



# Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Temporary Protection



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης & Ασύλου

## EMPLOYABILITY

### Promoting the Employability of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

An online event was organized by the HELIOS Employability Component, matching more than 100 beneficiaries of temporary protection with potential employers in the shipping and manufacturing sectors in Athens and Sparta. The latter presented their key activities to the beneficiaries, focusing on open vacancies, elaborating on the skills and qualifications needed for those. Furthermore, the beneficiaries were informed on their working rights in Greece as well as the obligations that arise from the recruitment process, while employers received information regarding the essence of the temporary protection status and related staffing procedures.



### Company Field Visits across Greece

28 beneficiaries participated in an Employability field visit to a meat processing company in Attica, whereby, split into groups, they were informed on relevant job opportunities and the general conditions of working in various duty stations of the production line. During another visit to an aluminium frame manufacturing company in Nea Redestos in Thessaloniki, 8 beneficiaries participated in one-on-one interviews with the CEO, following a briefing on the relevant open job vacancies and the needs of different positions.

### Employability Event at HELIOS ILC in Omonoia

An employability event was organized at the HELIOS ILC in Omonoia, Athens, operated by DRC. The event was attended by 17 beneficiaries who had the opportunity to interview with a potential employer of the fish processing sector. During the event, the employer presented the company, the available work opportunities, the working conditions at the processing unit and the relevant terms of employment.



# SENSITIZATION

## Raising Awareness towards the Elimination of Violence against Women

A series of events around Greece were organized in the scope of HELIOS on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, aiming to raise awareness among beneficiaries and the general public against gender-based violence (GBV) and engage with communities to address socio-cultural barriers while ensuring equitable access of women and girls to information and specialized service provision when needed.



Guided tours were held in Ancient Agora in Athens as part of the project “Multaka - Intercultural Tours”, focusing on the social position of women in Ancient Greece, and their right of participation in the special Panathenaea festivity. The tours were designed by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Ministry of Culture and Sports and Athens Municipality and were implemented by ADDMA.



An empowering creative writing workshop was organized at Kipos Seminaria in Thessaloniki, together with Intellectum Publications and Diotima. Following a reading of relevant literature and a discussion, the 17 refugee and local women attendees, under the guidance of the specialized facilitators, expressed in a short creative text how they dreamed of their future self and the future position of women in society.



In Larissa, a workshop on defining and preventing GBV was organized at the local ILC with the participation of representatives from the Shelter for Women Victims of GBV and/or Multiple Discrimination, the Cultural Mediator of the Community Center and the Legal Advisor of the Counseling Center of Larissa Municipality. Attendees were informed on GBV forms and related legal framework and shared their own experiences.



During a similar info-session that was organized in Livadeia ILC in collaboration with KEDHL, attendees were informed by an EODY Social worker and an Educator on GBV definition, causes, impact, prevention, and related support. Colorful balloons were distributed during the session on which participants expressed emotions and key messages against GBV in their mother language.



The 25 attendees of the awareness event at the Atrium of Loggia in the Townhall of Heraklion observed an exhibition of objects related to the elimination of GBV and later on participated in an interactive workshop concerning the forms of gender-based violence. The event was organized by the Region of Crete (Regional Committee for Gender Equality) and the Municipality of Heraklion (Municipal Committee for Gender Equality), in collaboration with HELIOS and with the support of Ploigos.



An event focused on informing, supporting, and encouraging women to report GBV related issues, was carried at Hotel Kierion in Karditsa. 46 women attended the event and were informed by representatives from the Center of Women in Karditsa, the local police and IOM.



During a dedicated event in Ioannina, that was co-organized by the Region of Epirus, Ioannina Municipality, the Municipal Regional Theater and HELIOS at the Ioannina Cultural Center, 42 participants watched a relevant video, learned more about the HELIOS project, and enjoyed a theatrical reading of stories of women survivors of GBV. During the event, the Vice Regional Governor of Epirus for Welfare, Social Solidarity, Cohesion and Public Health and the Vice Mayor of Social and Migration Policy of the Ioannina Municipality highlighted the importance of the activation against GBV.

The implementing partners of HELIOS also enhanced the overall efforts towards combating GBV with additional initiatives in ILCs around Greece.



# Festive Season Interactive Events around Greece

During December's festive season, HELIOS beneficiaries, migrants and locals had the opportunity to socialize, interact and enjoy dedicated events that were organized in the framework of the project across Greece.



More than 100 refugees, migrants, and locals in Thessaloniki, on the occasion of the International Day of Migrants, attended a festive event encompassing two parallel activities at Neapoli-Sykies Municipality. Adults participated in a roundtable discussion on social integration while 4-12 y.o. children enjoyed festive face painting, created Christmas crafts, played, danced, and made new friends before receiving their present from Santa Claus. The event was co-organized with Neapolis-Sykies Municipality, the Municipal School for Greek Language, MDAT, GCR and Solidarity Now. Christmas cookies were provided and decorated under the kind guidance of the Culinary Pastry School La Chef LEVI.



