

Greece National Education Sector Working Group
MEETING MINUTES



MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2019 @ UNHCR, ATHENS, GREECE

MEETING AGENDA

1. REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
2. PRESENTATION OF THE DASHBOARD ON ENROLLMENTS IN FORMAL EDUCATION
3. UPDATES ON NON FORMAL EDUCATION
4. UPDATES ON FORMAL EDUCATION
5. AOB

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION POINTS (by whom and when)
1. REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee.info post on information for parents in Greek and Sorani: UNICEF/METAdrasi did the translation and sent the translated texts to IRC/Refugee.info to upload. • Meeting with the Deputy Ombuspersion for the Child: we will invite her to the national ESWG meeting. • 2019 ESWG strategy: waiting for comments from the ESWGs of the islands before finalisation. 	To be shared before the next meeting
2. PRESENTATION OF THE DASHBOARD ON ENROLMENTS IN FORMAL EDUCATION	<p>The dashboard on enrollments of children residing in accommodation scheme, shelters and hotels was presented.</p> <p>Compared to the last dashboards there rate of enrolment was 66% in December 2018, 62% in May and 58% in December 2017.</p> <p>The main finding are the following:</p>	To share the dashboard on education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondary education rate is lower than primary, but it is slightly higher than May 2018. - Regarding the enrolment of girls and boys, there is only an important difference in the age 16-17. 51% of girls and 61% of boys aged 16-17 are enrolled. It has to be noted that the sample of girls aged 16-17 was small. - The highest rate of children enrolled based on country of origin are the Pakistani children with 73%. In this case as well the sample size of children is small. <p>In conclusion, the tendency is positive overall. The same trends are persisting. Children residing in Attica and islands have lower rate of enrolments.</p> <p>The participants discussed the barriers in school enrolment, which is outside the scope of the survey.</p>	
<p>3. UPDATES ON NON FORMAL EDUCATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new SMS project The DG HOME-IOM SMS project including NFE starts at 26 sites. All the spaces in camps by the end of March will have been found and courses started. The goal is to have a harmonized approach on NFE in sites. On the next ESWG meeting there will be more info regarding the harmonized approach and the quality assurance. The program covers different target groups: children, youth, and adults. It offers courses in English, Greek, Mathematic, Sciences and homework support. IOM will plan a meeting with the NFE managers of the implementing partners (UNICEF, ELIX, Solidarity Now, DRC and ASB) next week. • Exit from accommodations and camps There is an urgent need to develop programs for beneficiaries in urban sites, which will exit of the support program during the year. The proposal for the project HELIOS II has been submitted to the donor. 	<p>Create an information package to be given to people that will be evicted</p> <p>Share the draft with the group</p> <p>4W to be updated</p>

	<p>An important step of this direction would be to strengthen networking/coordination with other organizations working in urban areas and avoid duplications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Education Due to the above situation and urgent need, the need to focus on adult education has been discussed. A sub-working group on Adult Education will be formed. • Last Thursday ELIX with 60 students planted seeds of Oak trees in Penteli. It was an environmental education and social integration activity. More information on the web-site. ELIX also organised trainings on empowerment activities and Greek as second language teaching. The participation was very high and the training will be probably repeated. 	<p>Sub-group on adult education – google doc. On participants – tertiary education could be part of it?</p>
<p>4. UPDATES ON FORMAL EDUCATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for UAC A meetings for UAC requested by MoE took place with attendance of EKKA consultant and UNICEF. In the agenda were the issues of the low attendance, children’s movement and lack of communication with school regarding the transfer, when children are leaving the shelters. The structure of the shelters and the challenges were explained. Apart from the issues on monitoring of school attendance and transfer procedures, challenges and supporting mechanisms for quality learning were briefly discussed. A meeting will be organised by MoE and EKKA inviting managers and educators working in shelters by the end of March. • Children with special needs A meeting with the Director of Special needs education and the chief of the independent department for refugee education, UNHCR and UNICEF took place. An assessment of the children with disabilities residing outside the sites, which are enrolled and not enrolled in school will be realised. Information about the policy regarding special needs education were shared with ESWG. The partners mentioned that KEDY in some cases has delays up to 5 months. 	<p>Keep the WG updated on how the discussion on children with disabilities goes</p> <p>Follow-up on monitoring attendance on formal</p> <p>Next time to put SEL in the agenda – Judith</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal education teacher training The teacher training implemented by 6 universities with the support of UNICEF funded by DG ECHO has ended. A wrap-up meeting is planned for mid-March. The results of the training, including lessons learned and good practices will be shared with the ESWG. In total more than 400 teachers all around Greece benefitted. • Exit from accommodations and camps and implication on children's education The government and UNHCR announced gradual termination of ESTIA programme (accommodation, cash and supporting services) for those who are recognized as beneficiaries of international protection. This will start with beneficiaries of international protection, who have been in ESTIA programme for the longest time. Families with children who are enrolled in schools will be able to stay in the accommodation until June. What can be anticipated on the implication for children's education are: (i) families may try to find cheaper apartments in urban Athens, which will congest urban schools even more than now, (ii) confusion may happen in transfer and re-enrolment procedures, especially without social workers and interpreters. In order to mitigate problems and confusion, the ESWG members will start working on advocacy messages and clarification on procedures with the Ministry of Education. 	<p>A task force will be formed and draft advocacy messages. UNICEF will consult the MOE on enrolment procedures for families without the ESTIA programme</p>
5. AOB	<p>UNHCR is organizing a workshop with the MoE on the 19th of March discussing good practices and challenges. The workshop will take place in the Ministry with UNHCR Education Focal Points from the islands, RECs and UNICEF. An EC representative will be present.</p> <p>The next meetings are on 18th of March, 1st and 15th of April.</p>	

The next national ESWG meeting will be held on **Monday 18th of March @ UNHCR at 10:00am.**

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