

## Greece SubNational Education Sector Working Group

### MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, 24TH JANUARY 2018 @ SOLIDARITYNOW, THESSALONIKI, GREECE

#### MEETING AGENDA

- Enrolment monitoring
- Discussion of youth survey results
- OSF Visit
- Updates from Partners
- AOB.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION POINTS (by whom and when)
Discussion of youth survey results	<p>UNHCR briefly presented the scope of the survey and the main findings and recommendations, highlighting that the majority of youth want to continue their studies, and that the critical main educational problem pinpointed was the lack of knowledge of Greek. The work experience found among respondents was mostly related to construction and agriculture –the former sector especially is not providing many opportunities currently.</p> <p>ESWG actors: the youth survey results are especially useful in mapping the landscape for education and employability, providing useful indications on how to design future interventions and reconsider current ones.</p> <p>It is noteworthy that only 16% of respondents stated they wish to stay in Greece.</p> <p><b>Questions and comments put forward by ESWG actors:</b></p> <p>There is need for an exam mechanism for youth who have no certification that they finished secondary education –needed for OAED, as well as entrance to university.</p> <p>Currently, a B2 degree in Greek is required to attend Greek public universities – the suggestion of switching to an A2 requirement instead may be difficult to realize.</p>	<p>UNHCR Dora Kokozidou to forward the questionnaire used in the survey</p> <p>Arsis Rea Moumtzidou to forward a refugee educational profile prepared by Arsis to supplement the survey results</p>

	<p>Please find <b>attached</b> a guide to the documentation needed for enrolment in university for those who do not hold a certificate from Greek secondary school (in Greek and English).</p> <p>The International Hellenic University has English as its language of instruction, but generally has steep tuition and only offers MA degrees –its role in undergraduate education would need to be further defined.</p> <p>Refugees from Turkey and other countries in the Bologna process who have already attended some years of university may be eligible to transfer their ECTS credits to Greek universities –bilateral university agreements would be needed.</p> <p>The role of Second Chance Schools (SDE) could be highlighted as an opportunity for youth. In order to enroll, primary education must be completed.</p> <p>Exams to obtain the certificate of completion of primary education are free, requiring only a basic level of Greek and math. They take place every two months in Eastern and Western Thessaloniki. SolidarityNow mentioned an issue with the Regional Directorate for Primary Education in Eastern Thessaloniki (Διεύθυνση Πρωτοβάθμιας Α. Θεσσαλονίκης), which declined to register one beneficiary who was an asylum seeker. The document they produced to justify this is <b>attached</b> in the minutes –it seems that they do not accept the triptych as a valid ID.</p> <p>Another issue to be clarified is whether it is permitted to enroll in EPAL (professional high schools) as adults.</p>	
Updates from partners	<p>In preparation for the upcoming visit from Open Society Foundations (OSF) to Thessaloniki, education actors were invited to the SolidarityNow offices on <b>Monday 29/1 at 17:00</b>. OSF is exploring potential funding opportunities for refugee and migrant education in Northern Greece. Arsis, Iliaktida, and TdH have confirmed their presence –Praksis pending. OSF representatives are meeting with MoThess and MoE separately.</p>	<p>Any interested education actors are welcome to join on Monday – please contact <a href="mailto:dgeorgopoulou@solidaritynow.org">dgeorgopoulou@solidaritynow.org</a></p>

Updates from partners	The Metadrasi program in collaboration with MoE and UNICEF was launched on Monday 22/1. 45 schools are serviced in Thessaloniki (primary and secondary –all schools with reception classes are included). They are receiving support in the form of 5 interpreters (interpreters are roving, working in schools for 6 hours per day, devoting 2 hours per school). Interpreters can also facilitate parents' meetings in schools.	
Updates from partners	School started in Nea Apollonia, with IOM taking over transportation. School is highly attended. Lyceum is still not covered due to transportation issues (there are 8 children who could attend, but since the lyceum is not on the same route as primary school or gymnasium, IOM cannot arrange transportation). In Serres, 48 children are also not attending lyceum due to the same issue.	
Updates from partners	Iliaktida mentioned a non-formal education gap in Katerini, where there are most notably 62 adults who are not receiving non-formal education. In addition, 35 children are attending primary school, while 8 are attending gymnasium, and 6 are in lyceum.	
Updates from partners	UNHCR: EKEPY in Athens announced that there will be no more mass vaccinations. The stock of vaccines that is left will be sent to the islands. EKEPY takes it for granted that all children have AMKA –so vaccinations should go through health centers, through the same process that Greek citizens go through. However, not all KEP (Citizens' Service Centers) do not issue AMKA to children under 15 –the KEP director seems to attach AMKA to access in job market. Currently there is no issue with non-vaccinated children –a problem may arise with children who have not gone through the islands in order to arrive to the mainland, but have entered the country in another way.	

Enrolment monitoring	<p>The MoE mentioned the dropout rate, and certain measures were highlighted in order to ensure better enrolment monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--Actors must ensure that no classes addressed to school-aged children are available during the school day</li> <li>--Meetings must be organized with parents in order to advocate for school attendance, also inviting MoE representatives</li> <li>--Accommodation actors are to inform school principals when they confirm that a family or student has left Greece</li> <li>--Volunteers can be mobilized to help with accompanying children to school when necessary</li> </ul>	
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## PARTICIPANT LIST

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**NEXT MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY, 7/2/2018 @10:30 AM