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Exclusive Donor

Promising practice fostering urban coordination in Greece
OVERVIEW OF WHAT WILL BE COVERED

- Athens: a capital under pressure
- Proactive responses – the City of Athens MRCC&O project
- Next steps and challenges ahead – from crisis to integration
ATHENS — A CAPITAL UNDER IMMENSE PRESSURE

Following the outbreak of the refugee crisis in the summer of 2015, the City of Athens found itself in the forefront of an unprecedented crisis for both Greece and Europe.

Athens became the biggest European city of transit and has seen the greatest influx of refugees. Extreme pressure ever since to provide fast and practical solutions.

TODAY, however, the needs are much more complex, ranging from temporary accommodation to integration!
NEW REALITY FOR THE CITY OF ATHENS: FROM REFUGEE CRISIS TO INTEGRATION
THE CITY OF ATHENS MRCC&O PROJECT
Evidence – Collaboration – Strategy – Preparedness
2. THE FIVE AXES

1. Athens Observatory for Refugees and Immigrants (AORI)
2. Athens Coordination Centre (ACCMR) - Forum & Working Committees
3. Digital coordination & collaboration platform
4. Strategic Action Plan for integration
5. Preparedness mechanism/contingency plan for emergencies

The 5 axes are interlinked and feed one-another
THE AORI SURVEY - DEMOGRAPHICS & LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF ‘THE OTHER’

Profile, living conditions, prospects & local perceptions
THE ATHENS OBSERVATORY FOR REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS (AORI)

- A research programme of field surveys and public opinion surveys, recording:
  - The socio-demographic characteristics of the refugee/immigrant population in Athens
    - 1,600 face-to-face interviews in Eleonas camp (January 2017)
    - 900 face-to-face interviews in accommodation apartments in Athens (January 2017)
  - The attitudes of Athens residents towards ‘the other’ and refugees in particular
    - 1000 Athens residents – three waves of telephone surveys (Oct, Nov, Dec 2016)

The first such Census conducted at Municipality level in Greece
What do Athenians think?

E. Integration ‘If refugees remain in Greece do you think they can or they cannot integrate in the Greek society?’

- Yes, they can: 28%
- No, they cannot: 54%
- Depends: 13%
- No opinion: 5%

**Nationality**
- Greeks: Yes - 28%, No - 54%
- Foreigners*: Yes - 29%, No - 43%

**Refugee Origin**
- Yes: 30%
- No: 28%

**Political Self-Placement**
- Left: 38%
- Center-Left: 34%
- Center: 31%
- Center-Right: 20%
- Right: 11%

*Note: *Foreigners* is likely a subset of Greeks, indicating individuals who are not Greek nationals but have other nationalities.
**CURRENT STATUS – GAPS & NEEDS AT NATIONAL, LOCAL, REFUGEE POPULATION CONTEXT**

- Need to push beyond basic demographic profiling
  
  - Fragmented information related to integration at national level
  - Lack of evidence-based approach to integration at local level
  - Need for alignment with international databases
  - Need for the engagement of the migrant and refugee community in the data collection process - also as an empowerment exercise
  - Need for detailed insights for targeted initiatives (for all those active in the urban context)
AFTER AORI – TRACKING LIFE, INTEGRATION & QUALITY OF LIFE OF REFUGEES & MIGRANTS IN ATHENS

Submission of project proposal under way...

- Cooperation with the Hellenic Statistical Authority
- Annual data collection survey, involving the migrant and refugee community
- Empowerment of the migrant population to contribute directly to issues that affect their quality of life and long-term integration
INDICATORS ON INTEGRATION - INTRODUCING A NEW APPROACH

- Opportunities at all levels
  - Linking statistical findings with MoA strategy & policy making
  - Informing municipal services & ACCMR members for designing & developing joint activities
  - Generating & supporting concrete evaluation procedures
  - Enhancing capacity building to other municipalities across Greece through CITIES NETWORK