



URBAN Working Group Meeting – Wider Consultation

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| Date: | 21 st of July 2017 |
| Participants: | MoThess, UNHCR, MoMP, Alkyone, NRC, Save the Children, Solidarity Now, IsraAid, Red Cross, NPI, Help Refugees, Greece Communitere, Caritas Hellas, REACT, IRC, Elpida Home, OMNES, MdM, IOM |
| Chair: | UNHCR (Mathilde de Riedmatten, deriedma@unhcr.org , Protection Officer)/MoThess (Sofia Aslanidou, Member of the City Council - Appointee for Refugees, saslan52@gmail.com / Meric Ozgunes, Coordinator of “Arrival Cities”, mericozgunes@gmail.com) |
| Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing Municipality initiatives - Update from organisations - Follow up on action points -AOB |
| Agenda Item | Discussions |
| Ongoing Municipality initiatives | <p>The presentation and the discussion that followed was to raise awareness in the UWG of the different interrelated work streams within the municipality. The work streams, URBACT: Arrival Cities, EuroCities, Resilient Cities, the SEM and the Urban Working Group, all have common goals and activities as well as their own potential funding streams. In order to make sure our activities are sustainable and to strengthen the capacity of the municipality and public authorities going forward, UWG members should try to ensure they collaborate closely with the municipality and support its on-going activities.</p> <p>The power point presentation is attached and the Resilient Cities Strategy can be found at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1EGaz8zlp3dN2UwaVNOMXRpdEU/view. The fields of common interest can be found in:</p> <p>Goal 2: "Co - create an inclusive city that invests in its human talent" (page 58) , Objective C: "Welcoming Thessaloniki" (the Urban Innovative Action Application the City submitted last month aiwas based also on these 3 Actions) (Page 66) Objective D: "Fostering Youth Participation" - (Action 01 is ongoing for 6 months now) (page 68) Objective G: "Co-creation of inclusive open spaces" (all 3 actions are ongoing at the moment).</p> <p>However, going through the entire strategy (in pages 137-144 there is a summary of Goals, Objectives and Actions) will be very informative to get an overview of the context of Thessaloniki.</p> |
| Update from organisations | <p>Red Cross:Red will be able to provide specific information on the community center that is about to open by the end of the month.</p> <p>Caritas:Caritas is also opening a community centre by the end of July at Polytehneiou street. It will operate daily providing education, legal and social services. The center will also provide internet access, professional orientation, men’s, women’s and children’s space and a gym.</p> <p>Save the Children:Save the Children are closing their activities in Alkyone, Epanomi</p> |

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| | <p>shelter and Philoxenia. NRC will take over in Alkyone, WAHA and NPI in Epanomi, but there will be a gap in the provision of non-formal education in Philoxenia, where currently 19 families are accommodated.</p> <p>Comunitere Greece: Their mobile resource is currently based in Helexpo until mid-September, when they are going to be moved to the abattoirs. The workshops taking place address both the host and the refugee population and they are focused in wooden manufacturing, 3D printing e.t.c trainings.</p> <p>OMNES: They will start operating their inclusion center during the following days. It will offer language and IT classes to both locals and refugees and also advocacy services that will support refugees to have access to the public administration system in Greece. The certificates will provide full recognition.</p> <p>NRC: By the end of August, their community center in Sindos, will start providing services in collaboration with Tamam center there. They will focus in language classes (English, Arabic, Greek and IT) and they will also provide some recreational activities.</p> <p>UNHCR: IFRC will take over cash assistance from CARE by the mid of August.</p> |
| Follow up on action points | <p>UNHCR has meetings with various actors to discuss and co-decide the proper way to identify representatives for the Migrant Integration Council (SEM) that will operate as an advocacy body for the City Council.</p> |
| AOB | <p>The OLS (on line linguistic support) programme funded by the European Union, was presented by the University of Macedonia. Ms Anna Kyriakidou, who is the focal point, made a small presentation and asked all partners to encourage refugees to have access to it. She can be reached at annakir@uom.edu.gr and the only information that she will need in order to provide access to the platform, is an email address, the language of interest and the case number (if any).</p> |
| Follow up | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNHCR and MoThess will look into the Refugee Committee and the SEM in Athens to capitalise on their experience and lessons learned to inform the Thessaloniki SEM going forward 2. British Red Cross (BRC)/IFRC to update the UWG on the plans for their Community Centre to ensure coordination with the other Community Centres in central Thessaloniki (before the next meeting). 3. Caritas and other Community Centres to circulate their updates agendas/timetables to ensure coordination (before the next meeting). 4. NRC, Alkyone and Solidarity Now agreed to participate in a small Task Force to look at refugee representation to the SEM. Can other interested groups please contact Dora who will schedule a meeting before the next UWG. 5. Can organisations interested in filling the informal education gap and/or other services in Kilkis please contact Stefanos from Omnes stefanos@omnes.gr and Dora. 6. UNHCR to circulate a reference document of complementary objectives of the different work streams in MoThess (before the next meeting). |