



Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



Routes of the olive tree



Refugee crisis in the 'Route of the Olive Tree' actions and counter-proposals

Summary

A practice that encourages intercultural dialogue around the Mediterranean of the Olive Tree through the art of comics. Through the 65 pages of this comic book edition, we watch the refugees on their difficult journey, in search of a hospitable and quiet place to protect themselves, the importance of the presence of the olive tree at every step, the meeting with friends participating in the Olive Tree Routes, who had visited their country, but also the meeting with suspicious and dark people...

These people who left their country and their homes due to the war but carry with them their traditional eating habits, love for olives, flavors, and gastronomy of their homeland, "set the table" to offer a "KERASMA" * a friendship move that triggers a peaceful and constructive dialogue ... This version available in 3 different languages (English, French, Greek) was designed and implemented to emphasize the need for dialogue and respect for the "Other", inspired by the olive tree, symbol and connecting link of the peoples of the Mediterranean and the whole planet.

* Kerasma: snack offered as a sample of hospitality and friendship (a word derived from ancient Greek)

Main objectives

- Show the public, especially the youth all the dimensions of the refugee crisis issue in an imaginative way, to reflect and thus contribute to the integration of refugees into local communities.
- Promote the identity of refugees through their gastronomic traditions through the transfer of good practices and to awake the feeling of hospitality of the local population.

Main outcomes

The above objectives are linked to the objectives of addressing the EU refugee issue and especially those concerned with improving the ambience for this issue at the societal level, encouraging the acceptance of diversity, strengthening solidarity and the beneficial and sustainable management of unknown cultural resources.

Fields of action

- Co-operation in research and development
- Enhancement of memory, history and European heritage
- Cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans
- Contemporary cultural and artistic practice
- Cultural tourism and sustainable cultural development

Type of Best practice

Publication

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Date and Venue

First semester 2020
Before COVID :
Avignon, Marseille (France),
Siena (Italy), Athens (Greece)

General Assembly Meeting

23 November 2020
Online