

## **Attica Regional Education Working Group**

### **Meeting Minutes**

03/03/2017 – SAVE THE CHILDREN OFFICES ATHENS, GREECE

#### **Agenda:**

- Key points from the last meeting
- Updates from Partners
- Updates from the national Education Working Group
- AOB (*Attica WG Training confirmation & summer education programme*)

#### **Participating Organizations/Institutions:**

SCI, IOM, Labrakis Foundation, Ministry of Migration Policy

## MINUTES

Agenda item	Discussion points	Action points (by whom and by when)
1	<p><b><u>Key updates from the last meeting:</u></b></p> <p>A new camp is being set up in Thiva, refugees living in Elliniko are likely to be moved there. Thiva is expected to accommodate 1000 people. UNICEF have asked Apostoli to provide the education services in Thiva. Families from Moria are being relocated to Malakasa.</p> <p>The Ministry’s reception classes will close in late June and will restart in September. Summer classes run by NGOs and volunteers can operate during July and August.</p> <p><b><u>Feedback from National Education Working Group:</u></b></p> <p><b>Question:</b> Is there a plan from Ministry to include children from urban settings in the reception classes?  <b>Reply:</b> Some selected hotels are already part of the DYEP reception classes and some children living in urban settings attend morning classes. Children in urban areas are recommended to enroll themselves in ZEP classes if there is available space, or in regular classes. There are 37 public schools in Athens that are already hosting refugee children. It is likely that the MoE will want to facilitate the enrolment of refugee children into the morning classes for the upcoming academic year (September 2017).</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Are we able to offer trainings to the government teachers?  <b>Reply:</b> No, the IEP is the only entity which can provide formal training. NGOs can host informal seminars on the weekends for public school teachers to attend voluntarily.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> If children don’t like the reception classes and drop out and refuse to go, can an NGO offer any kind of activity to these children in the afternoon?</p>	

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	<p><b>Reply:</b> No, we cannot. We need to collect data (qualitative and quantitative) on the children who stopped going to DYEP classes and their profiles to find out why this happened. Many children have also been relocated or left the sites and so have stopped attending.</p>	
2	<p><b>IOM:</b> Reception classes have started in Skaramangas for 250 students with numbers expected to increase. There have been some safety issues (caused by young children playing in the area occupied by the buses) but the situation has become smoother. In Schisto 100-120 students have started attending primary and high schools. The children are eager to start and participate in class. Greek, English, Maths and Art are being taught.</p> <p>Two meetings were held with Afghani parents in Schisto and Skaramangas. The transportation form was explained, especially the areas of responsibility e.g. IOM holds the responsibility to make sure the children are safely transported between the camps and the formal schools, however IOM cannot be responsible for unusual incidents e.g. natural disasters. The communities (Schisto and Skaramangas) are pleased with the classes and the programme.</p> <p>A one-day training is being planned for the end of March with the IOM Protection Team for the IOM bus escorts. The training is on child protection, safety and wellbeing on buses, including training for the bus escorts on how to collaborate with children &amp; how to provide first aid in case of an emergency. Individuals interested in attending, are to contact IOM, as there are limited spaces available for non IOM affiliated staff.</p> <p>It was initially refused to allow cultural mediators / appointed (educated) community members to accompany the children to the reception classes and provide support for the teacher and children. This is now under review, and it has been proposed that cultural mediators could accompany the children during their first days of classes, going with the children on the buses.</p> <p><b>Lambrakis Foundation:</b></p>	

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	<p>Several issues have arisen in Rafina, related to protection, which have concerned Lambrakis Foundation. The vulnerability criteria is not clear, and there have been cases of individuals missing appointments with the asylum services or families being split up or unable to reach the public hospital for more specialised (referral or emergency) services if they are sick. Some of the women in the camp seem to suggest / be showing signs of a skin disease possibly caused by poor hygiene and a limited water supply.</p> <p>Lambrakis plan to run Greek and gymnastics classes in Rafina for women and children.</p> <p><b>MoMPo:</b> No new updates.</p> <p><b>SCI:</b> No new updates. Questions which were asked in the previous meeting are addressed above.</p>	<p>Recommended that Lambrakis Foundation speaks to the SMS authority in Rafina (DRC) about their protection-based concerns and asks DRC/UNHCR for clear guidance on the referral pathways, as there seems to be some confusion on the reporting mechanisms. The issue can be brought to the attention of the Protection Working Group, if not resolved.</p> <p>Also recommended, that they could ask the medical service provider to meet some of the women who approached Lambrakis, ideally a female nurse or doctor, to discuss the potential skin condition &amp; to provide information to the women.</p>
3	No updates from national education working group / required actions.	

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4	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The training topics for the Attica Working Group have been chosen as <u>PTAs &amp; Community Engagement</u> (one day) and <u>Conflict Sensitive Education</u> (one day). <b>The training will take place on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 April</b> (after Easter).</p> <p>The reception classes may stop mid-May for high school students and late June for primary students. It is likely in 2017 that the MoE will try to integrate more students into the morning classes. Therefore, Greek language classes during the summer months are critical to support children’s enrolment, attendance and integration in Greek schools. Scheduling of summer classes needs to consider the change in light levels during the evening and the temperature during the day.</p>	<p>Louise to create a sign up list / platform.</p>

**NEXT MEETING: 16/03/2017 – Save the Children Office, no. 81, 28 Oktovriou/Patission street at 1300 (1pm).**

The meeting will be confirmed via email at the beginning of that week.