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TEMPLATE FOR COLLECTION OF BEST PRACTICES

Code of the good practices

Country	Progressive number	Value chain code
GR	1	D

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This template is a tool developed within the project Express: EXchange of Practices for Refugees and migrants' Self-entrepreneurship, an Erasmus + project, under Key Actions 2/Exchange of best practice. The aim of the project is to empower young migrants and refugees, creating and/or strengthening - where existing - supporting services for the development of self-enterprises by this target population.

The practices collected within the project will be shared with practitioners/organisations working with young refugees and migrants and will constitute the content of a Learning, Teaching and Training Activity to be delivered to partner organisations.

Practice collected by Academy of Entrepreneurship

STEP REPRESENTED IN THE VALUE CHAIN FOR SELF-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

(please select 1 or more field in which the practice can be considered as representative. It is important to select the prior field, but others can be selected as secondary)

- A. Competence assessment of young migrants/refugees**
- B. Training on self-entrepreneurship**
- C. Mentoring scheme**
- D. Informative campaign**
- E. Networking activities**
- F. Support to access financing/social financing**
- G. Other: (specify) _____**



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GENERAL “TECHNICAL” INFORMATION

TITLE:	Athens Solidarity centre
COUNTRY:	Greece
TYPE OF INITIATIVE:	<i>service</i>
ACTORS:	<i>SolidarityNow</i>
BUDGET:	n/a
FINANCING SOURCE:	EEA Grants
DURATION:	On-going
DATE /YEAR:	2014-today
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:	<i>National (Athens and Thessaloniki)</i>
SDG COVERED:	8. Decent work and economic growth
SOURCE:	https://www.solidaritynow.org/en/kentro-allileggiis-athinas/ https://youtu.be/KcyTjkNx8nw (in Greek) https://www.solidaritynow.org/en/employability_pr/
MOTIVATION/SELECTION CRITERIA:	Athens Solidarity Center offers a comprehensive set of services to refugees, migrants and Greeks who are in need.



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“CONTENT” INFORMATION

ADDRESSED NEEDS (VALUE/MAIN GOAL):	To facilitate migrants’ and refugees’ integration in Greece
TARGET POPULATION/BENEFICIARY:	Migrants and refugees in Greece, vulnerable Greeks
LOCAL CONTEXT:	<i>High unemployment rate in the area, difficult integration for refugees and immigrants living in Greece</i>
SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE/MODEL:	<p>The Center’s doors opened in December of 2014 and since then the Center is an exemplary best practice of cooperation between a public stakeholder (Athens Municipality), the local civil society and institutional funding bodies, such as the EEA Grants, that have supported the Center’s operation since its launch in 2014 until April of 2016.</p> <p>The Center follows an “open door policy” which means that it welcomes all regardless of nationality, origin, sexual orientation, religious or political belief. The only criterion that the Center has is vulnerability. The Center continues to serve hundreds who are in need on a daily basis, offering free services such as social, psychological, legal aid, employability counseling and accounting services. Supported languages are Greek, English, French, Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi & Urdu.</p> <p>The Solidarity centers in Athens and Thessaloniki offer the <u>Employability Program</u> that includes job consulting services, online job search with the help of specialized consultants, team workshops, seminars and networking activities to strengthen the potential of the unemployed people from vulnerable groups to join the labor market.</p> <p>In the context of the employability program, each individual goes through a competences assessment and together with the consultants make an action plan to reach their goal. Info sessions are organized frequently, at an ad hoc basis, having as topics education/trainings, interview skills, entrepreneurship etc. with a duration of 2-5 hours. Such sessions organized in Solidarity Centers offer a great opportunity to participants to find answers to their questions, network with people from the local society and get in contact with supporting organizations depending on their needs.</p> <p>In this way, refugees and migrants have access to a variety of information that can help them to identify opportunities in local market, to learn the established mechanisms in Greece for various issues and are empowered to fix their new life out of their country.</p> <p>In period 2019-2021, Solidarity now and EEA grants implements the second phase of the partnership in order to expand the offered services</p>



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	in the provision of holistic support to persons in danger of social exclusion, their empowerment and re-integration in society.
MONITORING PROCESS:
IMPACT & RESULTS:	From 2014, more than 60.000 people have benefited from the services of the Athens Solidarity Centre.
SUSTAINABILITY/VIABILITY	<i>Given that the practice is taking place since 2014, the achieved impact on target population and the new phase of 2019-2021 depicts that this is a practice that creates an impact on beneficiaries' lives.</i>
SUCCESS FACTORS:	Number of people who benefited from the services, found a job or entered into self-entrepreneurship
NETWORKS/ACTORS SUPPORTING THE PRACTICE:	EEA Grants, Athens Municipality, HumanRights360, CROWE Greece, Open Society Foundations
ASSOCIATED RISKS:	Entrepreneurship is seen as 'step 2' in the integration process, the target population has in mind to cover first their basic needs through employment, asylum seekers are prohibited from establish their own company

Working methodology: onsite interview at SolidarityNow and desktop research

Notes for collectors:

1. Please, catalogue your practice in the file name as follows: Country acronym _ letter of the value chain represented _ nr. of the practice _ name of the practice. (e.g. SE_A_1_aaa). This will support in the reporting phase.
2. Please indicate the working methodology used to collect the practice (e.g. interviews, web research, direct compiling of selected organisation, etc.)