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Erasmus+ Programme
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WELKOM

“Welkom

Recognition of Qualifications held by Refugees”

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**Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the
European Union**



Erasmus+



AIMS & OBJECTIVES



Project “WELKOM” has been developed in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme as an answer to the growing needs for social, economic and educational integration of the refugees fleeing to the European countries during the last few years. The aim of “WELKOM” is to develop transparency, recognition and validation of skills and qualifications held

by refugees and migrants based in Belgium, Iceland, Italy and Sweden. Consequently, this will make it easier for the target groups to study and work in the host countries, leading to further social inclusion and integration.

—> The aim of this brochure is to inform refugees about the available learning tools and initiatives in their host country, and to enhance their awareness in order to be able to participate and integrate. This brochure will help inform about and incorporate the learners in innovative learning systems, training, and overall support schemes taking place in their region for the next period of time.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

UC LIMBURG is a Higher Education Institution in Flanders, Belgium, renowned for the high quality of its teaching, research & regional development activities.

OECON GROUP is a European management consulting firm and a leading advisor in business strategy, social entrepreneurship, as well as an adult education centre and VET provider based in Thessaloniki, Greece.

EQUALITY CENTRE/JAFNRÉTTISHÚS is a private NGO based in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland. It is an international not for profit adult education provider and equality promoter organization.

MEDBORGARSKOLAN is a Nationwide Study association in Sweden which provides a rich offering of courses and educational programmes aimed at achieving skills for a new area of work.

FUTURO DIGITALE is an association with branches in 3 regions across Italy, composed of 19 members and 7 collaborators. Its aim of fd is to promote the empowerment of young people.

GREEK, ENGLISH ETC. LANGUAGE LESSONS FOR THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS



WHAT: ODYSSEAS is a school where **migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and repatriated adults** can learn the Greek language. It is completely supported and consisted by volunteers (teachers and others) and ad-

resses a wide target group with different social, economic and educational background. It started in 1997, and ODYSSEAS (Ulysses) seeks his own "Ithaca" by providing Greek classes to adult non-native speakers voluntarily and **free of charge**. Nowadays, besides the Greek lessons, are also offered courses for learning English, French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Italian that are open to Greeks as well. The aim of the school is to create the space where the “students” can perform a critical attitude towards social inequality, can level national contrasts, can experience cultural exchange, and can also express themselves and be creative. Excursions are organized, cultural visits to museums and neighbouring towns take place, parties, film screenings, exhibitions of works created by the students and theatrical performances of the drama group created in 2000 by students of "ODYSSEAS".

HOW: The teaching annual cycle of the Greek courses mainly consist of 4 teaching hours per week from October until May, and additional classes might be created throughout the year.

CONTACT:

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sxoleiodysseas.weebly.com

HOSTING & LEGAL INFORMATION CENTERS

WHAT: NGO Arsis has 3 **Hosting Centers** in the region of Thessaloniki for refugees and migrants between 12-18 years old. Services provided to the Centers include:

- Inclusion of minors in public schools in the region and their support, both in close + cooperation with the teaching staff, as well as by providing teaching aids or other educational programs
- Psychosocial support
- + Work counselling and preparation for the labour market
- Coverage of medical services and access to health services
- + Informative meetings and seminars on skills development and empowerment of minors in the social life of the Hostel and the community
- Full meal, with at least 3 meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner), taking into account age, eating habits and cultural specifics
- + Transportation (via the hostel's vehicles and via buses: cover the cost of unlimited routes or tickets)
- Communication (access to electronic communications and video services, purchase of + phone cards).

CONTACT:

Leontos Sofou 26, 54625, Thessaloniki
2310 526150

WHAT: NGO Praksis has 3 **Legal Information Centers** around Greece, 1 in Thessaloniki. The purpose of the Legal Information Centers is to provide free legal support and assistance to all socially excluded population groups living in the wider area of Attica and Thessaloniki and facing legal problems in their everyday lives. Beneficiaries of these services are third-country nationals who belong to a specific protection regime, such as applicants for international protection, beneficiaries of international protection, holders of residence permits for humanitarian reasons, but also immigrants, illegally staying third-country nationals, etc.

