



MILE report on the constitution of the consultative bodies in Riga, Birmingham, Ripollet and Ioannina



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Introduction

In its second project year, MILE established four consultative mechanisms involving migrant participants in each partner municipality – Riga, Birmingham Ripollet and Ioannina. This activity was the result of continuous work of the municipalities, with support from the migrant organisations, research institutions, intercultural trainers and local policymakers. For all four municipalities, MILE provided a unique opportunity to explore new ways to involve newcomers and city residents with a migration background in local policymaking processes.

The experiences of the four municipalities are embedded in different contexts regarding their migration history, political landscape, current migrant population, culture of participation and participation structures in place. More detailed information on this can be found in the [MILE reports](#) produced in 2022. Along with the needs and priorities of the migrant communities explored during focus groups, coordination meetings and training, these analyses supporting the creation of the consultative mechanisms.

Moreover, through so-called 'Internal Committees of Supervisors', led by MILE research teams, municipalities were able to meet in person or online with their local partners on the MILE project who discussed and helped advance the development of the consultative mechanism and solve issues such as outreach, accessibility and sustainability.



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In **Riga**, we see a low level of political participation of the local population in general and even more so among newcomers. There are no migrant-led organisations, only organisations working with migrants or on the issues of migration and integration. Riga Municipality managed to use the MILE project as an opportunity to bring different organisations to one table and through them, encourage more migrants to get familiar with local policymaking in Riga and be part of the processes. The participants of the consultative mechanism in Riga were newcomers mostly from Ukraine and for the municipality, it was a priority to enhance their awareness around the different forms of participation in public life in Riga, and to introduce them to different organisations and institutions as future points of reference in their life in Riga.

In **Birmingham**, there are community and third sector organisations that advocate for migrants and refugees and are run by, or have in senior positions, people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The aim of the MILE consultative group was to get people involved who had not positioned themselves as community leaders, and usually lacked the opportunity to have their voices heard. This MILE consultative group was involved in the revision of the existing City of Sanctuary policy, the only council policy specific to migrants.

The “Participation Table of Migrant and Refugee Individuals” in **Ripollet** targeted people who had expressed the desire to be part of a city-level project, as well as with organisations and groups working for the inclusion of migrant and refugee individuals. The meetings were focussed on the discussion of the inclusion policies of the municipality and further steps have been indicated for the elaboration of such policy.

Ioannina based the work of the consultative mechanism within MILE project on the existing Migrant and Refugee Integration Council working since 2021. In order to ease the bureaucratic nature of this council, the MILE Mol Working Group was established, and informal meetings were conducted within the project.

1. Consultative body in Riga

General description of the consultative body

Riga Municipality created a consultative body consisting of migrants from Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, India, Canada and the US. Seven meetings of the consultative body took place in 2023 with the aim to introduce different areas of work of Riga Municipality and other social partners in which recently arrived migrants can take part in and contribute to the host society by their active participation.



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Establishment of the consultative body

The initial consultations with NGOs working with migrants served as a basis for the establishment of the consultative body in Riga. The topics related to the participation were proposed as a result of mutual discussion with experts/representatives of NGOs working with migrants and representatives of Riga Municipality, covering all possible forms of public participation in Riga:

- participation in NGO activities (in particular in NGOs working with migrants),
- participation in the life of the neighbourhoods,
- opportunities for voluntary work in Riga,
- opportunities for participation in Riga NGO House, opportunities for advocacy and human rights protection,
- opportunities for entrepreneurship
- opportunities for participation in the Consultative Board on Society Integration Issues of Riga City Council.

The questionnaire with the above-mentioned topics was sent to the target group at the beginning of January 2023. The newcomers were also invited to propose any other topic related to the participation issue in Riga. The questionnaire was available in English, Russian and Latvian. The results of the questionnaire served as a basis for the topics tackled during the meetings of the consultative body in Riga.

Content and governance of the consultative body

Six regular meetings of the consultative body took place within the project and the seventh was conducted in a form of a final event of the project, during which the participants of the consultative body and a wider range of stakeholders working with migration and integration issues were given an opportunity to reflect upon the work of the consultative body.

Preliminary Meeting and Establishment of Consultative Mechanism 07.10.2022

Preliminary meeting with organisations working with migrants. The meeting included participation from the Riga City Neighbourhood Residents Centre and representatives of the following organisations working with migrants has been organised: NGO "Providus", NGO "Shelter "Safe House"", NGO "Latvian Center for Human Rights". The meeting highlighted that the low level of participation of permanent inhabitants of Latvia (and Riga) in public processes does not foster the participation of the persons who arrived in Latvia recently. It is an open question what kind of migrant consultative mechanism can be established in Riga, how it can function and how the sustainability of such a mechanism can be ensured. Questions remain about communication channels with migrants - including interest groups, individuals and communities and



how to identify community leaders and work with them. Possibility to do research on newcomer organisations and informal groups.

Meeting with organisations working with migrants 06.12.2022

Another meeting with organisations working with migrants has been organised in order to discuss the preliminary topics to be tackled during the functioning of the consultative body in Riga. The topics proposed cover all possible forms of public participation in Riga: participation in the NGO activities (in particular in NGOs working with migrants), participation in the life of the neighbourhoods, opportunities for voluntary work in Riga, opportunities for participation in Riga NGO House, opportunities for advocacy and human rights protection, opportunities for entrepreneurship and opportunities for participation in the Consultative Board on Society Integration Issues of Riga City Council. These topics to be agreed with the newcomers prior to the beginning of the functioning of the consultative body in Riga.

First meeting with Newcomers 22.02.2023

The series of consultative and informative meetings with the newcomers of Riga began. The topic of the first meeting was “Opportunities for participation in the activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Riga. Getting to know Migrant NGOs as driving force of inclusion and participation of newcomers”. Information about the MILE project, within the framework of which meetings are organized, was presented to the audience and the outline of topics planned in the series of meetings has been provided. Acquaintance with the local NGOs took place, information about their work related to migration issues, newcomer support and interest representation activities was provided, possible forms of participation have been explored with the representatives of the following organisations: association "Make Room Europe", association "I want to help refugees", association "FreeBelarus", association "AIESEC Latvia" and association “Dialogu nams”. The participants were also introduced to the one-stop agency for third country nationals managed by Society Integration Foundation. There were about 20 participants present at the meeting, majority from Ukraine and most of them arrived as a result of the war in 2022. The participants were very active, they have established informal links among themselves and were interested in taking active part during the upcoming meetings.

Second Meeting with Newcomers 28.03.2023.

The topic of the second meeting was “Neighbourhoods of Riga and opportunities for participation” and it took place in the premises of Riga Central Library. Information about Riga Central Library was provided with a focus on the library as the community center in different neighbourhoods of Riga, where the newcomers not only can get a book, but also receive informative support on more vital issues. During the meeting we have explored the notion of “neighbourhood” in Riga, got acquainted with neighbourhood coordinators and their work, discovered what the Neighbourhood



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Residents Center is, talked about participatory budget, learned about participation activities in different neighbourhoods and opportunities to get involved in the activities of neighbourhood associations, such as Jugla neighbourhood association and Agenskalns neighbourhood association. Lively discussion at the end of the meeting helped to understand that there are similar initiatives in Ukraine, but it seems that in Riga these initiatives are being conducted in a more transparent way. The participants were interested in joining the Facebook groups of their neighbourhoods and to follow the work of Riga with the help of neighbourhood coordinators.

Third Meeting with Newcomers 13.03.2023.

The topic of the third meeting was “The Discrimination – how to identify and where to report?” and it was conducted in cooperation with the Latvian Human Rights Center. During the meeting we discussed what discrimination is, how to distinguish it from other violations of rights, what are the types of discrimination and in which areas it occurs most often. We also discussed special forms of discrimination - hate crimes and hate speech. Participants were informed about what to do in different situations when faced with discrimination, where to report or seek help. During the seminar the participants had a chance to ask questions related to the topic to of the seminar the lawyers of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and share their experience.

Fourth Meeting with Newcomers 26.04.2023.

The fourth meeting took place at the Riga Support Centre for Ukrainian Residents and it was dedicated to the exploring the essence (and meaning) of voluntary work as well as about the opportunities for voluntary work in Riga - both in the Municipality and in non-governmental organizations, where to look for voluntary work and what are the most important conditions to be considered. The participants got to know different organizations working with volunteers and it was also possible to listen to the story of a newcomer's experience of volunteering while organizing aid to Ukraine.

Fifth Meeting with Newcomers 25.05.2023.

The fifth meeting took place at Riga NGO House. During the meeting the participants learned what the NGO House is, what its mission is, what is happening there and what non-governmental organizations are doing there. The participants also heard and saw what the NGO house, a point of support, contact and education for NGOs, offers to non-governmental organizations of Riga and how, in their turn, non-governmental organizations foster the participation of the grassroots - residents of Riga of all generations, professions and nationalities. Guests were invited to participate in a tour and take a look at the premises of the NGO House, see the exhibitions and to get acquainted with two non-governmental organizations and their experience of working in the NGO House.

Sixth Meeting with Newcomers 14.06.2023.

