

SEPTEMBER
2018



STEPPING STONE BY METADRASI

*EDUCATIONAL INTEGRATION
PROGRAMME*

LOCATION

GREECE

TIMELINE

May 2017- Present

TARGET AUDIENCE

Refugees, migrants and asylum
seekers

TYPE OF ACTION

Skills training, employment
matches, emotional support

KEYWORDS

Economic empowerment, labour
market, employability,
professional integration,
training, social integration,
vulnerable groups



ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

METAdrasi is a Greek NGO, who implements pioneering solutions to critical and long-standing gaps in the reception and integration of refugees and migrants in Greece.

METAdrasi's activities focus on the following four main areas:

- Enabling vital communication with refugees and migrants through the provision of interpretation services in over 43 languages and dialects, within a network of 350 active interpreters.
- Protection of unaccompanied children, who have been separated from, or lost, their parents, through a comprehensive safety net of innovative activities, including Escorting Missions, from precarious conditions to proper accommodation facilities, Guardianship Network, Foster Care programme, Transit Accommodation Facilities and Supported Independent Living for unaccompanied minors aged 16-18.
- Protection of other vulnerable groups through the provision of legal aid to asylum-seekers in the main entry islands, identification and certification of victims of torture and humanitarian aid missions.
- Education and Integration of refugees and migrants through tailored educational programmes, such as language courses and remedial education, as well as vocational training and paid internships for adults.

IN BRIEF

Name: METAdrasi

Creation: 2010

Location: Greece

Aim: provide essential support for integration to beneficiaries that will remain in Greece, through basic training, support and paid internships.

CASE DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

In 2015 more than one million refugees and migrants passed through Greece, however, after the closure of borders in Idomeni, thousands of people were left stranded in the mainland and on the islands.

It is estimated that 80% are women and children. A considerable number of people sought asylum in Greece where they opted to rebuild their lives. It was therefore important to facilitate their social and professional integration and smooth transition by offering a holistic approach.

METAdrasi initiated an innovative programme in May 2017, "Stepping Stone", whose goal is to facilitate refugees and migrants integration through educational activities, vocational training and paid internships.

METAdrasi supports the beneficiaries' efforts by assessing their needs, strengthening their skills, and preparing them for employment. "Stepping Stone" is a sustainable solution towards refugees' integration into the labour market as it empowers refugees to maintain their dignity and keep their hopes for a better future.



DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

STEPPING STONE

Stepping Stone is addressed to all refugees, particularly youth from 16 to 25 years old, who have applied for asylum in Greece and intend to stay in the country. Priority is given to women and those who have already attained some form of asylum status. People wishing to participate are selected by METAdrasi and beneficiaries have the opportunity to enrol in Greek language classes, anytime throughout the academic year.

This project is helping refugees and migrants attain the necessary skills and networks in order to integrate in the Greek society and find the strength to rebuild their lives.

Due to lack of funding, camps and apartments operated by NGOs will cease their operation as a result a significant number of refugees may face homelessness. It is therefore, crucial for refugees to enter the labour market, become financially independent and consequently prevent marginalization.

It is worth highlighting that a considerable number of companies which have hired refugees tend to renew beneficiaries' contracts and extend employers-employees' collaboration.





TYPE OF ACTION

Educational Activities

- Intensive Greek Language Courses: Essential language courses in Greek that are structured in three levels (beginners, intermediate and advanced)
- METAdrasi provides the examination fees for the certification of Greek Language, offered by the Center for the Greek Language.
- English courses
- Computer courses

Technical vocational training:

- Vocational training courses (e.g. sewing and cooking seminars), in order to support social and professional integration.
- Guidance for the preparation of Curriculum Vitae (CV) and cover letter

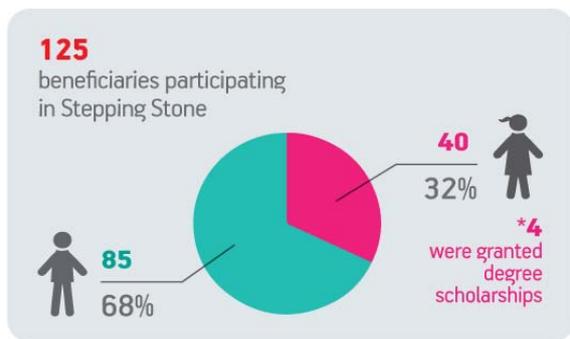
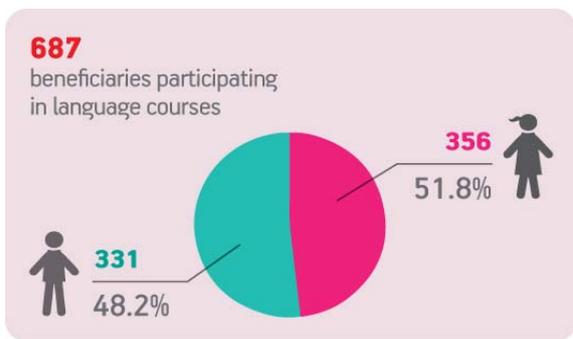
Support in administrative procedures:

- Providing information and support to issue all relevant documents.
- Empowerment
- Interview preparation
 - Job counseling –job orientation



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Within the first **14** months of the activity implementation, **125** beneficiaries have participated in the educational seminars. **40** of which have already started their paid internships or jobs, while **4** of them have been granted scholarships.



STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

METAdrasi works closely with:

- public authorities, local and international organisations involved in the reception and asylum procedures such as the Asylum Service, police and port police
- more than 15 private sector companies
- 3 Educational Institutions have offered paid internships and scholarships to beneficiaries
- The Municipality of Athens
- "Captain Vassilis and Carmen Konstantakopoulos" Foundation
- We Do What We Can Foundation

FOLLOW UP

METAdrasi's main goal is to increase the number of beneficiaries enrolled to the programme aiming at helping the professional and social integration of this particular population on a larger scale.

One of our future goals is to engage more women in "Stepping Stone" project to inform, empower and support women refugees on issues related to human and labour rights, in and facilitate their integration into the labour market.

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