

an innovative community and hosting center for refugees



- ✓ *Hosting and Integration of refugees*
- ✓ *Active participation*
- ✓ *Empowerment*
- ✓ *Connection with the local community*
- ✓ *Win-Win approach*



ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥΡΙΣΤΙΚΗΣ
ΠΡΟΒΟΛΗΣ
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ



Σε συνεργασία με την
Υπάτη Αρμοστεία του Ο.Η.Ε
για τους Πρόσφυγες (UNHCR)
και τη χρηματοδότηση
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης



a dream based on reality

- About 45.000 refugees blocked in Greece
- Infrastructure and hosting conditions do not cover their basic needs in many cases
- Policies on integration and social inclusion are missing at the moment
- Refugees rely on NGOs and solidarity networks

Urgent need to:

- ✓ provide proper shelter
- ✓ support social structures
- ✓ use good practices for social inclusion





what is it?



“Welcome in common” Not only for the refugees, but also, with the participation of the refugees (in common)

An initiative of Anemos Ananeosis / Wind of Renewal (WoR) with the contribution of the communities of refugees and migrants: Greek Forum of Migrants, Union of Syrians in Greece, Greek Forum of Refugees, etc

A cooperation between **WoR** and the **Athens Development and Destination Management Agency**, in the framework of the **UNHCR's** relocation project for 2016 and, we hope, for 2017

A solution for the benefit of both the local population and the refugees



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Our structure

WELCOMMON presently employs 30 professionals in the following areas:

Administration / Management / Secretarial support

Reception

Interpretation / cultural mediation

Social and psychological support

Primary health care / social clinic/ nurse

Midwife

Building maintenance

Human resources

Education/training/capacity building

Security

Familiar with refugees issues

Some of them long term unemployed





for the benefit of refugees and the local society

Welcommon offers

To the **refugees**:



To the **local society**:

- ✓ decent-safe accommodation, food and cover for basic needs
- ✓ Psycho-social support
- ✓ care for the children and the most vulnerables
- ✓ social integration
- ✓ cultural training/artistic workshops, visits to art exhibitions, parks...

- ✓ jobs (30 at the moment)
- ✓ professional training
- ✓ professional specialization
- ✓ a boost to the local market
- ✓ social innovation
- ✓ cooperation between Greek and other European initiatives, institutions, universities, local authorities





the building

A former clinic of 3.200 sq. meters (7+ floors)

In the centre of Athens (Exarchia)

Easy access to public transportation (buses, METRO, underground train)

Avoidance of marginalization of the guests.

The WELCOMMON building was overhauled in August and September 2016 and welcomed the first guests in **October 2016**. At the moment, we are hosting about 150 refugees, many of them children (70%), accompanied mainly by one parent.

We can host 170-195 refugees in family-based separate rooms



...Renovation of the building

It was a hard but creative work!

But, we did it thanks to the support of many (greek, german etc) volunteers, professionals, and donators.

Checked and repaired
the electric and hydraulic system,
heating and cooling system

Painting and cleaning of the whole building (3200 m2)

Installation of wi-fi network



The building before...



Renovation of the building (2)

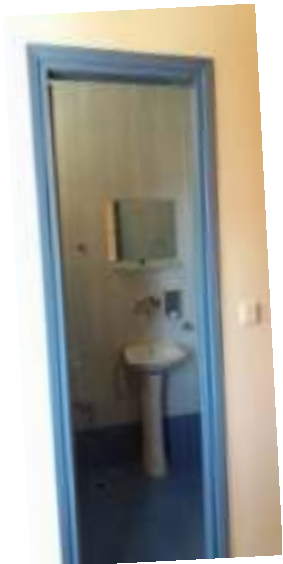


Renovation of the building 3



WIND of RENEWAL/ANEMOS ANANEOSIS

The building now...