The sixth meeting on the topic “Opportunities for entrepreneurship in Riga” took place at the Riga Investment and Tourism agency. During the meeting the participants were able to learn about entrepreneurship opportunities and support programmes in Riga,



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understand what social entrepreneurship is, as well as get to know organizations that provide support to entrepreneurs and listen to several interesting examples of startup companies in Riga. The participants were able to learn about the priorities of work of the Riga Investment and Tourism Agency, as well as about social entrepreneurship and possible support, provided by the Latvian Social Entrepreneurship Association. There was also an opportunity to get acquainted with the non-governmental organizations that promote entrepreneurship and provide assistance to young entrepreneurs: "Make room Europe" and "NewDoor". One newcomer-entrepreneur shared his experience of establishing and operating companies in Riga - related to Bollywood cinema.

Seventh Meeting with Newcomers 01.11.2023.

The seventh meeting of the consultative body served also as the final, local event of the project. All migrants were invited and also local social actors were present - NGOs working with migration issues, Ministry of Culture (responsible for integration policy on state level), Society Integration Foundation (responsible for functioning of a One Stop Shop - Integration and Inclusion Agency for foreigners) and neighbourhood coordinators. Vice mayor Linda Ozola was present during the event. The participants were reminded about the activities of the consultative body and immigrants together with other participants were given an opportunity to think about the further steps by working on the following questions in small groups:

- How would I like/plan to get involved in the life of the municipality, taking into account what I heard during previous 6 meetings?
- What kind of barriers prevent me from getting involved?
- What are the next steps for me and for the municipality so that I can get involved in the life of the municipality?

The following ideas were expressed:

- local municipal elections and opportunities for involvement in them, the need for information about elections and political parties in foreign languages;
- involvement in neighbourhood activities and associations as bridges between the municipality and NGOs,
- the possibility of applying for municipal funding - the need to grant funding for different NGOs in order to involve newcomers in their activities,
- the opportunity for newcomers to register their own NGOs and potentially get involved in the Advisory Council on Society Integration Issues of the municipality;
- the need for up-to-date information in foreign languages about events taking place in the city;
- a suggestion was made to organise a "Foreigners' Day" initiative

- knowledge of Latvian language is undeniably a barrier, because learning it does not go so quickly, it would be good if 3-5 years were given to learn the language at the highest level.
- It was recognized that there is a lack of information about the structure, lawyers with whom one could meet, gain information and further use it. The next steps include learning the Latvian language, many are already learning it. There are problems with learning the Latvian language for children, it would be good if there was funding for the educational program and it is a pity that the Ukrainian school has limited capacity.

It was recognized that there is a great lack of regular events to attract foreigners, these six meetings were significant and had a positive impact on integration, there would be a great desire to continue such meetings.

Achievements of the consultative body by the end of the project

After six meetings of the consultative body took place an **evaluation questionnaire** has been distributed to 16 participants who have attended more than two meetings. Eleven responses have been received. In general, the contents of the meetings has been evaluated positively and most of the respondents found the topics raised during the meeting as useful, informative and very interesting. Respondents confirmed that there were moments where they could apply the acquired knowledge. Some of them highlighted that information on entrepreneurship has become a great base for further research. One person was happy to discover the Central Library and the books in Ukrainian language available there. The participants have stressed out that such events could be also conducted for a wider audience. The idea of the “Foreigner Day” could be introduced on a regular basis, during which the foreigners could meet with the representatives of the municipality, state institutions and NGOs in order to exchange experience and knowledge.

During the seventh meeting and final local event, participants highlighted that these meetings with municipality were extremely useful for them and the following main takeaways were indicated:

- “It was useful to have official (= verified) information about different possibilities within the same project.”
- “Organised meetings with very useful information.”
- “Riga has many different resources that people can use for their needs and work. Riga is very open to any cooperation. The first rule is to be proactive and take advantage of opportunities!”
- “Rīga is willing to have these conversations. I hope they continue!”
- “Riga Municipality is trying to find an opportunity to integrate newcomers from third countries, to provide information, etc., and some things are even working.”



- “Very useful information for the integration of foreign residents in the functioning of the city and country in general.”

Lessons learned/main challenges

In general, there was a very positive experience during this first attempt of Riga to involve immigrants in the bureaucratic machine of the municipality. The issue of the language appeared to be acute as most of the migrants, who participated during the meeting were newly arrived (mostly arrived from Ukraine as a consequence of the war) with zero or very little knowledge of Latvian language, but with a knowledge of Russian language. Some representatives were English-speakers with or without Latvian language skills. As a result, all meetings were conducted in two languages - English and Russian with consecutive translation and a member of the staff of the project ensured this service.

Another challenge was the different level of knowledge of the aspects of living in Latvia and about the participation issues. While most of the Ukrainian participants had quite limited knowledge of life in Riga and participation issues, some English-speakers were more advanced in this regard. Despite this aspect representatives of both groups were happy about the amount of useful information they have discovered.

A challenge was also to find migrants interested in leading advocacy initiatives and potentially becoming community leaders. This depends largely on the availability and motivation of the migrants to be more involved at a community level and would need more time for the municipality to reach them. The involvement of community leaders who have been living in Riga for some time and are planning to stay, with some ability of Latvian language, seems to be a crucial step in promoting the participation of migrants in local decision-making.

Further steps planned after the end of the project/sustainability of the consultative mechanism after the end of the project

The cooperation with the organisations working with migrants is planned to continue, for example by inviting them to join the existing Consultative Board on Society Integration Issues of Riga City Council to represent the groups they work with. The constant dialogue with such organisations and encouraging migrant groups for their involvement will help to foster the interest in cooperation with Riga Municipality.

Conclusions



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In general, Riga Municipality is satisfied with this first attempt in involving migrants in the life and policymaking of the municipality. It helped to understand the strong and weak points, as well to raise the issue of migrant participation issues to the level of the employees of the municipality and even the vice mayor. This activity helped to strengthen the cooperation of two NGOs involved in the project: “PROVIDUS” and “MAKE ROOM” and other NGOs and state and municipal institutions working with different aspects of participation issues.

Photos



Meeting on 28.03.2023 on the topic “Neighbourhoods of Riga and opportunities for participation”



Meeting on 25.05.2023 at Riga NGO House



Meeting on 14.06.2023 on the topic "Opportunities for entrepreneurship in Riga"



The seventh meeting of the consultative body on 01.11.2023 (the final event of the project)

2. Consultative body in Birmingham

General description of the consultative body

In December 2022 we began the establishment of a consultative body composed of people from migrant backgrounds, including people seeking asylum, and those with refugee status. We were conscious that we wanted to represent the superdiverse nature of Birmingham's migrant population, and also represent intersectional characteristics such as age, gender, sexuality etc.

In Birmingham, there are community and third sector organisations that advocate for migrants and refugees and are run by, or have in senior positions, people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. These organisations and community groups do liaise with the council and sit on platforms such as the City of Sanctuary Partnership Board or the Birmingham Migration Forum, where they can influence decision making and services. However, organisations can lose sight of why they exist, and sometimes just existing becomes their reason for being, this, in addition to competing for ever decreasing resources may reduce how they represent the interests of their communities. Therefore, for our MILE consultative group we wanted to get people involved who had not positioned themselves as community leaders, and usually lacked the opportunity to have their voices heard.

We also wanted to ensure that consultations were meaningful and not a tick box exercise to meet the project's deliverables. Therefore, we were continually on the lookout for opportunities to involve the group in authentic council activities. An ideal opportunity arose from our City of Sanctuary, (CoS), policy. As an accredited City of Sanctuary, the council has made a public commitment to involve Experts by Experience, and our CoS policy is the only council policy specific to migrants, therefore, it was perfect synchronicity that in the year we needed to renew and rewrite the CoS policy we were also creating the MILE consultative group.

The consultative group has morphed throughout the year. We intended it to be fluid and to allow opportunities for people to continually join, and to leave when necessary. The group has been made up of men and women with ages ranging from 18 – 50+. People's countries of origin were China, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Uganda, Syria, Eritrea, Iran, Zimbabwe, Poland, amongst others. Group members have had a variety of migration statuses, refugee status, resettled refugees, people seeking asylum, people on different visas schemes. We have had three recruitments drives throughout the year to give more people the opportunity to join. Different members have attended different consultations.

Establishment of the consultative body

In December 2022 we organised a MILE tour of Birmingham's historic Council House and promoted it as a MILE event. We wanted to activate an interest in what the council does, and how it runs. We designed a flyer and sent it electronically, with an explanatory email, to the migration sector in Birmingham.



We have well established and positive working relationships with community and voluntary organisations working in the migration sector. In addition, the MILE project and its aims had been introduced to the sector through previous presentations at meetings of the Birmingham Migration Forum, the City of Sanctuary Partnership Board, conversations with senior leaders in organisations, and through the MILE training for community organisations and council staff held in November 22.

Organisations passed the leaflets on to their clients and promoted the event. Emails from interested parties started to surface, sometimes, as in the case with ACH, support workers assisted their clients to apply and liaised with me on their behalf. We also promoted the event on social media, the BARMS [twitter account](#) and BCC media platforms.

