



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

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Newsletter



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης & Ασύλου



## Refugee Week in Athens #OloiMiaKypseli

HELIOS in association with its implementing partners and other NGOs, organizations and artists, honored World Refugee Day by co-organizing the open event #OloiMiaKypseli at Kypseli Municipal Market. During the event, migrant, refugee, and local residents participated in a series of activities and workshops focusing on well-being, environmental sustainability, and the harmonious coexistence within the community. The list of interactive workshops that were held included: Sustainable Fashion & Woodblock Printing, Upcycling paper, Group painting, Slam poetry, Fast fashion and its impact on the environment and humanity, Interlingual space games and traditional Greek and Iranian dances. The activities were followed by a concert with the female vocal group Pleiades and Bugarabu Percussion. The event was part of the cultural festival "Refugee Week Greece 2022"

and was carried in collaboration with the ANKAA Project, Amancaya Create, Caritas Hellas, the Community Psychosocial Workforce program of EPAPSY in collaboration with UNHCR, Diversity United, KEAN, SolidarityNow, We4All, the Greek Council for Refugees, METAdrasi and the street magazine "Shedia". During the same event, a Conversation Café was organized in cooperation with Greek Council for Refugees, METAdrasi, and Caritas Hellas. HELIOS beneficiaries attending the Integration courses had the opportunity to discuss with their educators and classmates in a designated area of the market about Healing, the beauty of the environment, and how humans can claim their well-being as part of the wider world. After a fruitful conversation, students created collages expressing and highlighting the inseparable relationship between humanity and nature.



# Refugee Week in Heraklion Game Changer

A series of four inclusive and diverse events were organized last month in Heraklion by HELIOS in the framework of Refugee Week Greece 2022. The “Game Changer | Ta Pano Kato” event invited Heraklion inhabitants in a playful and joyful happening at Georgiades Park. During the event, HELIOS beneficiaries, migrants, and locals participated in interactive fun games and activities and passed along the message of solidarity and hope. The event was co-organized by HELIOS, Heraklion Municipality, DEPANAL, Crete E-Fantasy, PLOIGOS and the Heraklion Development Agency S.A. - ESTIA project, while it was supported by the Region of Crete and the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of Heraklion. A guided visit to the Heraklion Archaeological Museum also attracted the attention of HELIOS beneficiaries, migrants and refugees who were introduced to the local heritage of Crete. The visit was co - organized by HELIOS, Heraklion Municipality, PLOIGOS and the Heraklion Development Agency S.A. - ESTIA program and was supported by the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of Heraklion. The third event was a workshop on Women’s Empowerment at the

premises of the Social Space of the A. & M. Kalokairinos Foundation, in which HELIOS beneficiaries, refugees, migrant and local women were informed on local services, structures and legal framework on women’s empowerment, gender equality and combating gender-based violence. The workshop was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the Women’s Counseling Center of Heraklion, the Shelter for Women of the Municipality of Heraklion, the Domestic Violence Department of the Heraklion Police Directorate and PLOIGOS, with the support of the Kalokairinos Foundation, Heraklion Municipality, the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of Heraklion and the Region of Crete. HELIOS beneficiaries, refugees and migrants also had the opportunity to explore Heraklion city through theater, music and play in an educational and interactive workshop titled “The Narration of a City: A Common Place”. The latter workshop was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the Historical Museum of Crete and the Social Space of the A. & M. Kalokairinos Foundation.



## Together towards Sustainable Fashion in Athens

A series of 1 theoretical and 6 practical workshops on sustainable fashion have been organized in the last quarter in Athens by HELIOS in association with Solidarity for Fashion youth initiative and the ANKAA project. During these interactive workshops, HELIOS beneficiaries, migrants and other local residents explored together how climate change mitigation is achieved through sustainable fashion and participated in thematic team-building activities while also developing their skills in tailoring. One additional open workshop on “Sustainable Fashion & Woodblock Printing” took place during the “Oloi Mia Kipseli” event that was organized on the occasion of Refugee Week 2022 at Kypseli Municipal Market, whereby We4All also delivered a presentation on the topic of “Fast Fashion and its impact on the environment and humans”.



## Together We Keep Our Coasts Clean - Starting from Piraeus!

HELIOS beneficiaries, migrant and local residents passed along their own message of cooperation for the protection of the environment by participating in the voluntary cleaning of Votsalakia beach in Piraeus that took place last month. The environmental action was organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the Municipality of Piraeus and the Council for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees, and with the support of We4All. The event took place under the auspices of this year's celebration of "Imeres Thalassas 2022" (Sea Days 2022) and on the occasion of the World Environment Day and was honored

by the presence of the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms. S. Voultepsi, the Mayor of Piraeus Mr. G. Moralis and the Deputy Mayor of Piraeus, Mr. D. Karydis. The event was also actively attended by Social EKAB, the ZEUXIS Hostel, other beneficiaries of IOM, as well as members of the Greek America Corps 2022 initiative. World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5th, is the main UN event since 1972 aiming to raise awareness globally regarding the environmental challenges that humanity is faced with.



## New Arabic Section in Trikala's Municipality Library

HELIOS worked together with the Library of Trikala Municipality to open a Section with books in Arabic. The inauguration of the new library's section was organized in collaboration with Trikala Municipality and with the assistance of e-trikala SA on the related occasion of the World Children's Book Day with this year's message being "Stories are wings that help you fly high every day". The event included the narration of the fairy tale "The three little goats and the giant" by an interpreter, a discussion on the role of books in integration, a tour of the library by the staff and an explanation of how to borrow books through lending cards. On their departure the children received gifts from the library, Greek books and drawing pads with markers in a school bag. As the Mayor mentioned during the event, "knowledge is power and it will be our pleasure for refugee children to come and borrow books in Arabic and Greek to open their wings to make dreams".

