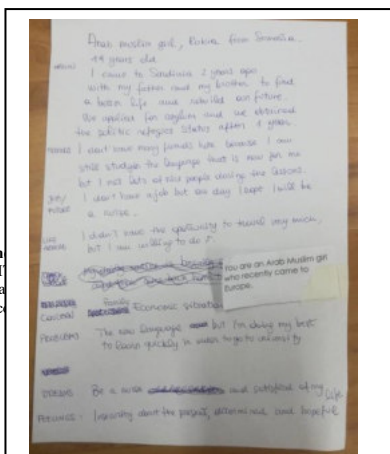
• **“Role Play Game”**

The first role play game starts with the facilitator that says a sentence (e.g. “I am happy” ore “I can go to school”) and every participant who can identify has to stand up and change his/her chair.

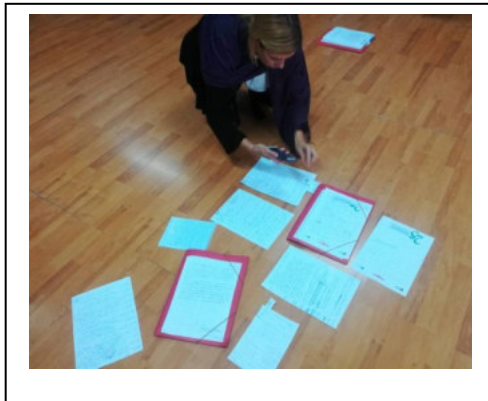
In the second role play game the facilitator invites participants to divide in couple and to speak for three minutes each other; after every member of the couple has to sum up what he/she understood from the other.

In the third role play every participant receives a paper that describes a character (gender, nationality, age, present situation) and, in twenty minutes, has to write a short story about his/her life.

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- **“Lighthouse of the World – Useful Info: Roma Community”**

It is an organization made from Father Athenagoras. It organizes an international network of volunteers and sponsors, including doctors, teachers, counselors, and role-models who continue to work daily to care for health and development for the roma children . These “friends of FAROS” offer lessons, athletics, music, art, art, robotic, football, basketball, theater, cinema, photography lab and many other opportunities that the roma children would not have otherwise. Lighthouse hosts 12 children and made food for 300 person every day. It provides also a transport service from camps to school, hippo-therapy.

In Thessaloniki there are two big camps and Lighthouse of the World provides social inclusion actions. Participants receive the testimony of a young and gifted roma guy and his first words are about the

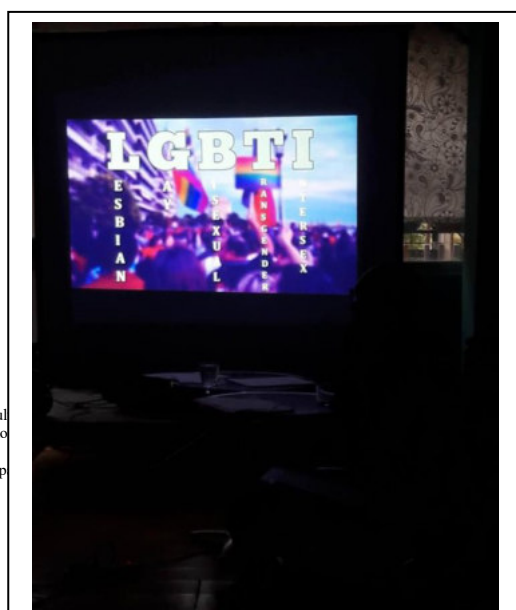
importance of knowledge and schooling, the will to live “under the rule of law”, and the purpose to break stereotypes and take responsibility of his own culture.

This guy attended, with his team, a Global Robot Competition and won a prize: a trip of five days in New York.



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- Gender identity (female/male/other-intersex)
- Gender expression (female/male/other-intersex)
- Physically attracted to (female/male/other-intersex)
- Emotionally attracted to (female/male/other-intersex)
- Crossdresser (as an art form or because it's comfortable)
- Queer (as opposite of heteronormativity).