The guided tour explained the history of the council house, its artwork, the Lords Mayors office, and how democracy works in the council chambers. Each member of the group got the opportunity to sit in the leader's chair in the council chamber and take selfies too! (See photo No 1 in Annex).

We also organised with the [Library of Birmingham](#) to use one of their rooms in the ESOL department to have a meeting after the tour of the council house where we provided lunch and refreshments. At the meeting we discussed the functions of the Council house and related them to the objectives of a consultative group, we showed a presentation and talked about how a consultative group could work. We discussed membership, whether meetings should be virtual or face- face, how often could they feasibly occur, what topics were important. The day was very positive and laid the groundwork for the consultative group, the participants also enjoyed accessing two



important civic institutions and it ignited the schema for our discussion about civic participation. The ideas that were discussed that day became the foundation for the MILE Consultative Group's (MCG) Terms of Reference.

We also discussed what the first few consultations would be about: The council's only policy specific to sanctuary seekers and migrants is its 'City of Sanctuary policy'. This policy needed renewing, and the MILE group wanted to be part of co-creating its next iteration.

Content and governance of the consultative body

In February 2023 in conjunction with our partners, CREME and ACH, we held a MILE Learning event to launch the MCG. 10 members of the MILE Consultative Group, MCG, attended and most of them publicly introduced themselves and explained why they were taking part in the MILE project.

All members who signed up for the MILE Consultative Group, (MCG), were invited to consultations via email and given at least two weeks' notice to attend. They were also emailed relevant documents and any information needed prior to attending consultations. They were offered a one-one meeting prior to the consultation if they wished to discuss anything.

1st Consultation - Friday the 24th of March 2023 via Teams

Topic: The revision of the City of Sanctuary policy.

The MCG was provided with the full policy to review, and an abbreviated edition, before the meeting. They were requested to start thinking about what they felt was missing and needed. The consultation was focused on writing a new vision statement for the CoS policy. A presentation was delivered by Bethany Finch, the Commissioning manager of the Refugees & Migration team at BCC. The MCG were asked for their feedback. A visiting professor from Aston University's Centre for Migration and Forced Displacement also attended to support and facilitate co-creation. Contributions were impactful and insightful.

2nd Consultation – 21st of April 2023 via Teams

Topic: City of Sanctuary Vision Statement - Review of ideas

The MCG participants were asked to think about their feedback, and the City of Sanctuary Partnership Board's feedback, to compare, and draw out the recurrent and prevalent words/ themes. In this way we attempted to drill down to an essential but holistic vision statement.

3rd Consultation – 11th of September 2023 via Teams

Topic: Empowering local communities



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We identified an opportunity in a council internal request for support by the 'Early Intervention and Prevention' team. They were carrying out research and needed to engage with ward members. The research was aimed at a better understanding of:

- How we can support residents with homes and money (including cost of living, fuel poverty and having safe, warm, and dry homes).
- How we can support lifelong learning and digital skills, and how we can empower and engage with local communities, and make our streets feel safer.

We liaised with the research team to organise a consultation with the MILE group. The researchers greatly appreciated meeting with people specifically from migrant backgrounds. Group members were asked about their experiences around:

- What support have you accessed in Birmingham, whether formal, informal, council, voluntary or private sector, social, health, education, employment, housing, community etc? Was support good?
- How could it be improved?

The consultation provided the research team with an important alternate view that represented migrant experiences, it added an extra and fundamental dimension to their research considering over a quarter of Birmingham residents are born overseas.

4th Consultation – 20th October 2023 Birmingham - Council House

Topic: Applications for the Sanctuary grants

The Refuges and Migration Team were in the process of assessing applications for Sanctuary grants of £15,000 - £50,000 from organisations providing services to asylum seekers in Birmingham. The MCG were asked to advise on what they thought the priorities and needs of asylum seekers are in Birmingham and thus advise on how best to spend the asylum dispersal grants.

5th Consultation – 27th November 2023 Birmingham Council House

Topic- Feedback on services under scrutiny committees to Cllr Alex Yip - Shadow Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community, Safety and Equalities.

After the successful and enjoyable Final Local event where MCG members publicly talked about their experiences of the project, Cllr Yip, an invited speaker, who had also talked about his personal history of migration contacted us to arrange a consultation with the MILE group at the council house. He said he was very moved by the MILE consultative group's talks and wanted to offer them an opportunity to meet with him and discuss their experiences living in Birmingham. The agenda was what the participants of the MCG chose to discuss from the following topics:

- Economy and Skills – Jobs /Training /FE
- Education, Children and Young People – Schools/Nurseries/Childcare
- Finance and Resources
- Health and Adult Social Care
- Homes- Housing



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- Neighbourhoods – Leisure centres / neighbourhood offices /advice
- Sustainability and Transport

Cllr Yip is hoping to arrange for a report from this meeting to go to the coordinating overview and scrutiny committee of which he is a member and he wishes to invite a few members of the MCG too. He wants to raise the profile of the MCG across council.

Achievements of the consultative body by the end of the project

The MCG has represented the diversity in Birmingham's migrant community with participants ethnicity ranging from many different countries and represented the diversity of migration statuses. The MCG has met with project objectives and achieved some substantial impacts.

An explicit and tangible achievement has been the MCG's participation in the coproduction of a vision statement for the revised City of Sanctuary policy. This is the council's only specific policy for migrants, and it resonates with the aims of the MILE project, so, it is a significant achievement that the new vision statement for the policy has been an exemplar of coproduction with the MCG.

The MCG contributed insights and unique perspectives to council research that was originally designed to merely access citizens by electoral wards, this would not have provided access to the experiences of migrant communities. The MCG participation was crucial for ensuring that the specific experiences and needs of migrant communities were considered and will form part of improvements to services.

The MCG acted as a consultative body for the council's asylum dispersal grant programme, sharing their 'expertise by experience' to inform and advise about how the grant payments should be used by community organisations to best support people seeking asylum. The MCG is due to have a meeting with elected members of the council to relay their experiences about council services, this will hopefully form the basis of a report to the coordinating scrutiny committee. The MCG members have spoken at two MILE public events in Birmingham and participated in the organisation of the final local event. Delegates and other guest speakers at the events said that listening to the MCG speakers was a highlight, and it was personally rewarding for the MCG members.

Main lessons learned, overall feedback & main challenges

The council, as an institution, has been supportive of the MILE project's aims, especially recognising its synergy and alignment with its CoS commitments, however, liaising with other council teams to arrange meetings with the MCG proved challenging. It quickly became evident that it will always be a task to organise meetings



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between council teams who have their own priorities and workloads, and MCG members, who also have their own priorities and work.

As previously mentioned, an objective was ensuring there was authentic opportunities for consultation, and this has been successful by maintaining an awareness of council's general activities and being prepared to act quickly and take advantage of arising opportunities.

Creating and sustaining interest for the MCG membership needed constant encouragement. Members had to be emailed regularly, and individually, to maintain relationships. People have busy, changing lives, lose interest, and participation is voluntary, therefore it was to be expected that the MCG membership would continually change, and thus serial recruitment drives were necessary to attract new members. Some people were involved for short periods, but a small number stayed throughout the year and attended all consultative meetings. Constant members of the MCG were commonly those individuals who were already socially aware and politically motivated. Although over ten individuals were routinely invited to consultations, there was normally 4-5 members who participated. People need to be compensated for their participation, and this takes resources. If the council is serious about prioritising citizen engagement, then they need to develop systems to equitably compensate people who participate in consultation.

A major learning gained from the project was an increased knowledge and understanding of the council's existing platforms for coproduction. We learnt that coproduction is not a new concept for BCC, back in 2018 officers from the citizen engagement team and members of the public, underwent formal coproduction training. The training enabled the Citizen Involvement Team to draft a definition document for co-production and this was endorsed by the Adults Social Care and Health Directorate. An example of this in practice is the Neighbourhood Network scheme which distributes power to locality-based communities, and decisions are jointly made together on prevention-based initiatives. This scheme was limited to over 50s but has been extended to include younger people with specific needs.

At the local final event MCG members said they had enjoyed being part of the MILE project, enjoyed access to the council house, (one MCG member has organised tours for other migrants). They expressed how they enjoyed the opportunity to talk at public events and participate in the planning of the final local event.

Overall, the establishment of the MILE Consultative Group has been very positive and brought council officers into direct contact with people from migrant, refugee, and asylum backgrounds. Council officers who direct policy, strategies and services need to meet with the recipients of these services, and this is what the MCG has enabled.



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Conclusions and next steps

Although participants were enthusiastic about the MILE consultative group, the turnout for actual consultations was low. Incentives and compensation for participation is requisite, and we need to establish how to do this.

The council needs to ensure that current and general consultative methods are accessible regards language, accessible to attend, that people are not excluded digitally, and that information about how, and why, to engage is promoted. Otherwise, the only citizens who will engage are those with less structural barriers, those who are fluent in English, digitally articulate, have capacity, free time, are affluent.

