



Access to Labour Market Sub-group meeting 10/01/2018 UWG

Agenda

1. Goal of the sub-working group;
2. Information sharing from actors on relevant activities (ongoing and planned);
3. Clarifications on legal issues regarding employment (representative of the legal aid sub-working group);
4. Promotion of and support to pilot projects; upcoming funding opportunities (AMIF)
5. AOB

The access to labour market sub-working group is part of the Urban Working Group and has the aim to bring together actors working on employability to coordinate actions and potentially build collaborations.

MoThess: The Municipality does not have a very strong structure on employability. There is an employment office which also has the employees association in the framework but the activities, capacity and services are currently limited.

KEM (Center for Integration of Migrants and Refugees of MoThess): The operational plan of the KEM foresees also assistance for access to employment. Although this service probably will not start in the short term the KEM links beneficiaries already to the Kentra Romaitas (Community Center of the MoThess) who have a labour advisor. Legal assistance on setting up enterprises etc. is also available at the KEM.

Resilient cities office of MoThess: We have strong links with universities and entrepreneurs. We can turn it into an opportunity to tap into this potential.

TdH: Carrying out skill building and vocational training activities. Match beneficiaries with job market. 300 beneficiaries within the vocational training and skill building activities.

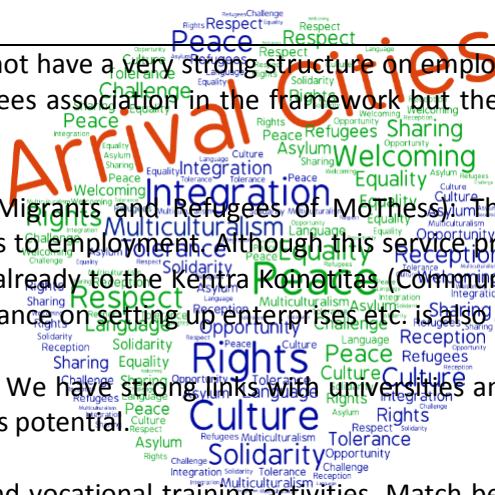
IOM: We are starting a pilot project in two municipalities Thiva and Livadia with the MoMP MoE and two local municipalities. One of the components is promotion to employment. 1st of April or 1st of February. Research project to see and measure what activities are more helpful. And how much does it cost to have successful services for employability.

IRC: Some activities on access to labour market where we are looking for funding.

Gardeners of Thessaloniki: Food packs and fish from grocery and fish market in the east of Thessaloniki. We try to connect locals and refugees. We have a beekeeping group. We produce marmalade, tomato sauces.

Communterre: Activities for mixed group of migrants refugees and locals, vocational training. To create groups with common projects which have market value. We are at the first level of providing informal VET.

IsraAid: Services lifeskills through a holistic approach and assistance to access the job market. The





programme is under development and has not started yet. More information will be provided once there is confirmation.

Caritas: 5 programmes of vocational training. In collaboration with AKMI. The programme will start in the end of January. Caritas also provides trainings on social economy. Caritas also has managed to have contracts with private employers (3 job positions). Trainings are provided on cooking, hairstyle, patrons/sewing.

Currently there is a tender opened by Caritas on social economy <http://www.caritas.gr/el/αρθρα/προκήρυξη-για-ανάπτυξη-κοινωνικών-επιχειρήσεων-στην-ελλάδα-tender-developing-social>

Be a robin: Currently no specific activities but interested in finding out what activities are taking place to link beneficiaries.

Filoksenio international: Food waste management programme is to be launched with more details to be provided in coming weeks. The programme targets both refugees and locals.

DRC: DRC is carrying out integration activities countrywide and employability is a strong component. We have not committed funds for employment and employability yet.

Blue refugee center (Solidarity Now): The employability service of the organization started at the beginning 2016 november. The services include support in job search, provision of information on available jobs, consultation in the areas of interest. We also provide assistance on how to network yourself in the labour market, methods to find a job. We also provide Greek and other language courses. The organization also has a full time employability consultant.

Alkyone: Alkyone has been preparing for the last 6 months project with the central market of Thessaloniki – food – we are ready to find a social economy solution for this but it's going slower. In the next two months there will be a team working on this. Vegetable and food to partners who can use them in their food programmes (not to sell them). Training/workshops will be provided within this framework. The workshops are not limited to the people who will be involved in the enterprise but can include additional number of people who can be trained on social economy and related skills.

Work with volunteers: production of products. Heinrich Boell is to provide support. There are currently tools in EN but it is necessary to get them translated and it is necessary to train translators in the terminology of social economy.

ERGANI: This organization is a well established network with many years of experience of social cooperatives of central Macedonia. Currently they are running two pilot projects. One of the pilot projects is to create tools for social enterprises for refugees. The second pilot project is to explore how a small number of refugees can be incorporated in existing social enterprises.

ERGANI will start a training project for professionals who are working in the field of supporting refugees and immigrants about social economy. It aims to support people with experience in the field on how they can work with social economy as a tool to assist their beneficiaries. Training to be announced early march and start after Easter. Intensive small course between 2-3 month with practice in enterprises.

