

Participation of refugees to Greek local economy

The contribution of EQPR

Presented by: Tsilimigkra Evangelia

Employability Counselor

Organization: Solidarity Now, Athens-Greece

The Refugees Phenomenon in Greece

72,300

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN GREECE

14.550 on the islands and **57.750** in the mainland

5529

asylum applications in 2019

2.950 new arrivals in January 2019

Most common refugees' nationalities

Syria
Afghanistan
Iraq
Iran
African Countries (Kongo Nigeria Cameroon Ivory Coast)
Morocco **Algeria**

(Sources: UNCHR, Greek Asylum Service)

Employability facts

- Approximately 20 NGOs providing a variety of employability services to refugees in Athens (Greece)
- Employability Service by Solidarity Now: 1.211 beneficiaries from 2/2018 till today.
 - 20% have completed University Education
 - 20% got some level of academic knowledge
 - 30% had vocational training or hold technical education diplomas

Refugees job seekers and the job market in Greece

Academically qualified refugees profiles:

Economics & Business, Informatics, Medical professions, Engineers

Social -Political Sciences, Education, Law, Accountancy, journalism

Unskilled refugees profiles:

Industrial –Warehouse- unskilled workers, Hospitality officers (tourism , food industry), Cleaning officers

Refugees job seekers and the job market in Greece

Where actually can a refugee work in Greece?

- Multinational Companies
- IT Sector
- NGOs
- Caregiving
- Restaurants, Hotels , Tourism
- Industries – Warehouses

Main obstacles in the hiring process

- Language Issues
- Legal Documents for work (asylum cards due to expiration, bureaucracy)
- Lack of knowledge about the job market and the employability culture in Greece
- Lack of soft- skills (communication)
- Degrees' loss
- Professions needed re- education (different standards)
- Stereotypes – Discrimination

What about Education?

- Greek Public Universities (1%)
- Private Institutions (few scholarships given to refugees)
- Schools Providing Seminars or Vocational training for Refugees
(ASTROLAB Academy/ ANKAA Project / Social Hackers Academy/ Soffaa)
- Greek, foreign languages and computer courses provided mainly by NGOs

European Qualification Passport for Refugees and its contribution to integration process

	HELLENIC REPUBLIC Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs		COUNCIL OF EUROPE  CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
European Qualifications Passport for Refugees No. 1701¹			
Assessment Part			
Issued: 14.03.2017			
Valid through: 14.03.2022			
Personal information			
Last name:			
First and middle names:			
Date of birth:			
Place of birth: Homs, Syria			
Nationality: Syrian			
Assessed qualifications			
Highest achieved qualification: (2010) Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy, Al-Baath University, Syria ²			
Additional relevant information from the applicant			

Facts from Employability Service by Solidarity Now

- Starting Date of use: 5/2018
- Since then, all the academically qualified beneficiaries are informed about EQPR and encouraged to participate in the process
- Some of them are getting assisted in the process
- Beneficiaries EQPR Holders & Applicants

Challenges in recognizing refugees' qualifications

- Regulated professions need re-education in the host country (medicals, accountancy , law, education)
 - EQPR could allow refugees not to start from the beginning?
- Fail of refugees to complete successfully the evaluation process due to memory loss. Also fail in promoting their qualification (for EQPR holders)
- Non official generally accepted certificate (its value depends a lot on each employer –institution , as well as the ability of the refugee to communicate their knowledge)
 - Working Group within the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs created in order to allow universities to accept refugees, holders of the EQPR in their studies

European Qualification Passport for Refugees and its contribution to integration process in Greece

- Impact to Refugees:
 - CV
 - Expectations and Reality for future use (education , work)
 - Empowerment – Motivation
 - Bureaucratic processes to officially authorize their degrees
 - ! Their ability to communicate their knowledge and prove their hard skills is necessary*
- Employers' Perspective:

Positive: Interview opportunities, Will to examine candidates' hard skills if their profile suits the position applied for

 - ! Language skills as well as soft skills and some expertise are necessary*
- Educational Institutions Perspective: Depending on the Institution (limited access for now)

What can be done?

- A generally accepted legislation about the value of the certificate & rights of EQPR holders - work in progress
- Action of promotion/acknowledgement of EQPR to the employers and the educational institutions
- Cultivation of self – confidence and communication skills to refugees together with their access in continuous education

Success stories!

- **AMIR:** The successful accountant from Syria who plans to make a career change
- **MOHAMED,** from Morocco with 3 bachelor degrees, wants to certify his knowledge. Working now as interpreter
- **MOE:** The passionate visual artist from Iran, working now as an interpreter, aims to certify his qualifications in order to continue his studies and find a relevant job

Questions

Thank you for your attention !!!!