We will ensure that the council's existing platforms and systems of consultation and coproduction are aware of the MCG, and they aim to engage, not only ethnic minority communities, but migrant communities too. We need to combine and unify all existing methods that the council uses to maximise migrant engagement. We will create relationships, where relevant, between the MCG and other council consultative bodies such as the People for Public Services Forum (which brings together Citizens of Birmingham with officers from Birmingham City Council Adult Social Care to discuss current and future services and meet monthly), and the Proud Rainbow City Partnership (which is a cross-city partnership working together to improve the lives of Birmingham's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer communities). We will also continue to look for opportunities across council directorates and services to involve the MCG and enable all council services to work together to ensure that their consultations/engagement activities consider how migrant communities are represented. We will endeavour to raise the profile of the MCG throughout all the council both in service provision and to elected members.

Locality and community-based decision making is a practical and effective way to devolve power, engage residents and coproduce services, and migrants should be included in these initiatives when they live in applicable areas. We will ensure that localised methods of coproduction and power sharing based on locality, or issue, such as the Neighbourhood Network Scheme are accessible to members of the MCG when relevant.

A need still exists for non-geographical based community representation and engagement on issues that are not locality based, but citywide and nationally relevant. People from migrant backgrounds, whether they have refugee status or are seeking asylum, or are migrant workers, will have similar experiences and specific issues around participation and integration. Therefore, we intend to continue the MILE Consultative Group and will retain its name as the MCG as a legacy of the project. The platform will be sustained as a consultative forum for people from migrant backgrounds



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and its continuation will form part of our revised City of Sanctuary strategic commitments and adhere to our principles of involving experts by experience in coproduction.

We will review the feedback from the MILE CRÈME evaluation forms completed by the members of the MCG and where we can, we will seek to apply ideas and suggestions to improve the accessibility, terms of reference, impacts/outcomes, and sustainability of the group.

We plan that the maintenance of, and engagement with, the MCG will remain within the Refugees & Migration team and be mainly the responsibility of the engagement officer who currently works closely with the City of Sanctuary movement. However, the maintenance of the MCG will be supported by the whole of the Refugees & Migration team, and this will be integrated and reinforced in the CoS policy. We will formulate systems so that asylum support and resettlement programmes such as the Ukraine, or Afghan resettlement schemes can support membership of the MCG by formal provision of information, (perhaps as part of a Welcome to Birmingham Pack) to new arrivals in Birmingham.

Finally, we need to provide awareness raising to newly arrived people about how local politics work, and how individuals can get involved, and we can do this in is collaboration with our commissioned service providers, community partners and stakeholders.

Birmingham has over a quarter of residents that were born overseas; this is a significant amount of people who are habitually denied democratic representation such as voting in elections, and face barriers to other forms of representation such as online consultations. The MILE project has provided the council with a magnifying glass with which to focus on these issues and enabled an exploration of where migrants can participate and how we can support them to do so. The hope is that our MCG will continue as an integrated council apparatus that will maximise citizen voices and participation, specifically those voices that usually go unheard.

Photos

MILE tour of the Birmingham Council House 12th December 2022



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Sanctuary Grants – Consultation 4



3. Consultative body in Ripollet (Participation Table of Migrant and Refugee Individuals)

Overview of the Participation Table

The MILE project has enabled the municipality of Ripollet to establish a participation body with the aim of making the city inclusive and welcoming. For a municipality like Ripollet, with just over 38,000 inhabitants and a high population density, considering the social complexity of the municipality and its small-sized City Council, it has been a challenge and a significant working effort.

The body that MILE has allowed us to create includes individuals with a great diversity of lifestyles and a common denominator: they want to participate, contribute, and make themselves visible. They aspire for Ripollet to be an inclusive and welcoming city.

The establishment of the Participation Table

The municipality of Ripollet chooses the concept of the Participation Table based on the current regulations approved by the Council, such as the Municipal Participation Ordinance. From this point, the Meetings are disseminated through the concept of BUILDING the Participation Table.

Through the Reception Service for Migrant Individuals of Ripollet (hereafter SAIR), individual contacts are established with people who have expressed the desire to be part of a city-level project, as well as with organizations and groups working for the inclusion of migrant and refugee individuals.

Email has been used for the Meetings' invitations, and the municipality's official social media channels have also been utilized for dissemination, considering that many residents follow the Town Council for municipal information.

All meetings have been held in person at a central facility in the city to facilitate accessibility for everyone. The in-person format has allowed for interpersonal interaction and the establishment of a meeting point.

In point number 3, the content and methodology used in each meeting are explained.

Content and Governance of the Participation Table

- 1st Meeting (06/03/23)
 - Presentation of the project and training on participation and exploration of the concept of migration by Razan Ismail (Kudwa Association).

- Introduction of attendees (individuals and entities/collectives).
 - Participants share their migration journey to Ripollet and the reasons that led them here. They begin to discuss what participation means to them and how they would like to contribute to the group. The majority of individual participants express a desire to INTEGRATE. Municipal entities express their willingness to be WELCOMING.
- 2nd Meeting (30/03/23) - Reflection Meeting through Facilitation:
 - The migratory event. Migrant, migration, migrated. Past, present, or future. The reflection/debate focused on whether the migratory event has a timeline, whether it has already concluded, or if it is still ongoing. Determining factors emerged, such as the documentation regulation issue, the time spent living in Ripollet, employment status, and family care.
 - Integration and/or being welcomed. The majority of migrant individuals speak of integration from the perspective that they bear the responsibility to integrate, while the municipality emphasizes the responsibility of being a welcoming city. The table is seen as having two objectives: facilitating integration through being a welcoming city.
 - 3rd Meeting (25/04/23)
 - First Pre-Evaluation Survey of the MILE Project.
 - Individual Presentation Dynamics: Network of relationships, family, friends, work-related and educational relationships, community relationships. The dynamics aim to raise awareness of those we are closer to and those we are more distant from, evaluating the depth of our relationships and whether we regularly coexist with migrant individuals or not. The results were surprising, as many migrant individuals establish close relationships with "native" Ripollet residents who are part of their neighborhood or nearby commercial establishments, considering them a significant part of their usual network.
 - 1st part Diagnostic Dynamics on:
 - What needs Ripollet has to be a more welcoming city.
 - Which topics are priorities for discussion at the table of migrant individuals.

Work is done on 3 axes:

- Network: Support networks beyond the family. Why do we need to stay connected?
 - Common goods.
 - The Table: How should the table operate, what can it contribute, etc.
- 4th Meeting (14/06/23)



- Individual Presentation
- Group dynamics where work is centered around three questions/situations and their implications: a. I am a neighbor and citizen; b. I am a worker; c. I am a migrant. From these, individual needs of the participants emerge, and when shared, there is broad consensus.
- 5th Meeting (05/07/23)
 - The idea of the Democracy Festival emerges as a need from the group, serving as the final event of MILE. In the end, it is decided that it will be the festival for the cultures of peace.
 - Work is done on the draft document of the Table of Migrant and Refugee Individuals, presenting the first draft. The legal regulations for the legal constitution of the Table are explained.
- 6th Meeting (13/09/23)

Planning for the Peace Festival. What do we want to convey? The idea emerges to have a testimonial during the festival where individuals can share their experiences of the meeting process.
- 7th Meeting (16/10/2023).

Preparation for the Peace Festival. The workshops and exhibits are agreed upon, totaling 16 exhibits and 3 musical concerts. There will also be a space for children's games.

PEACE FESTIVAL (20/10/2021)

The Peace Festival was the final event of the project and was self-organised and self-managed by the participants with the support of the Ripollet Town Council and the organization La Traça.

Events:

- World workshops for children
- Exhibition of world cultures
- Testimonial space: 4 members of the Table shared what participating in this process has meant and means to them.
- Music showcase: Venezuela, Chile, Africa.
- Dinner to share among the Table participants.



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Successes of the Advisory Body at the End of the Project

Approximately 51 individual persons and 6 social entities from Ripollet have participated in the Table of Migrant and Refugee Individuals of Ripollet.

The main success lies in the involvement of a fixed number of individuals interested and engaged, coming from different backgrounds and collectives. There is now a direct communication channel between individuals and a level of connection and trust between the people and the municipality.

The Peace Festival has been a great success, both due to the involvement of individuals, its impact on the city, and the participation in workshops and concerts by a large number of people who attended between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Through the festival, migrants who were unaware of the existence of the Table expressed interest in participating.

Entities and collectives involved in the Table have reinforced coordination between individuals, organizations, and the municipality. This has been particularly beneficial because entities have been placed on the same level as citizens, facilitating communication and relationships. The typical hierarchy where entities are positioned above citizens and below the municipality, creating a filter, did not exist in this case, which has been beneficial and positive, facilitating an optimal citizen-municipality relationship.

The attitude of all individuals, whether citizens, entities, or municipal representatives, has been consistently positive and proactive throughout the project.

Main Lessons Learned, Global Feedback, Key Challenges

Difficulties in establishing a fixed meeting day for the table, which will be stipulated in the final approval of the Table's regulations.

The announcements could only be made via email or official social media channels due to data protection issues as a municipality. Alternative channels like WhatsApp or Telegram groups could not be used. This resulted in many individuals not receiving information to attend meetings. There are few specific entities or collectives of migrant individuals in Ripollet. One of the table's objectives arises in generating an associative base.

