



Programme: Europe for Citizens

Project: European Regions Developing European Citizenship

Fifth International Partner Meeting

PRESS RELEASE

The Conference in Athens was organized by the NETWORK FOR EMPLOYMENT & SOCIAL CARE (DAKM) within the framework of the project “**European regions developing European Citizenship**”. The project was submitted within the programme activity “**Democratic engagement & civic participation- getting citizens involved**”, “**Networks of towns**”, aiming to encourage the cooperation with other towns and Civil Society Organizations (e.g. NGOs) on a long-term basis of experience and knowledge sharing.

The Meeting lasted from **5th October** to **7th October in Athens (Hotel Astor, Karagiorgi Servias 16)**. Participants had the opportunity to attend some very interesting lectures, and they participated in two study visits, one workshop and various intercultural events. This was already the fifth meeting of the project.

The Project Meeting in Athens, started with a Partner Meeting, which was followed by a study visit to Elaionas Refugee Camp. The partners delivered solidarity items to the refugees and had a meaningful discussion with the Vice Mayor, Lefteris Papagiannakis, who elaborated on the situation in the Camp and its dynamics.

The Conference (6th October) was held at the Hotel ASTOR (Athens), where researchers (Panteion University of Athens), institutions (representative of the Greek Ombudsman), CSO’s representatives (Amnesty International Greece, Greek Forum of Refugees, Association of Women and Families in Rural Areas, NGO Dianeosis), and representatives from local authorities (Municipality of Athens) approached the relationship between the European Identity and the Refugees Integration in multiple and complementary ways. At the first session, the speakers gave us a general outline of the refugees’ problems, focusing on administrative, political and institutional aspects of the so-called refugees’ crisis. The second session elaborated on the perception of the refugees from the Greek society, while the third session focused on the experiences of the refugees, as reported by the representative of the Greek Forum of Refugees.



The workshop of the day 3 (October 7) gave us the chance to reflect on some issues that were addressed in more depth, such as xenophobia, intolerance and discrimination, the access to health services in tandem with the human rights' aspect.

Apart from the abovementioned activities, two more study visits took place: a) at the Museum of Acropolis, and b) at the Digital Museum of the Academy of Plato. Both visits inspired vivid discussions on the concepts of citizenship and democracy, while new thematic areas have been highlighted as prospect subjects for future joint efforts.

More information about the project you can find here: www.dakm.gr

