Refugee Initiatives in AUTh: The case of OLIve WP

Ioanna Kostarella, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications







REIs 2: The project

• Refugee education initiatives (REIs 2) runs education programs for refugees and asylum seekers in Austria, Hungary, the United Kingdom and Greece.

REIs 2: The Consortium

- Central European University
- University of Vienna
- University of East London
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

REIs 2: The project

- Through classroom based learning, the REIs program aims to provide people with refugee or asylum seeker status the skills or step-up needed to enter into higher education or skilled employment in Europe.
- REIs programs are run through **Open Learning Initiatives (OLIve)** faculty and student led offices at the Central European University, the University of Vienna, the University of East London and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

OLIve Programs

- Two types of OLIve programs:
- WP Weekend Program
- OLIve University Preparatory Program (OLIve UP)
- Developed from learning at CEU where the programs were first started and adapted to the different national contexts.

OLIve WP

• OLIve-Weekend Program is a non-degree university program for refugee students, with aim to prepare students to take advantage of employment opportunities and to support their further study plans in their countries of residence through intensive language learning and professionally and academically oriented courses.

OLIve WP in Thessaloniki

- Started on 18th May 2019 as a pilot programme of 6 weeks
- 2 months period of preparation
- Process of recruitment
- Design of the curriculum
- Selection of the instructors

The situation in Thessaloniki

- Many women and children living around Thessaloniki city in camps and apartments are struggling. For refugees and asylum seekers existing resources, housing and cash support, as well as support offered by NGO's is insufficient, and will soon diminish.
- The situation is more difficult for women than men, as they are less likely to have built skills and connections outside of camp communities, and are less likely to have worked or undertook training in their home countries.



Irida

Our main tank of recruitment has been Irida, a Multicultural Women's Centre Ìrida is a Greek word meaning spectrum or every shade of colour that makes up light.

Design of Curriculum

- Three course strands: Academic strand, English language skills, Skills and Capacity Building
- Track's structure
- English Basic & Elementary
- Greek language and culture Basic & Elementary
- IT Skills
- Communication Skills
- Individual consulting