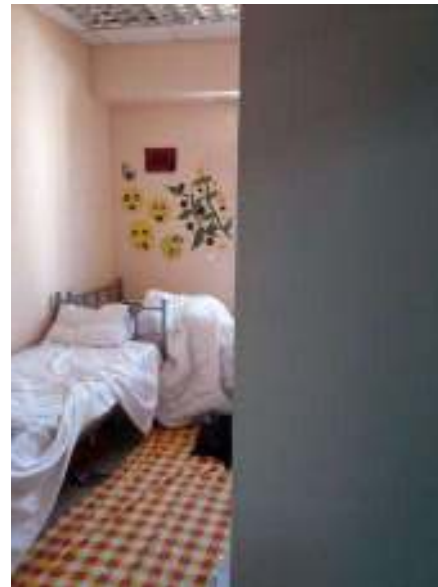
acomodation, food and clothes

Accomodation for 150-195 refugees for a maximum of 12 months in 66 rooms (most of them with WC inside)

Guests are selected by the **UNHCR**, in the with priority given to the most **vulnerable groups**, such as **pregnant women, victims of torture and rape, families with many children, the elderly, handicapped, people with serious health problems.**

Additional facilities for gatherings, tutorials, artistic activities etc.

Food, in line with the guests' nutritional requirements and habits (e.g., age, state of health, religion)





acomodation and food



sewing machines washing machines

Guests can use

- the sewing machines to repair their clothes
- the washing machines and driers to wash them





health and socio-psychological issues

Socio-Psychological support is provided by 3 social workers and 1 psychologist

Primary health care provided by a **nurse** and by doctors hired by the Athens Development and Destination Management Agency for its refugees program, as well as by a network of Arab-speaking volunteer doctors, of various specializations, with respect to the cultural and religious sensitivities of the refugees.

We have also hired a **midwife** because we host many babies and pregnant women

Organization of medical records

Assistance in case of urgent health needs

All of our guests had the Mantoux test (for tuberculosis) and several other tests needed

Vaccination of all children, according to the greek legislation, so they can participate in formal education systems (school or nursery structures).







We are hosting the most vulnerable persons from a vulnerable group/refugees: victims of torture and rape, persons with disabilities or serious health problems (eg cancer, HIV) many pregnant women, single-parent families with many children, refugees and children of wars suffering from trauma, and high psychological pressure, 13 newborn since Dec 2016). We have to care about their different needs relating to health issues and their access to health care , socio-psychological services





But many children are out of the educational system for many years...





We organize much more, with the participation of children and adults...





Empowerment – training – education

Enrolment in the Greek formal education system:

Very important, not only for gaining knowledge and skills but also for their social life in the future and their adaptation to social realities.

Before they begin attending school classes, we provide them with the health checks and vaccinations necessary, according to Greek legislation.

Non-formal education, training and empowerment with social skills:

Classes for language learning (Arabic, Greek, English, German)

Workshops for painting, music, dance, sports activities, ceramics with the help of volunteers and the cooperation with specialists, sports clubs and other experienced organizations.

Parents empowerment: to be fully able to take proper care of their children, offering them a place for gradual rehabilitation as well as social, psychological and pedagogical support.

This takes time and needs more human and financial resources which we are lacking at the moment.





Language and other lessons





Painting, music, dance, artistic work are also basic needs...





Visits to galleries & participation in artistic workshops...

Painting exhibitions in WElcommon





Music and theatre are also basic needs...





Learning from each other,
learning the common cultures





It is not only about food and bed but also about games...