"A fairytale from abroad" brought together more than 160 attendees at the Municipal Cinema of Trikala, during a performance in which young children and adults from Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, and Iraq along with locals narrated a story from their home countries on a stage that was flooded with traditional costumes, unique storytelling, and laughter. The event was co-organized with the Community Center of Trikala Municipality during the Christmas Festival at the Mill of Elves. HELIOS beneficiaries were involved from the conception of the idea through the implementation.



In Livadeia Townhall, more than 30 attendees enjoyed Christmas carols, sung by a children choir, accompanied by representatives of the school community and IOM staff. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with the 4th Primary School, the Refugees' Education Coordinator (SEP) and with the support of the 10th Primary School and the 13th Kindergarten.



Tripoli was filled with festive wishes that attendees wrote and hung on the "wishing tree" in the city's central square, during an event that was co-organized by HELIOS and Caritas Athens with the support of Tripoli Municipality. During the event, HELIOS representatives disseminated leaflets informing the local population about the project.



More than 50 refugee, migrant and local parents and children created Christmas handcrafts in a joyful workshop that was organized in Heraklion by HELIOS, the Pan-Cretan Ukrainian Association "Leleki" and ARSIS with the support of the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of Heraklion and other volunteer actors. The event took place at the premises of the 3rd Lyceum of Heraklion and was attended by representatives of Heraklion Municipality and the Region of Crete, spread strong solidarity and inclusion messages in the festive spirit.



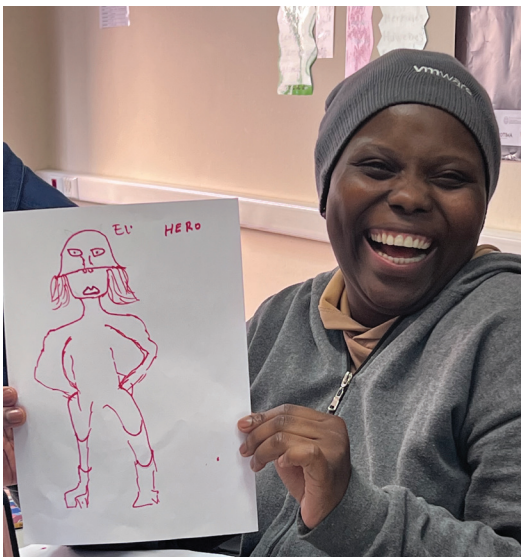
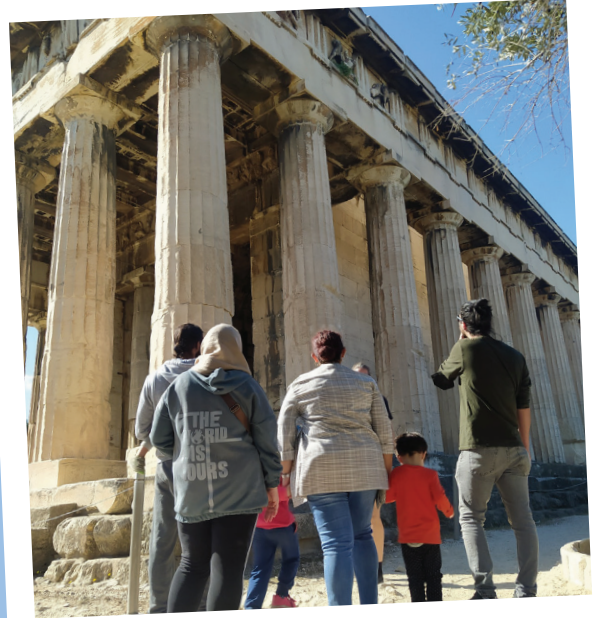
## Fostering Understanding through Historical and Cultural Tours across the Country

In the past quarter, HELIOS beneficiaries had the opportunity to learn more about Greek history, culture, values and norms together with locals in specialized guided tours that were organized in Athens, Mycenae, and Crete.

Two groups of refugees participated in an intercultural visit to the Ancient Agora and the Museum of Modern Greek Culture in Athens and were inspired in discussions about the notions of democracy, participation in public affairs, craftsmanship, commerce, and economics, creating a common ground of exchange and interaction. The tours were organized in the framework of the “Multaka-Intercultural Tours in Athens” project, designed by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Ministry of Culture and Sports and Athens Municipality and were implemented by ADDMA.

An educational guided tour of the archaeological site of Mycenae was enjoyed by 30 refugees and migrants. The visit at the Archaeological Museum of Mycenae and the Treasury of Atreus provided a unique opportunity for the participants to acquaint with the local history and express their eagerness to learn more on the civilizations that flourished in the surrounding area.

