

“Career Development Opportunities for refugees - The Experience of Municipality of Thessaloniki”

VIRGINIA POLITI, HEAD OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT SUPPORT AND INTEGRATION FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

CENTER OF INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

FUNDED BY GREEK MINISTRY OF LABOUR

MUNICIPALITY OF THESSALONIKI-DIRECTION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH

**THE CENTER IS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORT AND INTEGRATION
FOR MIGRANT'S AND REFUGEES**

BENEFICIARIES

IMMIGRANTS

EUROPEAN CITIZENS

BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (REFUGEES)

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

ASYLUM SEEKERS



DEMOGRAPHICS OF BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ ALBANIANS
- ▶ PALESTINIANS
- ▶ SYRIANS
- ▶ IRAQIS
- ▶ AFGHANS
- ▶ GEORGIANS

TEAM OF SOCIAL CENTER

- **SOCIAL WORKER -ALSO COORDINATOR OF THE CENTER**
- **PSYCHOLOGIST**
- **LEGAL ADVISOR**
- **LABOYR ADVISOR**
- **INTERCULTURAL MEDIATORS
(ARABIC SPEAKERS, PERSIAN SPEAKER)**
- * **ADMINISTRATOR**



BASIC SERVICES OF OUR CENTER



***1. RECEPTION – INFORMATION –
SUPPORT***

***2. COLLABORATION WITH
SERVICES, BODIES,
STRUCTURES THAT PROVIDE
SOCIAL AND OTHER KIND OF
HELP (LEGAL, MEDICAL,
EDUCATIONAL..)***

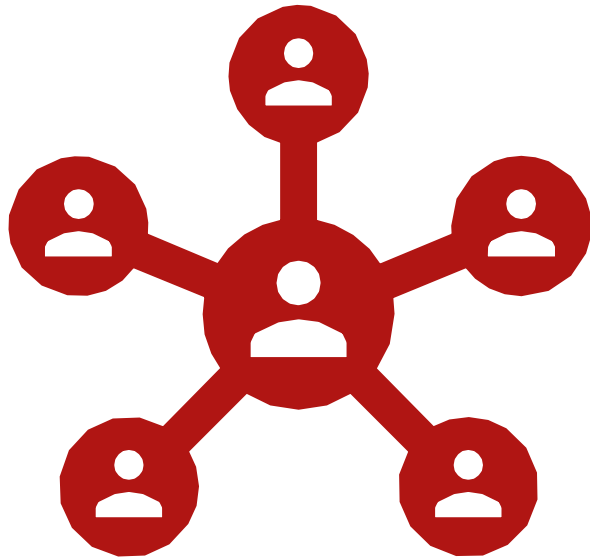
***3. PROVISION OF SERVICES THAT
AIM TO IMPROVE THE
STANDARD OF LIVING AND
SOCIAL INTEGRATION***

A. RECEPTION- INFORMATION- SUPPORT



- ✓ **SUPPORTING THE BENEFICIARIES TO THEIR TRANSACTIONS WITH PUBLIC SERVICES (ISSUING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, TAX NUMBER, UNEMPLOYMENT CARD, OPENING OF BANK ACCOUNT, REGISTRATION AT SCHOOL, RESIDENCE PERMITS, ASYLUM CASES, etc)**
- ✓ **SUPPORT INCLUDES THE PREPARATION OF THE DOCUMENTS, THE COMMUNICATION AND MEDIATION TO THE SERVICES (WITH INTERPRETATION WHERE NEEDED) INFORMATION ON BENEFITS, RIGHTS, EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS/ACTIONS**

COLLABORATION WITH SERVICES AND STRUCTURES OF SERVICES OF SOCIAL PROTECTION



- NETWORKING WITH MUNICIPALITY SERVICES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, STATE SERVICES AND NGO 'S TO OBTAIN INTERCONNECTION AND REFERRAL IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF THE BENEFICIARIES
- PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS TO STRENGTHEN THE INTEGRATION OF THE TARGET GROUP (URBAN,MENTAL,LEGAL,CIMR)

C. CONSULTING AND INTEGRATION SERVICES



- ✓ **SOCIAL SUPPORT**
- ✓ **PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT**
- ✓ **LEGAL SUPPORT**
- ✓ **LABOUR ADVISORY**
- ✓ **GREEK LANGUAGE COURSES**

Labor Advisory Services

✦ A Holistic Approach to Employment Integration

✓ Individual & Group-Level Support

- Personalized career counseling tailored to each beneficiary's skills and aspirations.
- Group workshops to enhance job-related competencies and workplace readiness.

✓ Enhancing Professional Skills

- Industry-specific training programs.
- Digital literacy and technical skills development.
- Language proficiency courses for workplace communication.



Empowering individuals to achieve sustainable workforce integration and long-term career stability.

✓ Social & Professional Knowledge

- Guidance on workplace culture, employee rights, and labor laws.
- Support in CV writing, job applications, and interview preparation.

✓ Connecting Beneficiaries with Employers

- Networking events and job fairs.
- Collaboration with businesses and organizations open to hiring refugees and immigrants.
- Structured pathways to long-term employment and professional growth.

TILL TODAY...

4,870 PEOPLE AND THEIR
FAMILIES HAVE RECEIVED OUR
SERVICES



NUMBER OF VISITS: 21.600
APPROXIMATELY



COMMON DEMANDS:
ACCOMMODATION,
ALLOWANCES, WORK, ACCESS
TO THE ASYLUM SERVICE, LEGAL
ADVICE, PSYCHOLOGICAL
SUPPORT UNEMPLOYMENT
CARD/BANK ACCOUNT,
EDUCATION,...



Supporting Refugee Academics

Collaboration between
Universities & Municipalities
through programmatic
contracts



Why Collaboration Matters



**Supports
academic
careers**



**Encourages
social
integration**



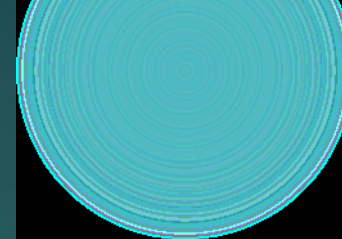
**Strengthens
research &
education**



Community Engagement & Projects

- ▶ Public lectures & cultural events
- ▶ Participation in municipal education & social initiatives

Conclusion & Call to Action



Strengthen partnerships



**Foster inclusion &
academic opportunities**



I appreciate
your time and
attention!