- **“Thessaloniki’s Pride”**

The international term “Pride” denotes a series of events that may range from ordinary gatherings to parades, floats and parties. They concern the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex) population, who are publicly demanding the dignity that every person should feel in regard to their sexual identity, while also openly celebrating their diversity and culture. At the same time, these events are an expression of the demands of this social group, with the main goal of eradicating negative stereotypes that prevail in the thoughts and actions of many people.

“Pride” began as an anniversary event, commemorating an incident that took place in New York on June 28, 1969. On that day, policemen raided a gay bar named the Stonewall Inn, on the pretext of illegal alcohol sales, during a series of consecutive raids in similar bars in the area, while general abuse of gay and transsexual persons was commonplace.

The arrests and violence that ensued enraged the people outside the bar, who attacked the police vehicles with rocks, bottles, even trashcans. A large crowd then gathered to demonstrate and, as a result, clashes with police continued over the following days and nights.

The next month, gay activists distributed flyers demanding a mass “gathering for gay liberation”. The alliance formed during this meeting adopted the name ‘Gay Liberation Front’. Its demands included a stop to police harassment, protection at the workplace, abolition of sodomy laws and the enactment of legislation against discrimination.

Other protest rallies ensued and gay and lesbian rights organizations were formed throughout the United States. This was considered to be the first modern LGBTI movement.

The following year, the ‘Stonewall march’ took place to commemorate the event, while also being a protest against the discrimination and violence suffered by gays, lesbians and transsexuals in New York City. In the strictest sense of the term, this could be considered the first Pride event ever held.

EuroPride is a pan-European international event dedicated to LGBTI pride, hosted by a different European city each year. It was inaugurated in London in 1992, attended by estimated crowds of over 100,000. Madrid’s EuroPride 2007 was the most well-attended ever, with an estimated 2.5 million visitors.

Thessaloniki Pride is a civil society organization with the goal of promoting the visibility of sexual orientation minorities (gay, lesbian and bi people) and gender minorities (trans persons), as well as supporting equality and human rights in the greater area of Thessaloniki. For this purpose, Thessaloniki Pride organizes the festival that holds the organization's name every June, an event which stands as the realization of the right of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people to be present in the public sphere and contribute to public speech as such. This yearly festival, reaches out to the whole city as an occasion to celebrate diversity and fight stigmatization. This event, which started dynamically in 2012, has grown to become the most attended human rights-related event of Thessaloniki. Apart from the yearly festival, Thessaloniki Pride also organizes educational as well as interventional events throughout the year. The organization also works towards setting up a Southeastern Europe network of similar civil society organizations.



**01/10/2018**

- **“Police Department Against Racist Violence”**

It started in 2013 according to the Presidential Degree 132/2012. Its purpose is to analyze reports, to provide education and to supervise situations in which there is violence on ground of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability.



- **“How to Cope with Compassion Fatigue”**

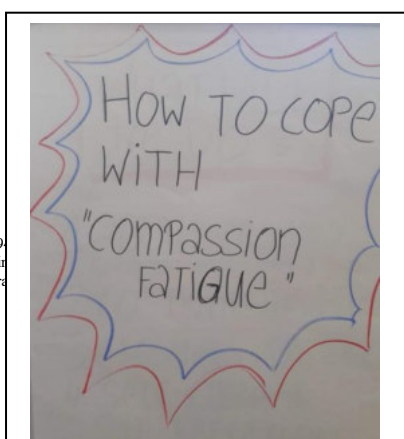
The workshop is a about trauma, co-traumatization, closeness and distance, self-care and self-reflection.

The Group realizes a role-play in which a person, with his/her eyes closed, stays in the center of the circle and the others, all together, move back and forth; with this experience he/she understands several feelings like fear or sense of control.

In the second role-play some participants are inside a circle, made with a rope, and the others have to go near to him/her until the persons inside need to ask to stop.

The space inside the rope represents the “personal space” and every person has to decide how much space to allow.

With this game the Group experiences empathy, responsibility, needs, closeness.



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- **“Knowing me/knowning you 3”**

The last teambuilding workshop is about:

- main feelings that remains from this meeting;
- what did every person learn about himself/herself;
- what did every person discover for his/her personal and professional life;
- which three good feelings will everyone take home.





