



CITY OF ATHENS

Athens Coordination Center & Observatory for Migrant and Refugee issues

Promising practice fostering urban coordination in Greece

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Exclusive Donor



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

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

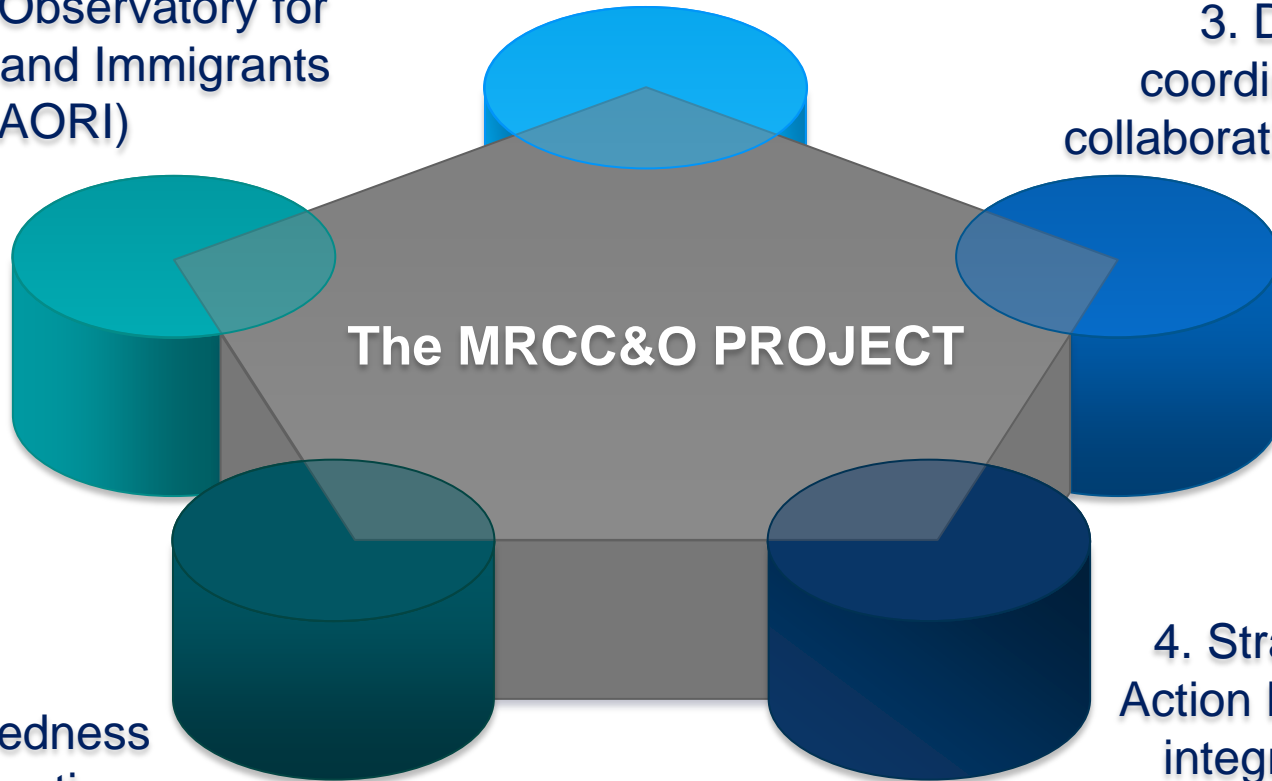
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2. THE FIVE AXES

2. Athens Coordination Centre (ACCMR) - Forum & Working Committees

1. Athens Observatory for Refugees and Immigrants (AORI)

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

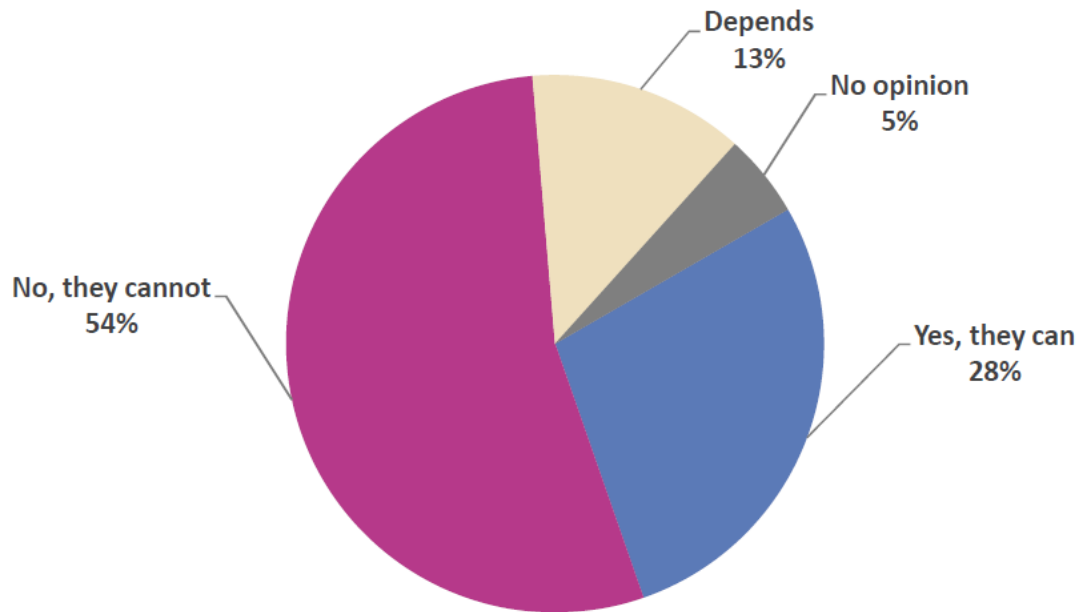
THE ATHENS OBSERVATORY FOR REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS (AORI)

- 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?

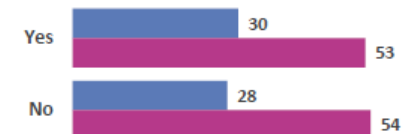
- ▶ **E. Integration** *'If refugees remain in Greece do you think they can or they cannot integrate in the Greek society?'*



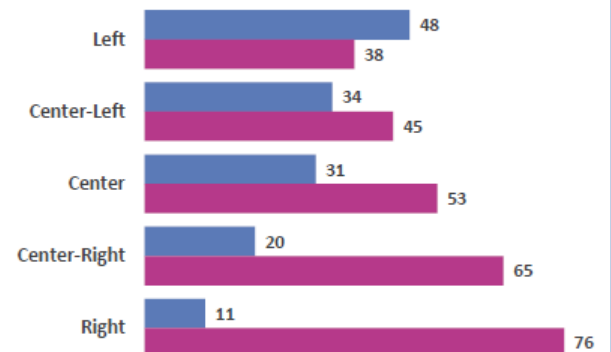
NATIONALITY



REFUGEE ORIGIN



POLITICAL SELF-PLACEMENT



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