## Trainings on “Understanding Migration and Interacting with Third Country Nationals” in Lamia, Livadeia and Chalkida

Three trainings on the topic of “Understanding migration and interacting with Third Country Nationals” were held by HELIOS in Lamia, Livadeia and Chalkida in collaboration with the respective Municipalities of each region. Participants from each Municipality and from other associated local and public services that interact with migrants and refugees, explored the concepts related to human rights and migration and were introduced to aspects of intercultural communication.



## Training on Anti-trafficking in Katerini

HELIOS, in collaboration with the National Center for Social Solidarity (NCSS) - National Reporting Mechanism for the Protection of victims of trafficking (NRM), A21 and the Municipality of Katerini, organized a training on Anti-trafficking in Katerini at Ekavi Cultural Center. The workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Municipality to provide more inclusive and accessible social services for migrant and refugee victims of trafficking. Holistic practices in the areas of integration, social cohesion and protection were explored during the seminar. Importantly, identification was recognized as the first step to deal with the phenomenon, followed by being aware of the referral mechanism and the specific pathways already established.



## Workshop on Human Rights at schools in Larissa and Livadeia

Migrant and local children enrolled in Larissa's 18th and 37th and Livadeia's 4th Public Primary Schools had the opportunity to learn about human rights in interactive and informative school sessions that were organized by HELIOS in collaboration with the respective schoolteachers. Diversity, multiculturalism, and migration were the primary themes explored during the sessions, empowering the children's solidarity and inclusion spirit, while combating discriminatory behaviors based on country of origin, physical appearance, or other characteristics. The sessions were included to the school syllabus under the thematic “Skills Development”, as defined by the Greek Ministry of Education, using Council of Europe's “Compasito” certified tool for education on human rights.



## Raising Awareness on Menstrual Hygiene in Katerini

11-18 y.o. female HELIOS beneficiaries from Katerini and its surroundings had the opportunity to learn more about Menstrual Hygiene during a dedicated event that was held by HELIOS in collaboration with, the Municipality of Katerini and the Hellenic Red Cross. During the workshop, that took place at the Cultural Center of Katerini Municipality, participants were informed about the basic facts linked to the menstrual cycle and how to manage it with dignity and without discomfort or fear.



## Entrepreneurship Workshop in Athens

A 4- day entrepreneurship workshop was held by HELIOS at the Impact Hub in Athens in April, that covered topics such as producing a business idea and creating a business plan, registering a business, promoting services or products, and managing finances. The workshop was organized to help develop core entrepreneurial skills and gain basic knowledge on what is needed to establish and run a business. The workshop was attended by 21 HELIOS beneficiaries, who were enthusiastic and eager to contribute in the workshop's exercises with their ideas, concerns and solutions, learning about this topic that can open the doors to more opportunities for them in the country.



## Career4All in Heraklion and Karditsa

Two Career4All events were organized by HELIOS in May - one in Karditsa's Municipality Market, in collaboration with AN.KA S.A. and one in Heraklion's Cultural Conference Center, in collaboration with the Municipality of Heraklion and with the support of the Migrant Integration Center, the Refugee Integration Council, the Heraklion Development Agency and PLOIGOS. During the two events, more than 270 HELIOS beneficiaries and other migrant and local participants, had the opportunity to interview with more than 27 companies and learn from other relevant and specialized organizations and NGOs regarding their labor rights and related

employability aspects. At the same time, local actors and companies were informed in IOM's dedicated sessions concerning the rights of migrants and refugees in the labor market and the procedures related to recruiting migrants and refugees. In parallel with the event in Heraklion, a digital conference was held, whereby speakers from local companies and related actors provided information on the labor market in Crete, relevant available work opportunities and the customary recruitment procedures. The conference was supported with direct interpretation in English, Farsi, French and Arabic.

# Employability event and field visit in Lesvos

In June following HELIOS's continuous efforts to link employers with beneficiaries of international protection who are seeking employment, a 3-day event was organized at the RIC of Mavrovouni to promote available work opportunities to refugees and migrants, giving them the opportunity to meet with representatives from companies in the hospitality and fishery sectors and interview with them. A total of 54 HELIOS beneficiaries attended and interviewed with the companies that were present. In addition, a field visit was organized to the structure of the fish farm in Lesvos, during which attendees were introduced to the work processes and conditions on-site.



## Important changes in the HELIOS project

Following relevant coordination with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in order to effectively support the refugees who fled from Ukraine due to the war, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are henceforth included in the eligible target group of the project. Specifically, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are entitled to receive all project services, including Integration Courses, Accommodation, Employability, and comprehensive Integration Monitoring support.

At the same time, the project continues to support Beneficiaries of International Protection (Recognized refugees and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection), as it has been doing since July 2019 until today. Important changes have been introduced regarding the monthly subsidies provided to all HELIOS beneficiaries, which have been increased by an average of approximately 30% compared to the previous monthly amounts, as well as

extended in duration for all beneficiaries to 12 months, which differs from the previous entitlement that lasted for 6-12 months.

IOM welcomes these changes and crucial developments in increasing the integration prospects of all HELIOS beneficiaries in Greece and acknowledges the support and dedication of the Ministry in looking together for solutions that can adequately respond to the needs of the population affected by the war in Ukraine.