A significant number of people attend regularly and voluntarily, driven by a higher interest than others. Voluntary participation results in attendance being more unstable. This led to the necessity of having an initial part introducing the project and presenting the individuals at each meeting.



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Conclusions and Next Steps

- Approval of the Regulations of the Participatory Body through Municipal Council.
- December Radio Program: Featuring individuals from the Table and project partners to raise awareness of the project.
- Table Meetings: To continue discussions on inclusion policies.
- Welcome Guide for Newcomers to Ripollet.
- Establishing the Annual Festival of Cultures for Peace: This has become a gateway for migrants unfamiliar with the project.
- Creating a Collective/Entities with an Inclusive Perspective: Comprising migrant individuals advocating for their rights and making Ripollet a more inclusive city.
- Training in Projects Funded by European Funds: Provided by the municipality, ensuring the use of English as the vehicular language.
- Continuation of the Migrant Table: Despite the lack of funding, it will be sustained as it's already established. A three-year project duration would have been an improvement for Ripollet.

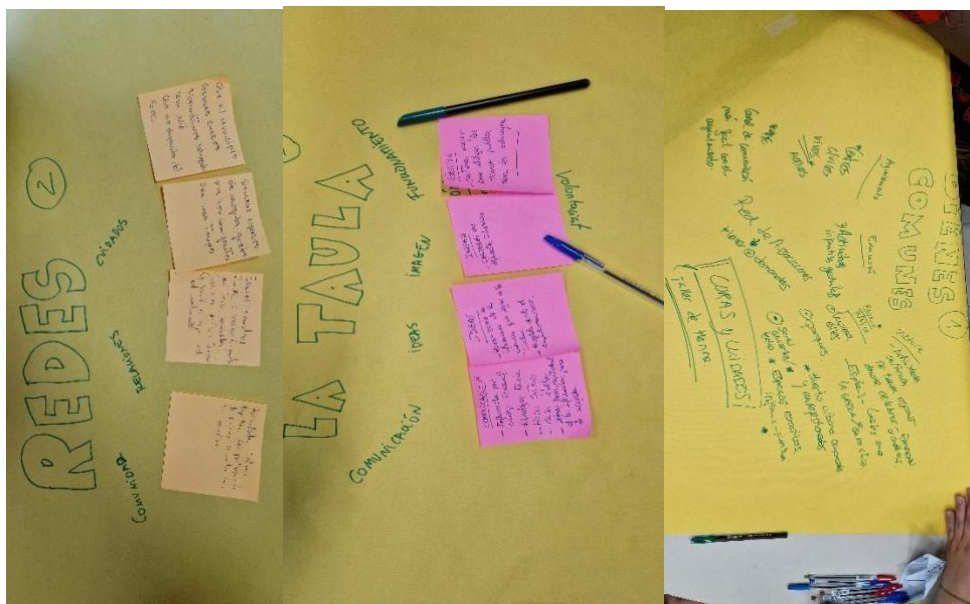
Photographs and Posters of the Creation Process of the Table of participation of Migrants and Refugees:



Examples of posters used by the municipality's social media to announce Table sessions.



Training on Participation and Migration (1st Meeting)



Results of reflection dynamics to establish consultations on migration policies and the inclusion of migrant individuals



Table participants conducting pre-evaluation.



Working group session for in-depth exploration: I am a neighbor, I am a worker, I am a migrant



Working session on governance: establishing the functioning and regulations of the Table.



Festival of Peace. Children's games and photographic exhibition on migration and work.



Festival of Peace. Testimonial space for individuals who have participated in the Table.



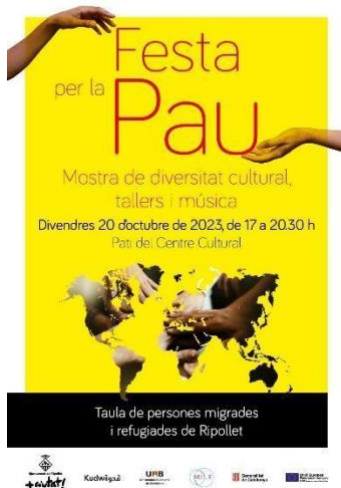
Festival of Peace. Exhibits and workshops from around the world



Festival of Peace. Music showcase.



Group photo of Table members during dinner after the Festival of Peace





Poster for social media promotion of the Festival of Peace event.



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4. Consultative body in Ioannina

General description of the consultative body

Ioannina's **Migrant and Refugee Integration Council (SEMP)** consists of Greek elected members of the Municipal Authority and Migrants/ Refugees from Egypt, Senegal, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Cameroon; most of the migrants have been living in Ioannina from 5 - 10 years, whilst some of the members have recently arrived (between 1 - 2 years) located in the City of Ioannina. Supporting and consultative roles have been granted to representatives of Ioannina's Focal Point from IOM and UNHCR, whereas the Akadimia Intercultural Centre for Social Integration provides administrative and cultural mediating support.

SEMP was incorporated into the MILE Project, with the Municipality of Ioannina's MILE Working Group¹ and local partners joining with an observatory/ consultative role to ensure that the aims of the MILE Project were followed.

During the implementation of the MILE Pilot Scheme, SEMP conducted the Mol's MILE Working Group conferred eight (8) times from December 2022 to November 2023 to actively contribute in the SEMP's delegations, which officially assembled in July 2023.

Establishment of the consultative body

During the initial stages of the WP4 implementation, there was a debate amongst the cooperating consulting actors to determine whether a "newly found", separate Consultative Body was to be established within MILE, or if it were to be incorporated in the existing formal/ official entities²; all aspects were taken into account and it was decided that the existing official body for the political inclusion of migrants in the problem solving procedure, SEMP, will be used as a platform to implement the activities of the MILE Project.

As such, in April 2023, SEMP was reestablished by the Municipality of Ioannina, following a decision of the Municipal Council³. The SEMP constitutes an institutional

¹ Mayor's Decision No. 127290/07.12.2021 (ΑΔΑ: Ω8Ι5ΩΕΩ-7ΨΒ) and its amendment No. 84302/02.08.22.

² The Municipality of Ioannina has taken important steps to implement good integration practices/ initiatives towards migrants active engagement, including the formulation of official bodies like *SEMP*, the operation of the *Urban Working Group* with the aim to ensure a coordinated urban response from several actors (public entities, NGOs, CSOs) to publicly address and resolve reported issues/ problems that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers face in their everyday life in the host community of Ioannina City and its regional area.

³ Decision of the municipal council no. 277/2020



organ of the Greek state as foreseen by law⁴, and it operates as a consultation body of the Municipality on issues related to the integration and peaceful coexistence of migrants and refugees in the local community. It consists of eleven (11) tactical members, as follows: a. Municipal Authority's Elected Members - 6 seats, b. Migrants and refugees - 5 seats.

The representatives of organisations like IOM, UNHCR, Akadimia Intercultural Centre for Social Integration were granted 3 seats, but they are strictly considered as "observers"; alongside, and the Mol's Working Group Members (9 employees in total) can act as informal/ unofficial consultative mechanisms to the Council with the responsibility to provide relevant input/ feedback, administrative support, intercultural mediation, acquired experience from other AMIF Projects implemented by the Mol (e.g. "EPIC", "RaCIP", "EMBRACE") to actively enhance the SEMP's workings.

The main requirements related to the incorporation to the MILE Project WP4 activities \ were drafted and proposed as the result of mutual discussion amongst all collaborating actors⁵, following the specific features and needs of the City of Ioannina, as follows:

- Setting up inclusive consultative mechanisms in the local area that is the most impacted by the migrant presence which will develop and extend the existing consultative body's role -SEMP - towards empowering local migrant communities to be a part of solution making procedure.
- Achieving a better understanding of the expected results/ outcomes of the MILE Project's objectives by including the SEMP's local migrant/ refugees representatives in study focus groups and training (WP2, WP3).
- Introducing specific and unique immigration experiences into proposals that would promote co-created and co-designed integration policies at a local level focusing on addressing migrant communities urgent needs.
- Articulating in a structured manner the local policies and decision-making procedures that will actually reflect all migrants perspectives and especially those who might have felt being marginalised or neglected.
- Utilising MILE's acquired knowledge and experience to develop a pan-European network of municipalities that will exchange know-how and cooperate on issues of immigration, integration, cultural diversity and migrants political participation.

⁴ The operation and purpose of M.R.I.C. were first established by article 78 of Greek National Law 3852/2010, whilst by article 79 of law 4555/2018, the framework of their operation and procedures was re-evaluated and M.R.I.C. and now also include refugees.

⁵ The Mol's Working Group Members, the observatory organisations representatives (IOM, UNHCR and Akadimia - Intercultural Centre for Social Integration) and MILE's Partners in Greece, EKKE & Melissa; when necessary the minutes meetings were forwarded to the Deputy Mayor for Social Protection & Migration Policy, and SEMP's President for their information and relevant actions.



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- Finally, creating a platform for peer-to-peer exchange of best practices for migrant-led communities/ organisations social and political integration into local/ host society, as a replication practice and a basis for future collaborations.