ERGANI in general provides consultancy, advice, info on businesses and social cooperative enterprises. (E.N.: As ERGANI is a sturdy structure with multiple years of experience in the field of social economy, it is worth



exploring supporting ERGANI to provide tailored services to refugees rather than creating new and parallel structures).

INTERSOS: Intersos has collaborated with ERGANI. Intersos is providing lots of skill training and cooperating with local businesses. End of 2017 Intersos started a pilot project with Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants. The action has both a theoretical and practical part in terms of skill matching. In Ioannina for instance we saw that local businesses are very much interested in working with refugees, and interested in capitalizing on new cultures and new skills.

Naomi: Naomi is a small private organization. It started a textile workshop in 2017. It is primarily looking in to production of clothing, accessories and bags. The VET is focused on sewing rather than design. There is interest to expand the enterprise. Currently we have funding till the end of 2018. Naomi is preparing a proposal to be submitted in the beginning of February for micro financing.

ARSIS: No specific activities at the moment but linking beneficiaries of the social apartments to education and vocational networks is one of the objectives of the organization. On social economy for the beneficiaries there are links with ERGANI.

OMNES (Kilkis): Through an agreement with Epimorfotiki LLL Center, OMNES is able to provide certified training exams for ECDL. OMNES sees language classes as a first step for people to access VET in Greek. Work on social economy: look for land primary sector for producing organic cotton and hemp in Kilkis. Mainly for export products in the first period. Strong interest also from the locals to participate in potential enterprises. Apart from the cotton/hemp production EmGrow is another brand. Currently OMNES is moving forward with the production of branded alcohol from the region (Ragouton traditional Pontian raki). OMNES has also been active in trying to link existing industries around Kilkis and have established contacts with the chamber of commerce for this purpose. OMNES is providing information to big companies about the skills of the people.

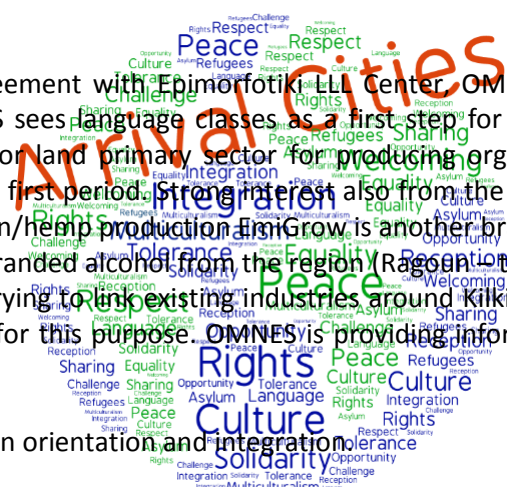
Red cross: Carrying out activities in orientation and integration

ETHOS: Ethos managed to register one person with OAED. ETHOS is focusing on beneficiaries acquiring all necessary documents/papers to be able to access employment. There is high interest among beneficiaries to access the labour market directly. Profiling is being conducted to have a clear picture on the needs. 12 people capacity with limited staff and building up slowly.

ELPIDA: Cooperative with women which is being supported in cooperation with a US based organization. funding designers to tech women and products can be sold abroad. We have the legality issue (how to pay) and tax etc bureaucratic issues to be solved. Training for women in training on Arabic. We are looking into lands to use fields. And businesses that can hire refugees. Background work – in the field etc which doesn't require high language skills.

PRAKSIS: more than 100 houses and work with.

GCR: Primarily providing social and legal support. GCR also has a social unit and in addition to these services we provide counseling- set up appointments, work on CVs and assist in job search.





Labour Institute of GSEE: Counselling and information to unemployed persons. We organize workshops on social economy.

LEGAL WG: Updates on the legal and administrative challenges that hamper access to labour market. If there are any questions from the labour market sub-working group, this can be brought to the Legal WG and solutions can be sought.

Regarding AMKA we managed to address all challenges apart from Kilkis and Katerini. And on issuance of tax numbers overall there are no more problems except for 1 tax office in Kalamaria which is creating problems about the declaration of address.

The current main challenge is with OAED. Unemployment cards which legally is clear but the law is interpreted in a narrow fashion. Another challenge is the opening of bank accounts (there are beneficiaries who have lost job placements because of this). There is no harmonized approach and some recognized refugees and asylum seekers excluded from having a bank account – there is currently work going on centrally for advocacy and also individually. Advocacy is being conducted so that legal departments of all banks know exactly what they are doing in the issuance of the bank accounts.

Also, the delays on issuance of residence permits which is an obstacle to integration trying to address with police and asylum service.

ALPHA bank does not open any account for refugees. Pireaus and Eurobank are also challenging to deal with. The National Bank is the relatively easier bank to open accounts.

UNHCR can't do individual case management regarding this issue but support to lawyers in organisations is possible. It would be useful to compile evidence on a monthly basis by organisations dealing with such cases and to report to the Legal WG.

Another issue to consider is the tax declaration that needs to be made for those beneficiaries who have tax numbers as of 2017. This is important because it is a precondition to access social benefits and the SSI. Note that also a failure to make a tax declaration will result in monetary penalties. Also, access to social benefits and the necessary preparation to do so (tax number, tax declaration) becomes all the more urgent as the grace period for some beneficiaries in housing is coming to an end.

UNHCR Protection: The youth survey provides interesting results and data. The youth survey will be shared with the group by the end of next week