In Heraklion, a “folklore and taste paths” multicultural tour was attended by 60 refugees, migrants and locals that explored the unique village of Krousonas and St. Irini Monastery and enjoyed a journey into Cretan heritage in interactive activities at the Women’s Agricultural Cooperative of Krousonas “Krousaniotissa” - from learning about the “Raki” distilling process and the recipe for “Katsouna” to singing Cretan and Ukrainian songs. The tour was co-organized by HELIOS, the Soroptimist Club of Heraklion “Aretousa”, the Women’s Cooperative of Krousonas, Krousonas Cultural Association, the Development Association of Business Women of Crete and the Ukrainian Association of Heraklion.



## Inspiring Everyday Superheroes through the Power Comics in Athens

On the International Day of Education, refugees, migrants, and locals in Athens enjoyed a creative afternoon in a workshop that introduced them to the art of comics - namely, “The Power of Comics”. The aim of the event was to empower participants through art and highlight how illustrated fictional storytelling can inspire new interpretations of the world, in ways that transcend stereotypes and encourage new and positive experiences. A total of 18 participants were inspired by comic books in various languages and acquired basic narrative and illustrative elements introduced by a specialized facilitator, before animating their own Superhero in their comic storyboard. The event was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the Athens Comics Library and Solidarity Now and took place at the HELIOS ILC in Omonoia.





## “Let me Tell you a Story” in Livadeia

On World Day for Child’s rights, refugee and local children in Livadeia enjoyed the storytelling of Ms. Argyro Pipini’s “Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer” tale - narrated by Ms. Katerina Dimoka with the support of the interpreter of IOM - during a social cohesion event organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the Library of the Municipality of Livadeia and with the support of KEDHL. The event under the title “Let me tell you a Story”, took place at the local HELIOS ILC and was attended by 20 children that had the chance to learn, interact and be inspired. Excitement and joy sparkled the second part of the event whereby the children drew and shared with others their ideal home.



## A “Travel of Savors” in Food Recipes and Cultures in Livadeia

HELIOS beneficiaries, migrants and locals in Livadeia participated in an interactive and fun cooking event that was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with Koinsep “ERKYNA”, in the latter’s premises. The aim of the event, namely the “Travel of Savors”, was to involve refugee and migrant communities, along with the local population, in highlighting the engagement of the different cultures expressed through the art of cooking and broadening their perspectives. Prior to the cooking event, participants took part in an informational introductory workshop in which they were acquainted, discussed on the topic of cooking and decided on the recipes they would cook. On the day of the event, the 19 participants cooked in pairs, discussed the recipes and supported each other on the preparation of the dishes accompanied by music of their countries of origin in a pleasant atmosphere.

## Introducing Children to Human Rights in Crete

The students at the 1st Primary School of Nea Alikarnassos and the Ukrainian Saturday School in Heraklion had the opportunity to learn about Human Rights, in two-day educational, interactive, and fun interventions that were organized in the framework of HELIOS. The informative sessions that focused on diversity, stereotypes, migration, and inclusion, were part of the Skill Development Classes initiated by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, with the use of educational material certified by the Council of Europe. The activation was implemented by HELIOS in collaboration with ARSIS and the Pan-Cretan Ukrainian Association “Leleki” and with the support of the Directorate of Primary Education of Heraklion, the Municipality of Heraklion Migrant and Refugee Integration Council (SEMP) and the Region of Crete.





# OTHER

## Visit of the General Secretary of Migration Policy, Mr. Georgiadis at Thessaloniki ILC

The General Secretary of Migration Policy, Mr. Patroklos Georgiadis, visited the HELIOS ILC in Thessaloniki, operated by Solidarity Now in the framework of the project, along with a team of representatives of the Social Inclusion Department of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum. Mr. Georgiadis was guided around the premises of the Center, discussed with the project team, and had the opportunity to enjoy the rehearsal of beneficiaries for performing the Christmas carols. The General Secretary also took the opportunity to express anew the longstanding support of the Ministry towards the HELIOS project.



## Visit of the Dutch Minister for Migration, Mr. Eric van der Burg, at Athens ILC

The Dutch Minister for Migration, Mr. Eric van der Burg, accompanied by a delegation of the Government of the Netherlands, visited the HELIOS ILC in Athens that is operated by Solidarity Now. The delegation was welcomed by the Chief of IOM Mission in Greece, Gianluca Rocco and the project's Management Team. During the visit, the Minister was briefed on the HELIOS project and had the chance to attend a Greek language course that was taking place at the ILC. Mr. Eric van der Burg took the opportunity and discussed with beneficiaries from Ukraine and Iran regarding their everyday life in Greece, the challenges they face, their thoughts and their plans regarding their integration in Greece.