Based on the above principles, the final proposal for incorporating the MILE Project into the workings of the Municipality of Ioannina Migrants Refugees Integration Council - SEMP was then drafted, submitted to the SEMP's President and circulated to the Council's members translated in English, Greek and French⁶ in order to analytically inform all participants and consequently openly discuss the proposal at the Council's Official Meeting⁷.

Content and governance of the consultative body

Meetng 1- 07.12.2022

Theme: Coordinating the Municipality of Ioannina consultative mechanisms

The meeting took place in the Mol's Department for Social Protection⁸ in a hybrid format (in situ and online) to accommodate the needs for the participation of the members that were currently unavailable to physically participate⁹. The Mol's Working Group Member, along with its MILE Partners in Greece, EKKE and Mellisa, exchanged ideas about the formulation of the consultative body, utilising both desk and field research methodology to record the existing official and unofficial organisations/ initiatives in the local area. Due to the fact that the Municipality of Ioannina had already taken several initiatives towards migrants social integration, a first challenge was to identify whether establishing a "newly found" body, or deploying one of the existing bodies¹⁰ would have served the MILE Project Working Package 4 requirements.

It was also deemed as equally important to define the target groups (e.g. NGOs, CSOs, migrant communities or organisations) and the means that were to be utilised to achieve outreach and mobilization. Reaching out to refugee populations that had arrived in Ioannina during recent years (mostly Afghans, Syrians, Africans, etc.), or migrant populations that had settled in the city a long time ago (e.g. Albanians, Eastern Europeans) were the first priority; of special interest was the outreach to the subgroup of female migrants that work as housekeepers or caregivers for the elderly in the

⁶ Farsi translation is provided by Akadimia upon migrant members' request.

⁷ Following the SEMP's Internal Operating Regulations it was included in its official agenda, namely "Topic 1: Participation of SEMP in the MILE Project of the Municipality of Ioannina".

⁸ The Mol's Social Protection Department offices, as the responsible actor for the implementation of all AM

⁹ The same procedure was to be followed for next meetings of the coordination team members.

¹⁰ Desk research results in mapping existing entities/ initiatives: a. Migrant and Refugee Integration Council, b. Urban Working Group, c. European and International Integration Programs, d. Participation in International Networks, e. Akadimia - an Intercultural Centre for Social Integration



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villages of Ioannina, which seems to be especially underrepresented and isolated, though it makes up for a large percentage of the population.

During the conclusion of the meeting all members agreed to form out a communication and mobilisation strategy plan by addressing to:

- The Migrant and Refugee Integration Council of Ioannina “MIC - SEMP”: Due to its institutional role, the MRIC potentially could be the case study for Greece, provided that it could incorporate the MILE Projects’ WP4 Activities objectives and expected outcomes.
- Related actors and networks in the local area. (e.g. reaching out to the HELIOS Project implemented by IOM, informing the Urban Working Group Members, and other relevant actors).
- Mobilise personal contacts of migrants/refugees that reside in Ioannina, Greek origin residents & volunteers, and organise meetings with other Departments of the Mol (deploying the “Word of Mouth” dissemination tactic).

Following the above, a draft template of the formal invitation was designed in order to be sent to the local network, calling them to support the MILE’ WP4 implementation design (see Table 1.).

Meeting 2 - 18.01.2023

Follow up meeting of the Ioannina consultative mechanism

The Mol’s MILE Working Group conducted a follow up meeting to assess the progress of the Ioannina’s consultative mechanism. All present members were informed about the actions taken towards reaching out to relevant actors (Municipal public entities, NGOs and CSOs, local migrant communities) for the MILE Project and its specified goals, in order to participate at a new “Pilot Scheme”, which would mainly promote the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers participation into the newly established consultative body. While pending for the official answer by the SEMP, it was decided that, a back-up design plan should be drafted in order to cover each and every organisational and operational aspect: the consultative body’s name -title, the involved actors, its context, its governance/ management and internal operating regulations, aims and goals, and the promotion/ dissemination activities to make the consultative body know to the local society. To be able to be aligned with the MILE Project guidelines on the organisation mechanism of a consultative body, it was suggested to set specific requirements:

- The body should consist of - at least - five representatives from migrant/refugee communities, with emphasis on gender balance and prioritising the participation of women.



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- The body should meet at least four times in a period of nine months (February - October 2023) in person or online¹¹.
- Proposals for the topics to be discussed (meeting agenda) can be submitted by all the members of the body, giving priority to the urgent issues.
- At the end of the project members may be asked to fill in an evaluation form (for each session, or for all sessions) so we can monitor their feedback and optimise the procedure - “effectiveness control”.
- Upon completion of the Mol’s pilot project, the participants in the body will be invited to give a short interview about their experience, which will be presented as a testimonial to MILEs Partners as an assessment tool of the project’s results.

Concluding the meeting, all members agreed that the pending answer from the SEMP is of vital importance, due to the facts that a. It is politically oriented and, b. It is an official institutionalised body; however, in case a negative response from SEMP was to be received, a “Plan B” - design of a newly found body - should be also considered as an alternative and therefore a second proposal should have been prepared and be submitted for discussion (see Table 2.).

[February - March 2023]

The official organisational meetings of the Mol’s MILE Working Group that were scheduled at the end of February and March 2023, had to be postponed due to unforeseen administrative difficulties when the esteemed Mayor of Ioannina, Dr. Moisis Elisaf, passed away. The Municipal Authority of Ioannina faced a situation never encountered before, as it had to follow the protocol of appointing a new Mayor, who could make the necessary political and administrative actions to reestablish the migrants/ refugees Council (SEMP). Despite the difficulties, at the end of February the Mol’s Working Group had already prepared the final design of a new organisation/ entity as planned in the January’s 2023 meeting in order to be ready to formulate the body within March 2023; however, during March 2023 the acting President of the SEMP, Mr. Aivatidis informed the Mol’s Department of Social Protection - as it has been the implementing actor of the MILE Project - that upon unofficial discussions with the SEMP members, the proposal of incorporating SEMP into the MILE Project would be gladly accepted. With this information in hand, the Mol’s Working Group amended its action plan according to the SEMP’s functional and regulatory mechanism, and eventually didn’t activate the “plan “B”, meaning formulating one more consultative body from scratch (see Table 3).

Meeting 3 - 25.04.2023

¹¹ Utilising new communication platforms (e.g. Zoom, Google Meet) is flexible especially for migrants/ refugees that work outside the City of Ioannina.



Incorporating MILE into SEMP

In this meeting the Mol's Working Group mostly focused in the administrative activities that should take place into incorporating the MILE WP4 objectives and expected outcomes into the official proceedings of the SEMP; a formal recommendation letter was composed in order to be addressed to the SEMP President, Mr. Ioannis Aivatidis, since as chairman of the SEMP is responsible to inform all members, summon the Council to a meeting with a written invitation and draw up the official meeting agenda¹². Furthermore, it was decided that a briefing meeting should take place at the earliest convenient date with the newly appointed Mayor, Mr. Dimitrios Papageorgiou, in order to secure his political support and succumb to any potential obstacles or delays in the implementation of the MILE WP4 activities. At the same time, the Mol's Vice Mayor for Social Protection & Migration Policy, Mrs. Christina Kotsanti, had scheduled to meet with SEMP's observatory members from the IOM, UNHCR and Akadimia Intercultural Centre for Social Integration to officially present the MILE Project, its objectives and the upcoming incorporation into SEMP, in order to make sure that all implicated actors would act in coherence and close collaboration to enhance the institutional role of the SEMP and empower its migrant members to a political meaningful participation. The fact that some of the new appointed members of migrant communities in SEMP had already taken part into the implementation of MILE Project's Focus Groups and Training was already sufficient to achieve the main purpose of the MILE's activities: promoting the active political involvement in local community schemes (see Table 4.).

Meetin 4 - 22.05.2023

Brainstorming on raising awareness activities & follow up on drafting the SEMP's Official Meeting Agenda

In this meeting the Mol's MILE Working Group members convened to brainstorm about events/ activities that would help the Council to raise awareness on migration/ integration cutt-edging issues at a local level.

The Mol's Working Group members were also informed by its collaborating partner IOM of SEMP's proposed activities, which were to be formally submitted for Council's members approval. The Vice Mayor, Mrs. Christina Kotsanti, along with the IOM's Focal Point Supervisor, Mr. Ioannis Efthymioy presented one of the topics that would be put into consideration: SEMP's participation in "Refugee Week" themed "Compassion in Action", that would take place between 19/06/23 and 24/06/23. The festival¹³ "Launch Event" was decided to take place in the City of Ioannina to honour

¹² According to the Article 7 of Internal Operating Regulations "President's Responsibilities".

¹³ The festival is an initiative of the Athens Comics Library in collaboration with the British organisation Counterpoint Arts and is supported by the Comic Relief across border program.



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the memory of the late Mayor, Moisis Elisaf, whose actions and deeds strengthen the extroversion of the multicultural City of Ioannina, whilst developing an inclusive policy for all communities living in the city.

There was a proposal about financing one of the Festival activities from the MILE Project budget, but eventually the Working Group was informed that the entire event would be funded by the IOM and a small proportion would be taken out of the Municipality of Ioannina's budget.