Visits to parks, environmental education and sports in the nature



Cooperation



Our aim is to provide basic knowledge, skills and capabilities similar to those provided by the formal education and additional social skills through **creative activities and innovative learning methods** such as:

- IT Workshop and e-learning
- live music nights
- several artistic classes
- cinema nights both for kids and adults

We have established a structured cooperation with other european oranisations and institutions for exchange of experiences, study visits. good practises, sending volunteers and practitioners, Erasmus plus (Respect for Greece, mSocial, ACSAR fundation, Daarmstand Hoch Schule, etc)

Many organisations from all over the world visit us to see our model center or make researces (UNICEF, UNHCR, World Bank, Universities, mass media, NGOs, cooperatives, municipalities, MEPs, political groups, social groups etc)

We have started a good cooperation with greek schools which they visit us or we organize projects in cooperation

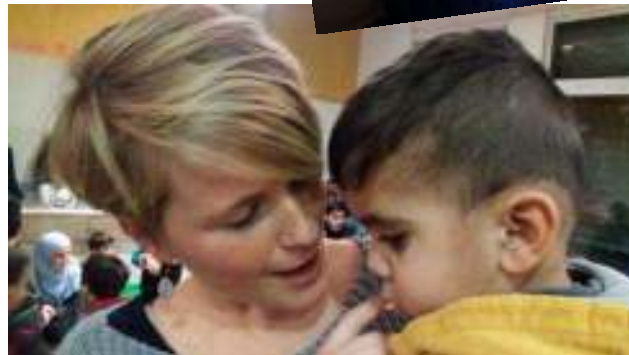
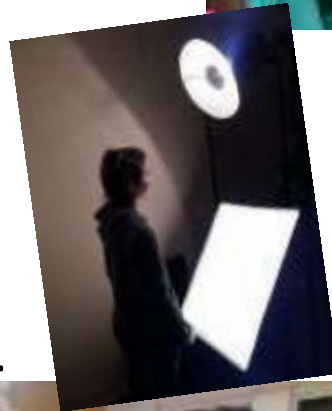
We need more human and financial resources in order to be able to offer such services to all the children.

Therefore we are seeking foundations and citizens who would like to support our plan.



Our volunteers

WELCOMMON can host in-house about 12 volunteers for a period of 2 weeks to 4 months from all over the world. Until now more than 90 volunteers (from Greece, Germany, Cataluña, USA, etc) have supported our work concerning non-formal education, language lessons, creative activities, tutoring, excursions, environmental education, photography and painting lessons, practical works.





In the near future WELCOMMON aims:

- **To offer opportunities for employment**, by tapping the skills and aptitudes mainly of the **asylum seekers** who will remain in Greece, through their participation and in collaboration with other organizations and agencies.
- **To create a database with the curriculum vitae of refugees**
- **To set up social enterprises** with the participation of Greeks and refugees/ immigrants, in the following areas:
 - Repair and reuse of clothing and footwear
 - Renting of various products,
 - Food and catering
- **To develop a network and permanent cooperation with similar initiatives and structures at regional, national and European level, for an exchange of experiences and good practices.**
- **We aspire to contribute not only to relief efforts but also in the form of social inclusion strategies and practices.** We would like to see a real change in the hosting policies implemented in our country and the development of a holistic strategy for the refugees in Greece.



Resources – fundraising - donations

Although the basic costs for hosting in WELCOMMON are 90% covered through the cooperation with the **Athens Development and Destination Management Agency**, and **UNHCR** in 2016 and 2017 many other costs are **not** covered by this grant.



Donations and more resources are absolutely necessary in order to promote activities not covered through the cooperation and to sustain the project long terms (2017-2020):

- ➔ social inclusion
- ➔ health services and materials
- ➔ training, welcome classes and creative activities (e.g. painting, music, photography lessons, dancing, sports, language lessons, capacity building etc.)
- ➔ environmental management, energy efficiency and the maintenance of the 3200 sq.m. building.
- ➔ including also asylum seekers (integration in job market)





Thank you!

www.anemosananeosis.gr

www.facebook.com/welcommon.gr

For donations:

ANEMOS ANANEOSIS / WIND OF RENEWAL

PIREAUS BANK BIC: PIRBGRAA

IBAN: GR83 0172 0180 0050 1807 7868 253

For WELCOMMON project



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