E4
Employment
4 Inclusion

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Short Description

Racist Violence Recording Network by Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Greece (UNHCR).Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN) was established in 2011 with the aim to fill the gaps in official hate crime data collection through the systematization and unification of the data collected by different organizations on their own initiative. The RVRN is coordinated by the UNHCR and the GNCHR and, apart from them, comprised of 37 NGOs who offer medical, social and legal services or/and come in direct contact with victims of racist violence or victims of other hate-motivated violence, as well as of organizations established by members of the groups usually targeted by racist violence. Other activities pursued by the RVRN include: formulation of recommendations on improving human rights protection, awareness-raising campaigns for combating hate crimes, organization and participation in training programs regarding issues that refer to the identification, recording, and combating hate crimes. The network publishes annual reports based on their joint data collection.

Webpage: http://rvrn.org/category/english/

Short Description

Law 3852/2012 requires each municipality to set up a council for the integration of immigrants (SEM) by means of the decision by the municipal council as an advisory body to the municipality for facilitating the integration of immigrants into the local community. The councils for immigrant integration are composed of five (5) to eleven (11) members, who are designated by the relevant city council. Members are appointed from municipal councilors and representatives of immigrant organizations. Participation in these boards is honorary and unpaid. The task of immigrant integration councils is to identify and investigate problems faced by immigrants living permanently in the region of the municipality in question regarding their integration into the local community, their contact with state institutions or the municipal authority. The SEM submits suggestions to the city council to develop local actions to promote the smooth integration of immigrants. In general, to assist in solving the problems immigrants face. The new regulation voted by the Council of the Municipality of Thessaloniki covers not only immigrants but also refugees. Since the autumn of 2015, the Municipality of Thessaloniki has begun cooperating with the Ministry of Immigration in the central government, international organizations, neighboring municipalities and local community organizations. The aim is to coordinate actions for the proper management of the refugee crisis in a way that ensures decent living conditions for beneficiaries of international protection within the wider Thessaloniki area while simultaneously striving to ensure that social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between all social groups are maintained. The Municipality of Thessaloniki, by developing multi-level actions (Education, Social Policy, Region, Media), aspires to a holistic view of addressing the smooth integration of refugees.

Short Description

Building relations of confidence and trust constitute an essential precondition in order to meet the aims of the project implemented in the Greek city of Thessaloniki. In this context, a series of capacity building activities were carried out targeting both Third Country Nationals and relevant stakeholders, such as hospital staff, police officers and teachers. The aim was, on the one hand, to prepare the host society to establish close relations with Third Country Nationals and create cooperative mechanisms, and on the other hand, to help Third Country Nationals to achieve an active participation in a wide range of activities in society.

Thereinafter, activities concerning direct contact of Third Country Nationals with the local community were implemented. They were carried out gradually, beginning with initiating Third Country Nationals to familiarize themselves with the city's history and culture sites, and finally with people living in it. Initially, this objective had the form of visit-making by the Third Country Nationals in several points in the city, which are perceived to be necessary for promoting integration. Children, adolescents and adults participated in such visits in respective groups. The project team followed an approach of "Get to know my city" and "Get to know the people of my city".

Key part of the project's implementation was to promote open dialogue, active participation and share of experiences among Third Country Nationals, members of the local community and relevant stakeholders. The project team worked closely with local authorities and Third Country Nationals in order to raise awareness about the benefits of dialogue and opinion exchange, and actively engage all involved stakeholders in a continuous process of networking, cooperation and consultation regarding issues of social integration. To this end, a physical platform was established where various actions of consultation and exchange of opinions were realized and implemented. The platform acted as a tool of networking and a promoter of open dialogue. Employment, health, social rights, care provision for migrants, education, culture and civilization were the core subjects under discussion in consultation groups.

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The LION project brought together six partners from two EU countries (Greece and Belgium): The University of West Attika (former National School of Public Health - Greece) which coordinated the programme, the University of Gent (Belgium), PRAKSIS NGO, the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), the Consulting Company CMT- Prooptiki and Syn-Eirmos NGO.

Webpage: http://allianceforintegration.eu/building-relationships-and-cooperative-mechanisms/