Greece SubNational Education Sector Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 19th December 2018 @ SolidarityNow, Thessaloniki, Greece

**MEETING AGENDA**

* Enrolment monitoring
* Discussion of EPAL enrolment problems
* Updates from Partners
* AOB.

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| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION POINTS | ACTION POINTS (by whom and when) |
| Updates from partners  | SN and UNHCR informed partners on the proceedings and results of the national coordination meeting that took place in Athens on 30/11. Some main takeaway points include: * It would be useful for the national ESWG to have a dropbox on its website for useful legislation.
* Similarly, a dropbox of educational materials could be created on a central level.
* It would be helpful to have fixed periodic due dates for 4W updates, so that all partners participate. It is agreed that every 3 months an update is necessary.

In general, achievements and challenges from all over Greece were shared during the meeting. The strategic priorities identified will be shared by the ESWG. UNHCR shared some observations from the results of UNHCR’s participatory assessment, specifically: * The stated need for Greek courses that lead to certification, which is currently a significant gap. In Northern Greece, no actors are currently providing this systematically.
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| Updates from partners | Arsis presented the letter they would like to address to the MoE regarding late EPAL registrations. Briefly, a FEK from 23/1/2018 does not allow any students with incomplete registration papers to register to EPAL after October 15th of each academic year. A few cases where principals have made use of this legislation have been reported by Arsis. There is a concern that this tendency will increase. All actors are welcome to share their feedback on Arsis’ letter and co-sign if they so wish. The specific question of the proposed solution to the problem was posed. From the ensuing conversation, actors generally converged on suggesting that students be allowed to access EPAL –if no full registration is possible in order to safeguard the quality of EPAL classes, then an alternative could be found, along the lines of auditing.  | Partners are welcome to send their feedback on the attached letter  |
| Updates from partners  | Comments by Ms. Papamanou (REC): * Regarding the issue with late EPAL registrations, regional RECs raised it with the local refugee education department, which informed them an answer is pending from the MoE in Athens.
* Any gaps in reception classes will be covered starting January.
* Actors are kindly requested to notify the relevant school and the REC when the persons responsible for each family/UAC change. Otherwise, schools send emails and communications to the email address previously provided and assume the necessary people have been informed.
* Schools must be notified about students leaving in a timely fashion by accommodation actors.
* Actors are reminded that prior to registering a child to school, the relevant REC must be notified.
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| Updates from partners  | REACT held its holiday celebration on 19/12, with great success.  |  |
| Enrolment monitoring  | INTERSOS has 4 pending EPAL registrations –they will keep the WG posted on their progress.  |  |
| Updates from partners  | SN was invited by the Serres RECs to hold a teacher training inside the camp, as soon as the secondary education teachers were hired. This collaboration and reaction time indicate a great mutual support between formal and non-formal education.  |  |

PARTICIPANT LIST

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| ORGANIZATION | NAME | E-MAIL |
| SolidarityNow  | Domniki Georgopoulou  | dgeorgopoulou@solidaritynow.org  |
| UNHCR  | Dora Kokozidou  | kokozido@unhcr.org  |
| REACT  | Konstantina Baka  | kbakareact@gmail.com  |
| DRC  | Pascalis Valsamakis  | Paschalis.valsamakis@drc-greece.org  |
| Arsis  | Olga Triantafyllou  | olgatriantaf@hotmail.com  |
| Arsis  | Argyro Moumtzidou  | amoumtzidou@gmail.com  |
| INTERSOS  | Filio Karanika  | Protection.hellas@intersos.gr  |
| Caritas  | Vasiliki Chatziisaak | chatziisaak@caritas.gr |
| FIX | Warda Alkrenawy | Warda.alkrenawy@gmail.com  |
| FIX  | Ntiana Tsompanoglou  | Ntiana.ts@gmail.com  |

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, 23/1/2019 @10:30 am