CONTACT:

Arkadioupoleos 3, 54632, Thessaloniki
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ACTIVITIES & CONTACT POINTS IN GREECE

EQPR (European Qualifications Passport for Refugees)



WHAT: The European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is a document providing an **assessment of the higher education qualifications based on available documentation and a structured interview. It also presents information on the applicant's work experience and language proficiency.** The

document provides reliable information for integration and progression towards employment and admission to further studies. It is a specially developed assessment scheme **for refugees**, even for those who cannot fully document their qualifications. As a result, the document provides credible information that is relevant for employment, internships, enrolment to qualification courses and admission to studies.

BY WHO: The project is led by the Council of Europe and is based on the UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention, with partners including the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs, the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, the Conference of University Rectors of Italy, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, as well as ENIC-NARIC qualification recognition centres in Armenia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, and the UK. The UNHCR Representation in Greece and the UNHCR Representation in Strasbourg also support the project.

HOW: A questionnaire is normally sent to registered candidates three weeks before the evaluation, with two weeks to fill it in, allowing the evaluators one week to review them. Then, interviews (either video or face-to-face) take place lasting between 45 minutes to one hour, after which a decision on whether or not to issue the document is made. If the decision is positive, the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is issued and **valid for five years from the date of issue.**

CONTACT:

www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications
www.minedu.gov.gr/epikoinonia/forma-epikoinwnias

REACT (Refugee Assistant Collaboration in Thessaloniki)

WHAT: The purpose of “REACT” is to contribute to the overall effort to tackle the refugee crisis in Greece by identifying, installing and maintaining housing units in private apartments and other accommodation options all around Thessaloniki. They are **addressed to asylum seekers, candidates for resettlement / family reunification and recognized refugees / beneficiaries of international protection**. The aim of the program is to ensure decent living conditions for beneficiaries of international protection for refugees who have applied for asylum and relocation, with emphasis on vulnerable social groups. Also, “REACT” provides a set of **legal information and counselling services** (including rehabilitation, interpreting, transport and escort services, as well as health management services, special psychosocial support for children, etc.) about:

- Asylum issues (access to the asylum procedure, rights and obligations of asylum seekers, relocation, family reunification, Dublin Regulation)
- Legal issues that arise in the context of hosting the beneficiaries and relate to their personal situation and the exercise of their rights.
- Mediation between competent authorities / authorities and beneficiaries (e.g. municipalities, asylum services, police, social services / structures, etc.) and referrals to appropriate structures / services of people with vulnerability.

BY WHO: The Municipality of Thessaloniki in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has been implementing project “REACT” since the beginning of 2016. In order to cope with such an important project, a social partnership has been established with the participation of the Municipality of Neapolis – Sykeon, the Municipality of Kalamaria, the Region of Central Macedonia, ANATOLIKI Development Agency, YMCA Thessaloniki, NGO Arsis and NGO Praksis.

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ODYSSEUS – Education of immigrants in the Greek language, the Greek history and the Greek culture

WHAT: The programme aims at providing the **language skills, as well as the social and intercultural competences** required for the social inclusion of the participants and their families. The Educational Programme offers the following levels:

- Level A1: It aims at beginners and false beginners. Usually, the false beginners are able to talk (understanding & production), thanks to their daily social contact, but they are unable to write (understanding & production). Course length: 125 hours
- Level A2: It aims at beginners who acquire all the language skills of the Greek language. Course length: 175 hours
- Level B1: The candidate is able to act in an autonomous and effective way under common communication circumstances. Course length: 185 hours
- Level B1, with emphasis on speaking skills: The development of speaking skills, (i.e. comprehension and production of oral word) meet the daily communication needs of the target group (adult immigrants), when this group comes in contact with the native speakers of modern Greek in the host country (Greece). Course length: 195 hours

The classes are held in every regional unit of the country and are free of charge.

BY WHO: “Odysseus” forms part of the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning” of the Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs and it is co-funded by the European Union (European Social Fund) and National Funding. Any person interested in joining the classes, should complete an application form (it is provided in Greek & English) which is submitted to the Education Officer of the Region-Sector of the Programme, along with a photocopy of the residence permit & passport (their validation is not necessary).

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