

Sensitization news



Discovering nature under Home River Bioblitz in Aooos River in Ioannina.

HELIOS beneficiaries together with locals from Ioannina participated in the Home River Bioblitz of Aooos. Everyone had the opportunity to observe the rich flora and fauna of Epirus and unwind while walking in this unique preserved national

park. Participants split in groups identified various species of flora and fauna of the river, while collecting valuable data for the scientific community through the "iNaturalist" app. The event was organized by River Collective, Pindos Perivallontiki

and HELIOS. During the event, refugees, migrants, and locals interacted with each other sharing knowledge on the ecosystem of their countries of origin and emphasizing the significance of preserving nature and its living organisms.



Training on Anti-trafficking in Paionia

Municipal frontline workers and other public servants in Paionia that may potentially come across victims of human trafficking were trained on identifying and assisting victims of trafficking. The training was organized by HELIOS in association with the Municipality of Paionia, the National Centre for Solidarity (NCSS) and A21. Specifically, the attendees - psychologists, social workers, social scientists, police, and staff from the Accommodation Center of Nea Kavala - had the opportunity to benefit from this seminar aiming at enhancing their capacity to provide more inclusive and accessible social services to victims of trafficking.



Introducing Children to Human Rights in Larissa

Children participating in the "Camp in the city" program implemented by the Municipality of Larissa had the opportunity to learn about human rights in interactive and informative school sessions that were organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the respective municipality. Diversity and multiculturalism were the primary themes explored during the sessions, seeking to empower the children's spirit of solidarity and inclusion and to increase awareness on non-discriminatory behaviors based on the country of origin, physical appearance, or other characteristics. The tool used for these sessions was "Compasito", certified by the Council of Europe for the education of human rights to children.



Integration through Music in Karditsa

HELIOS beneficiaries in Karditsa enjoyed an afternoon of fun, creativity, and interaction in a "Music rendez-vous" event that was organized at HELIOS ILC. During the event, participants had the opportunity to handmade music-related art and craft, enjoy cultural music videos, dance, and share perspectives on different traditions and cultures. The "Music rendez-vous" gave the opportunity to beneficiaries to interact, express their feelings and feel confident regarding their traditions and culture. The event was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with DRC and ANKA.

Bringing people together along “a journey of flavors” in Thessaloniki

Refugees, migrants, and locals enjoyed a meal with flavors from Ukraine, Yemen, Afghanistan and Greece during an event that was hosted at the Townhall of Thessaloniki in the framework of the 10th Multilingualism Festival. The initiative was coordinated by HELIOS, in collaboration with the students of the Culinary-Pastry School “La Chef LEVI”, the Migrants and Refugees Integration Council (MRIC) and the Migrants Integration Center (MIC) of the Municipality of Thessaloniki. HELIOS beneficiaries prepared this “journey of flavors” which created a unique experience for attendees. Common ingredients, techniques and flavors combined with the diverse cultures and culinary traditions brought participants closer together while they enjoyed a great meal in a social and playful atmosphere.



Re-imagining the city of Karditsa

HELIOS participated in the European Mobility Week 2022, under the auspices of the European Commission and in the framework of the activities organized by the Municipality of Karditsa, aiming to raise awareness towards human rights, solidarity, social responsibility, and climate change. Through a big multi-colored canvas that was placed in the Athletic Park of Karditsa, refugees and locals residing in the city drew their thoughts and sent a strong message about the social responsibility that all people have as active citizens, regardless

of their country of origin, age, gender, and religion. Prompt heart-shaped cards on social responsibility and city aspects that inspired participants were designed in a preparatory workshop that was hosted in HELIOS ILC in Karditsa. During the event, refugees took the opportunity to interact with the local population, mainstreaming their active participation in local events and awareness-raising initiatives. The activity was organized in collaboration with ANKA, DOPAK, KDAP Gioldasi and GranaZEI Girarte ART-TECH (I.D.E.A.).



“Moving faster than Melanoma” in Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki's ILC of Solidarity Now opened its doors last month and hosted an awareness-raising event on melanoma screening, namely “Prevention is better than cure - Let's move faster than Melanoma”. The activity was implemented in collaboration with Médecins Du Monde (MdM). A dermatologist of MdM provided free medical examinations and brief analysis on melanoma and the ways of its prevention to all attendees. Both refugees and locals benefitted from this initiative that aimed to speak up about the dangers of melanoma and encourage people to check their skin for warning signs.



Employability news



Exploring employment opportunities with Cooperative Pindos

HELIOS, in collaboration with the Ioannina Agricultural Poultry Cooperative Pindos, and in coordination with Harmonizing Protection Practices in Greece (HARP) colleagues, organized an event linking beneficiaries with the cooperative, and exploring potential employment opportunities. During the event, the cooperative

presented its activities and provided information with regards to current placement openings, elaborating on the needed skills and related formal qualifications. The 14 candidates that attended received answers to all the questions they had in view of submitting their applications for suitable openings.



Opening doors with the Agricultural Cooperatives in Ierapetra

During a conference that was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the Municipality of Ierapetra, Agricultural Cooperatives in Ierapetra were informed on the HELIOS project, on how the Employability Component links beneficiaries with potential employers and on migrants' and refugees' labor rights according to their legal status. Following the conference, HELIOS representatives visited the cooperatives to gain a better understanding of the workforce skills sets needed in the establishments and discuss in more detail the next steps in identifying suitable candidates who could potentially move to Ierapetra to work at the Cooperatives.

Job Fair in Lesvos

A two-day Job Fair was organized at the Mavrovouni RIC in Lesvos, by HELIOS in cooperation with UNHCR and other organizations operating on the island. During the event, 400 beneficiaries discussed with local employers from different sectors such as agriculture, recycling, and construction. HELIOS and colleagues from other organizations that were involved in the event assisted towards the preparation of the candidates' CVs, ensuring the smooth flow of the event.



INTEGRATION

Addressing stress management and promoting wellbeing

Two discussion groups on stress management and wellbeing were conducted by HELIOS in Athens and Thessaloniki in September. The discussion groups were held in the framework of the psychosocial support offered by HELIOS to its beneficiaries and focused on stress management and wellbeing. The two sessions, that were attended by beneficiaries of temporary protection, aimed at getting the beneficiaries acquainted with the relevant services offered by the project and at assessing the needs of the population for further targeted actions.