English skills class

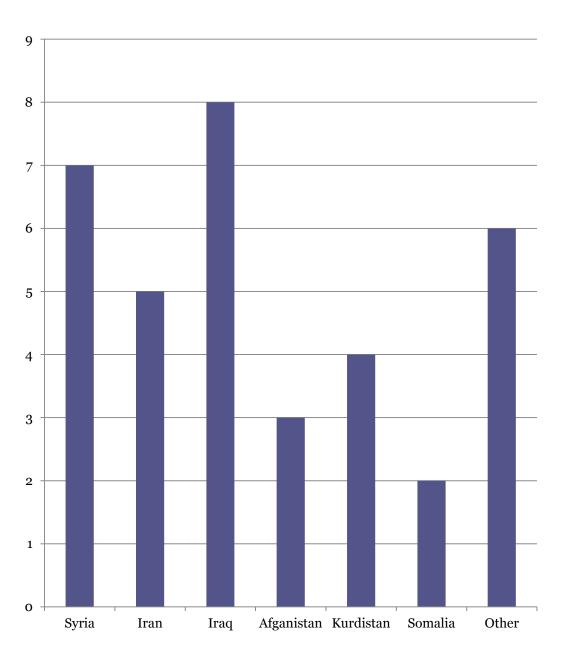


IT Skills class

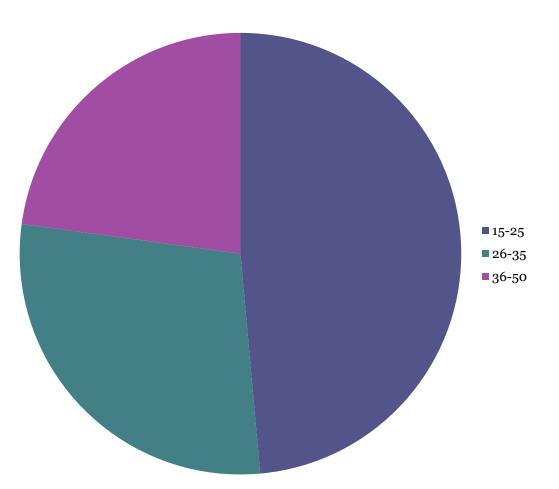


Our instructors

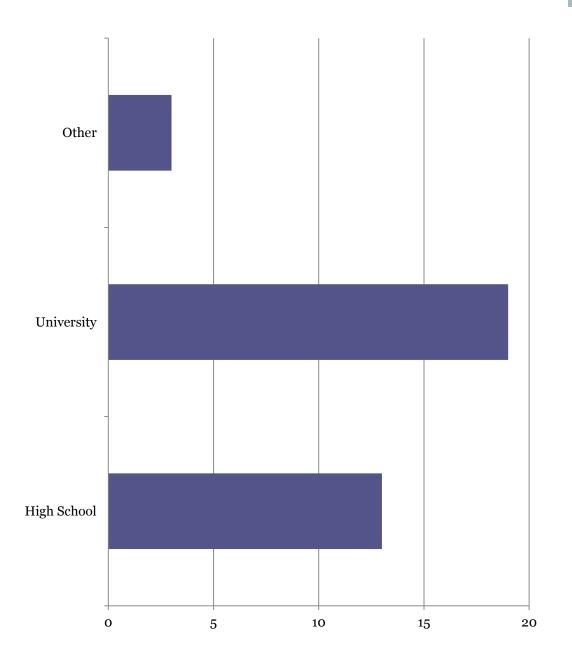
Experts in their fields (language learning, IT, entrepreneurship, communication) with experience in intercultural education.



Nationality of participants as stated by them



Age of participants



Education of participants

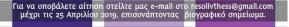
Dissemination and Networking

- Dissemination through social media, networking channels, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc
- Networking and creating points of communication

Flyers

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΙΑΤΙΚΌ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΝΟΙΧΤΗΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΒΟΥΛΙΑΣ ΜΑΘΗΣΗΣ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΩΝ & ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΩΝ

Είσαι μετανάστης ή πρόσφυγας και θέλεις να μάθεις ελληνικά, αγγλικά, υπολογιστές, ή πώς να κάνεις το βιογραφικό σου; Για πρώτη φορά, το Σαββατιάτικο Πρόγραμμα της Ανοιχτής Πρωτοβουλίας Μάθησης θα «τρέξει» στη Θεσσαλονίκη και θα προσφέρει την ευκαιρία σε όσους θέλουν να αποκτήσουν πρόσβαση σε βασικές δεξιότητες, εντελώς δωρεάν. Το πρόγραμμα διοργανώνεται από το Τμήμα Δημοσιογραφίας και ΜΜΕ του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης και θα διεξαχθεί στις εγκαταστάσεις του.







OPEN LEARNING INITIATIVE WEEKEND PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Are you an immigrant or a refugee and want to learn Greek, English, computers, or how to prepare your CV? For the first time, the Open Learning Initiative's Weekend Program will take place in Thessaloniki and offer the opportunity for those who want, to gain access to basic skills, completely free of charge. The program is organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Media of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and will be held at its premises.







To apply, please send us an email at resolivthess@gmail.com by April 25, 2019, simply enclosing a CV.







Impediments (program specific)

- Our first program coincided with the Ramadan.
- The low level of spoken English of the participants has been in some cases a considerable barrier for their communication.

Impediments (country specific)

- The fact that refugees see Greece as a transit country.
- Entry to higher education at the level of undergraduate studies in Greece is a process operated by the Ministry of Education.
- Ministerial Decision F.151/20049/B6/20.02.2007 (FEK 272B/01-03-07), as modified and in effect today
- Foreign students can fall into the special categories of candidates that can be admitted to Higher Education in Greece, on condition that neither the candidates themselves nor their parents have the Greek nationality or citizenship. Those candidates submit their documents to the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs and fill in the candidate's application entry form, stating the Faculties and the Departments they prefer.

Where we are standing now

- Preparation of our first report on the pilot WP program
- Design of our next program to start on September
- Networking with relevant actors in Greece

The most precious feedback

Yela Gas - Hello - I'm So glad to teached me computer- also I had a great time with you . I learned how can I used computer so Its

so great for

me Hello

Ferse thing I want to tell you
THANK YOU So much for
everythink

I learn more than iknow about 9.00 gel. In your class i learned in formation at the google.

Now i can we google for what I want \$

Thank you for your attention!