At the conclusion of the meeting all members agreed upon brainstorming in order to submit more event concepts/ proposals aiming to raise awareness at a local level and discuss / develop them in the next monthly scheduled meeting (Table 5.).

Meeting 5 - 22.06.2023

Raising awareness proposals and communication planning

During this meeting the discussion was focused on designing more awareness activities that would be implemented by SEMP, but also to develop a detailed budget communication plan, quite useful to promote its initiatives, scheduled activities and event in the local area.

Given the fact that the design and organisation of local events can mobilise individuals, groups and other relevant actors, it was suggested that the SEMP should implement social awareness events targeting public or private organisations, NGO's, CSO's, minority groups, migrant and refugees communities, and the local population of the Ioannina City. The Mol's Social Protection Department has the infrastructure and the interconnections (insourcing and outsourcing) to design collective activities and submit its proposals to the SEMP members for consideration/ delegation and approval/ disapproval.

The presented concepts covered a wide range of activities aiming to mobilise:

- the public and private organisations/ entities, entrepreneurs, NGOs, CSOs and other local stakeholders
- the migrant, refugees and asylum seekers residing in the City of Ioannina
- the general public, meaning all citizens residing in Ioannina and the regional areas.

Some concepts that were proposed in this meeting by topic:

- Health care → Blood donation event
- Education → Language learning seminars and applied workshops, Bookbinding events.
- Sports → Swimming lessons, track and field sports, horse riding lessons, field trips and mountaineering etc for children, adolescents (and adult companions).



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- Culture → Guided tours in museums and archaeological sites, art lessons (e.g. Pottery, Silversmithing, Painting, Engraving, theatre), film screenings of international movies from the birthplaces of the migrant communities.
- Environment → Trees plantation, community clean up around the lake of Ioannina, environment-themed photo contest, collection of used cell phones, pcs, bicycles for donation to those in need etc.
(see Table 6.).

Given the fact that the Municipality of Ioannina has organised and implemented several lookalike local awareness events in the past, the Mol's MILE Working Group decided to keep brainstorming on innovating concepts that have never been implemented; however, the draft concepts plan was forwarded to SEMP's President, the Vice Mayor for Social Protection & Migration Policy and the SEMP observers member from IOM, in order to schedule a meeting to further discuss on suggested activities that should take place by the end of 2023 within the MILE Project WP4 implementation.

Additionally, the Mol's Working Group had drafted a detailed strategic communication/dissemination plan to promote the SEMP's role, its delegations and activities in the local traditional and digital media; this included the activities that can be implemented without cost, as well as promotional actions that needed to be funded either by the Mol's budget or within the implementation of the MILE Project. This strategic planning was also submitted to SEMP Chairman and the Vice Mayor to be informed and if needed to be expanded with the Mol's MILE Working Group support (see Table 6.).

Meeting 6 - 17.07.2023

Meeting by Circulation of the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees of the Municipality of Ioannina (SEMP)

The SEMP Council assembled on Monday, July 17th 2023, at 10:00 am by Circulation¹⁴; out of the eleven (11) Tactical Members, seven (7) were present, whilst four (4) were absent from the meeting¹⁵, so a quorum had been achieved and the meeting could proceed. During the meeting, interpreting was provided by staff of the Akadimia - Intercultural Center for Social Integration and the International Organization Migration in Farsi.

The Meeting's Official Agenda included the following topics:

¹⁴ Two previous meetings were scheduled in which no quorum was found (16.06.2023, 23.06.2023)

¹⁵ According to the Meetings Minutes the present Members were: 1. Aivatidis Ioannis, President, 2. Panou Dimitrios, 3. Mamaki Athanasiou Giannoula, 4. Gizas Spyridon, 5. Mohamed Mohamed, 6. Serigne Sow, and 7. Haymanot Addisu.

Absentees were: 1. Tsili Paraskevi, 2. Tsoumani Olga, 3. Khalid Gill, and 4. Mbassa Youmbi Celestin Cardin.



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- Topic 1: Participation of SEMP in the MILE Project of the Municipality of Ioannina (updates and recommendations).
- Topic 2 : Participation of SEMP in the Refugee Week Greece (updates and recommendations).
- Topic 3: Participation of SEMP in the International Refugee Forum (updates and recommendations).
- Topic 4: Update on the refugee situation in the area of the Municipality of Ioannina.
- Topic 5: Update from the Arab Community of Ioannina.

Respectively, the Members were updated on:

1. The incorporation and implementation of the MILE WP4 into SEMP. [aims, goals/ expected outcomes, role, recommendations, budgeting and its contribution so far].
2. The Participation in the Refugee Week Greece and its organised activities. [19/06/23: Launch of the Festival, 20/06/23: Film screenings and activities for teenagers, 22/06/23: The seminar about protection issues and combating stereotypes, 23/06/23: The action for children and adolescents emphasising on interaction through art and play, 24/06/23: The football tournament with the cooperation of local groups and shelters for unaccompanied minors. The IOM and “Solidarity Now” Programme colleagues informed that in the same context photography exhibitions were open to the public throughout the festival].
3. The Participation of SEMP in the International Refugee Forum¹⁶ that will be held in Geneva in December 2023. [The active participation in this global event with the commitment of the participants to the implementation of a pledge towards the goals of the Global Refugee Forum and the Municipality of Ioannina will participate with the pledge of the establishment of a center for the integration of migrants and refugees].
4. The refugee situation in the area of the Municipality of Ioannina. [It was deemed crucial to discuss specific problems that Africans living in Ioannina encounter like, residence permit renewals delays, accessing the local labour market due to lack of knowledge of the Greek language, and the difficulties to find housing in the local area].
5. The situation of the Arab Community of Ioannina. [Due to the fact that the Arab Community cannot find meat “Halal” in the local market, it was deemed important that the Municipality of Ioannina should make all necessary arrangements to provide a specific point of sale; one more important request is that the Mol should to provide a place of worship for the establishment of prayers appropriate to the Muslim religion and its equalisation

¹⁶ Global Refugee Forum is a UNHCR’s initiative and a critical platform that emerged from the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees in December 2018. The forum, held every four years, serves as an opportunity for governments, NGOs, civil society, and other stakeholders to come together and address the challenges faced by refugees globally. The first Global Refugee Forum was held in December 2019 with the participation of 3,000 delegates and was a milestone in building solidarity with the world's refugees and the countries and communities that host them.



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with the rest of the places of worship of other religions located in Ioannina; the Arab Community has also asked of the SEMP to realise more activities related to Greek and Arab culture focusing on common points within the two cultures, which will greatly help the integration of the Arab community in the host society].

Upon the approval of all above points from the present Members of the SEMP, the following procedure included the draft of the Official Meetings minutes, its circulation to all SEMP Members to be analytically informed, the validation/ sign by the President of the Council and afterwards the distribution to the Municipal Authority (Mayor, Mr. Dimitrios Papageorgiou, Deputy Mayor, Christina Kotsanti, and General Secretary of the Municipality, Mr. Vasilios Zographos) alongside with the Council's observatory members (IOM, UNHCR, Akadimia - Intercultural Centre for Social Integration, the Mol's MILE Working Group Members and collaborating actors) (see table 7.).

August - September 2023

During the summer period no Official Meeting was scheduled. The Council was to reconvene by mid October 2023, but the Local Elections of Municipal Authorities (scheduled on October, 6th 2023 at a National Level) and the change of administration (since the acting Municipal Authority lost the election by its opposition) resulted in further delays in scheduling SEMP's Official Meeting.

Meeting 7 - 13.10.2023

Organising the local event:

Interactive Animated Workshop addressed to elementary school students.

Following the recommendations of the SEMP's July 2023 Official Meeting, the Mol's Working Group Members assembled to design tailored made inclusive proposals for events that will be innovative, but also effective towards the integration of the migration communities that reside in the city. Hence, it was proposed to organise an interactive workshop targeting elementary school kids both Greek and migrants aiming to promote good inclusion practices at an early age, when children formulate their personal characteristics, their beliefs, their ideals.

Conducting an "Interactive Animated Workshop" with the theme "Animated Romaniotes - Janina 2023" would be quite beneficial and effective to its purposes: to endorse interaction amongst students of different origins (e.g. Greek, Albanians, Pakistans, Afghans) and different religion (e.g. Orthodox Christians, Muslims, Hebrew). The workshop will take place in an elementary school of Ioannina (December 8th and 9th 2023) with the collaboration of an exterior associate, most specified in animated workshops, the Animasyros Cor.

At the end of the meeting it was decided to officially incorporate this activity into SEMP official programming, as an important part of the MILE WP4 implementation and notify



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our collaborating actors that it will be co-funded by the MILE Project (90%) and by the Mol's own budget (10%) according to the MILE Consortium fiscal directives. (this event is scheduled and therefore no photo material can be presented - it will be added at the Partners shared folder).

