

## Greece SubNational Education Sector Working Group MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2019 @ SOLIDARITYNOW, THESSALONIKI, GREECE

### MEETING AGENDA

- Presentation of Lab 29A (SolidarityNow), presentation of Diadrasis early childhood center (YMCA), presentation of Second Chance Schools, presentation of Hellenic-Arabic Friendship program in Open Schools
- Discussion of EPAL enrolment process
- Enrolment monitoring
- Updates from Partners
- AOB.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION POINTS (by whom and when)
Presentation of Lab 29A (SolidarityNow)	<p>SolidarityNow presented its new space, <b>Lab 29A</b>, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Ptolemeon 29A, launched in January 2019.</p> <p>Lab 29A is looking to provide recreational and educational activities, open to all Thessaloniki children, youth, and adults –bringing together people of Greek, immigrant, and refugee background.</p> <p>Activities to be launched soon include (schedule to be shared when finalized):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robotics lab for children</li> <li>• Painting</li> <li>• Yoga for children</li> <li>• Theatrical play</li> <li>• Creative writing/book club</li> </ul> <p>The space is flexible and open to organizations for trainings and events (please contact <a href="mailto:ekontou@solidaritynow.com">ekontou@solidaritynow.com</a>).</p> <p>Lab 29A will also host a teacher support group, called «Εκπαιδευτικοί... δράση» (“Educators in Action”), which will meet initially once a month, and is open to all educators, whether they work in schools, NGOs, or as volunteers. The group’s language will be Greek, and the aim is to share</p>	<p>Find attached posters for Lab 29A and the “Educators in action”.</p> <p>For more information, please contact <a href="mailto:ekontou@solidaritynow.com">ekontou@solidaritynow.com</a>.</p>

	challenges and best practices, creating a dynamic teaching community! The first meeting will take place in February; please stand by for the exact date.	
Presentation of Second Chance Schools	<p>Ms. Despoina Patrikiou, a principal for the Second Chance School (SDE) of Stavroupoli, presented the education opportunities that are available for refugees within SDE.</p> <p>SDE are formal education institutions that are addressed to adults who did not complete their basic education. The length of study is two years (18 months), while lessons are scheduled for 25 hours per week. The diploma awarded for the completion of SDE is equivalent to that of Gymnasium.</p> <p>The special characteristics of SDE are that they are adaptable to the educational needs of adults, and offer individualized exams; they are usually staffed with psychologists and professional guidance counsellors.</p> <p>While new registrations are only accommodated until October 15<sup>th</sup>, most SDE with vacant places can accept registrations after that deadline.</p> <p>There are also evening SDE (16:30-20:15), and do not require a certification that students are employed (evening EPAL do).</p> <p>In order to register to SDE, one must have a primary school diploma –certain SDE bypass that and register students without this documentation.</p> <p>There are SDE in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center (Ethnikis Amynis 2)</li> <li>• Strebenioti area</li> <li>• Delta area</li> <li>• Pylaia area</li> <li>• Evosmos (Dendropotamos) area</li> <li>• Lagkadas</li> </ul> <p>All education/accommodation actors are encouraged to consider SDE for their adult beneficiaries, due to the individualized support that they offer.</p>	For further information, please contact Ms. Despoina Patrikiou at 6974064886.

<p>Discussion of EPAL enrolment process</p>	<p>For the last time, 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.</p> <p>All actors were called upon to share their comments once more and declare if they would like to co-sign. One week after the meeting, Arsis was to submit the letter to the MoE, with INTERSOS' and RTI's signatures.</p> <p>UNHCR noted that letters addressing the government need to be signed by legal entities (e.g. NGOs) and not unofficial bodies such as the sub-national WG.</p> <p>The comment was made that, for joint advocacy efforts to proceed, different actors have different reaction times, based especially on the flexibility of their advocacy departments.</p> <p>It was noted by OMNES that upon trying to register one teenager to EPAL, they were instructed by the regional directorate of education to register to GEL instead.</p>	<p>Partners are welcome to send their feedback on the attached letter</p>
<p>Presentation of Diadrasis early childhood center (YMCA)</p>	<p>YMCA presented its "Diadrasis" center, which operates with OSF/MDAT funding. The center has two zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the morning zone, pre-registered Arabic-speaking children between the ages of 2-4 receive Greek/Arabic early childhood education.</li> <li>• In the afternoon zone, Diadrasis opens its doors to Greek, Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish-speaking children belonging to the 2-3,5 year-old or 4-6 year-old age group. Different activities are planned each week, while on Fridays the center is open for the whole family.</li> </ul> <p>Diadrasis is always looking for volunteers –please refer! Also, flyers are available advertizing the program; please contact <a href="mailto:diadrasis@ymca.org">diadrasis@ymca.org</a>.</p>	

Presentation of Hellenic-Arabic Friendship program in Open Schools	<p>The Hellenic-Arabic Friendship organization (situated in Olympou 14), has expanded its non-formal education program to include classes in the Intercultural school of Xirokrini. More specifically, the following program runs once a week in the school, and 4 times a week in their spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greek, English and German classes</li> <li>• Arabic for native speakers</li> <li>• Arabic for non-native speakers</li> </ul> <p>The Open Schools program operates under Niarchos foundation funding, and is run by the Municipality of Thessaloniki (Directorate of Education and Sports) in collaboration with Creativity Platform. The program started in June 2018 and will end in March –pending updates on renewal.</p>	Please contact <a href="mailto:baderac@gmail.com">baderac@gmail.com</a> for further information.
Updates from partners	<p>SolidarityNow will continue its non-formal education program into 2019 through DG-HOME and IOM funding, in Volvi, Serres, Drama, Kavala, and Kato Milia.</p> <p>The urban Thessaloniki education program in Blue Refugee Center, Intercultural School, and Lab 29A continues as well, for children 6-18. Adult classes are also held in BRC.</p> <p>Classes offered for children include (all sites):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greek</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• Math/science</li> </ul>	
Updates from partners	<p>DRC will continue its non-formal education program into 2019 through DG-HOME and IOM funding, in Veroia, Alexandria, Nea Kavala, and Lagkadikia. DRC offers English, Greek, and life skills classes for children aged 6-17.</p>	

Enrolment monitoring	The MoE informed partners that some reception classes remain unstaffed, specifically in the Vasilika EPAL, the 13th EPAL of Thessaloniki.	
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## **NEXT MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY, 27/2/2019 @10:30 AM