Meeting 8 - 14.11.2023

Evaluation and Assessment of the MILE Project impact into SEMP

This meetings' purpose was to evaluate the MILE Project impact into the existing institutional consultative body, the SEMP. All consultative actors, the Mol Working Group, the SEMP observers representatives (IOM, UNHCR, Akadimia - Intercultural Centre for Social Integration), the MILE Partners in Greece, EKKE and MELISSA assembled to exchange the gained experience and knowledge acquired during the MILE Project WP4 implementation in the previous months. The meeting resulted in writing down a detailed report about the SEMP operational activities, including: its legal status, the Internal Operative Regulations, the process of appointing its members and council's President, the consultative body aims/ goals and role and the members and Presidents' responsibilities. The MILE Project WP4 implementation, though, has resulted in pointing out SEMP's strengths, its liabilities, but also the challenges it faces to be a contemporary, well structured and managed consultative body in order to fulfil its primary purpose: being an institutional democratic body that best reflects its migrant/ refugees members voices and represent them adequately in the Municipal Authority by addressing the everyday issues of local migrant communities and by proposing solutions to the problems the migrants/ refugees/ asylum seekers face in their host community. At the end of this meeting, all partners agreed on including some crucial recommendations that would be beneficial not only to optimise the Ioannina's consultative body function, but other similar efforts in designing and operating an official migrants/ refugees council in other cities at a national and international level (see Table 8.).

Achievements of the consultative body by the end of the project

The organisation of an official meeting of the already existing "Migrant Refugees Integration Council of the Municipality of Ioannina - SEMP" and then seven joint meetings of the Mol's MILE Working Group with relevant actors from SEMP, as well as the strategic decision to incorporate SEMP into the MILE Project objectives, produced an overall positive outcome. In the assessment at the end of the meetings, members of the migrant communities expressed their satisfaction with the collaborating mechanisms to actively support them in administrative or other issues faced in their everyday life, to ensure that their voice was heard "loud and clear" and the appropriate messages have been sent through SEMP to the highest level of the



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Municipality of Ioannina authority: the Mayor, the Vice (Deputy) Mayor for Social Protection & Migration Policy and the General Secretary of the Mol.

Moreover, due to the fact that some of the SEMP's migrant communities representatives had already participated into MILE Focus Groups (WP2 & WP4), along with the official training in political meaningful participation (WP3), it can be reported that throughout the 24 months implementation of the MILE Project, all participating actors (e.g. migrants/ refugees, Mol's employees, local NGOs and CSOs, relevant stakeholders) were able to better understand how important is to acquire theoretical knowledge that can be put to practice when working together, collectively and in cohesion; only then we can achieve the common goal: creating good integration practices, initiatives and activities that can be replicated in other European Countries and Cities, which are host communities to large flows of migrants - like Greece - whenever a humanitarian crisis arise.

Lessons learned/main challenges

Prior to presenting the lessons learnt in the implementation of the MILE Project in the City of Ioannina, it is imperative to mention that by incorporating SEMP into MILE WP4 implementation, we were given the opportunity and means - for the first time since SEMP's establishment as an institutional organisation - to evaluate and assess its operational tactics, its organisational status and consequently to detect its strengths, its liabilities and challenges.

The following main lessons were learnt:

Consultative body strengths:

- The establishment of an institutional consultative body that consists both of local elected members and representatives of migrant communities demonstrates the open and welcoming culture of the city towards newcomers and migrants in the city. Being a partner in the MILE project which mainly aims to promote the political empowerment of migrants/ refugees/ asylum seekers at the local level shows the high political priority migration and integration issues have in Ioannina's political agenda. It can help support the city in its aim to strengthen its multi-national, multicultural and diverse local community while respecting its history and aspirations to be a modern inclusive society of active and open minded citizens regardless of their nationality or religion.
- Within the MILE project, the Municipality of Ioannina proceeded to a series of actions aimed at strengthening social cohesion and integration of refugees and migrants providing them access to local public or private organisations assisting them into social and labour integration. In this context, the creation of the "information guide" which lists all NGOs and their programs, as well as public and municipal actors and the services they provide for all residents of Ioannina,



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both Greeks, Refugees and Migrants proves to be quite helpful for the newcomers into their host community. The guide is shared by the Municipality of Ioannina in English and Greek and has been translated into 5 other languages to serve the needs of migrants that cannot speak either of the above languages. This came after the recommendation of the council to the Municipality of Ioannina, which in cooperation with IOM proceeded the project¹⁷.

- The MRI Council recognises the needs and difficulties faced by migrants and refugees and tries to address them through actions and policies that offer support and integration. It also promotes the cultivation and protection of the cultural and linguistic rights of migrants and refugees, which contributes to the diversity and enhancement of the city's culture. Through the council, migrants and refugees have the opportunity to express their views and concerns and actively participate in decision-making that affects them.
- The creation of a council for the integration of migrants and refugees highlights the multiculturalism and diversity of the city, adding significant value and wealth to the community of Ioannina. But also aiming at social cohesion, inclusion and social integration of Refugees and Migrants in the city of Ioannina with full information about the lives of residents but also with actions to raise awareness in the host and hosted communities.

Consultative body challenges:

- The difficulty of filling the candidate members with women was quite difficult since most women of refugee migrant origin who want to stay in Ioannina were unable to participate due to work overload and their commitment in childcare, especially most of them belong to single-parent families.
- Another difficulty of the proper functioning of MRIC in the Municipality of Ioannina was the fact that refugees and migrants often see Greece, being a country at the EU's outer border, as a transit country, with the result that people of most nationalities move to other countries in Europe as soon as they obtain their papers. The result is that there is not always feedback or continues participation.
- Some migrant communities lack collective organisations or mechanisms of representation, while participation in other organisations that do exist or seems to be limited and ad-hoc.
- A complementary challenge that the existing MRICs around Greece encounter is that the decisions taken by them don't have any real impact on the formulation of local policies. In fact, the competencies regarding migrants' integration are

¹⁷ IOM proceeded to the design and implementation of the "Information Guide", collaborated with the IOM Ioannina Focal Point for the translation of the texts, the Intercultural Center for Social Integration "Akadimia" and UNHCR.

still centralised under the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, even if the so-called “Kallikratis” reform predicted the decentralisation of competences at the local level.

- A complementary challenge that emerged during MILE research is that MIRCs face a lack of communication with the administrations of Ministries responsible for labour and health issues. Establishing communication channels could improve problem solving concerning migrants’ everyday crucial issues.

Further steps planned after the end of the project/sustainability of the consultative mechanism after the end of the project

The Migrant Refugees Integration Council of Ioannina - SEMP - will continue to operate within the Municipal Authority of Ioannina, it will be supported and protected as the Greek Law abides, and it will be the higher in hierarchy position consultative body that provide “space” to its migrant members to express their main concerns, to address their everyday problems and to be active parts in the solution making procedure.

Given the fact that some of the SEMP members actively participated in the implementation of other Working Packages of MILE Project like participating in focus groups for policy making, the training courses on meaningful participation and WP4 activities, they acquired both theoretical and practical experience that can be shared with the other SEMP members and even with their communities members; and all this is due to their participation in this particular project, that left them with a positive feedback sharable and replicable in the future.

Conclusions

The local experience in Ioannina’s consultative body within the context of the MILE Project WP4 implementation, suggests that stable and reliable consultation mechanisms where migrants and their organisations can express ideas, views and concerns are crucial in order to facilitate the inclusion of migrants in the local decision making process. From our experience through the participation in the MILE Project we are now able to identify and propose specific measures that can actually elevate the consultative bodies so that they can be effective, efficient and politically empowered. These recommendations include the following:

- Financial means and autonomy: In order for the consultative bodies to be effective and sustainable, local authorities have to invest in the real outcomes and the public visibility of consultation processes. Moreover, giving consultative bodies their own budget which they can allocate according to established rules but, at the same time, serving their own agenda would increase their potential to have a real impact in inclusiveness and their public visibility.

- **Communities' reinforcement:** Establishing institutions for direct participation must take into consideration the fluidity of migrant populations. Economic migrants frequently change jobs and residence within a host country, which may prevent them from becoming more locally embedded and involved in local policymaking. For this reason, decision-making bodies should invest in mechanisms to ensure collective representation of migrant communities, beyond the individual participation of usually their prominent members. Local authorities need to support migrant-led organisations to attract members and select their own representatives, while also strengthen their networking capacities to work collectively with other organisations in promoting migrant inclusion. The participation of women has to be a special concern and can be addressed through providing supportive services for employed women and mothers.
- **Decision making powers:** In order to fulfil their role as facilitators of direct inclusion in decision-making, bodies and mechanisms in which migrants are invited to participate need to acquire decision-making powers. This can be tried even in small-scale initiatives, as for example in giving an existing consultative body the power and the resources to organise local intercultural events or to promote migrants' employability by identifying specific local businesses and offering them economic incentives.”
- **Assessing results and responsiveness:** When migrants' voices are heard but not subsequently incorporated in specific policy measures and initiatives, the effectiveness of consultation is contested and migrants may leave the process. Measuring the real impact of consultation processes can be a complex challenge. Thus consultative bodies should devote part of their effort to the evaluation and assessment of their own activities, preferably using quantitative and qualitative criteria, e.g. measuring participation in public events and monitoring local media representations of migrant communities respectively. For the same purpose, external assessment mechanisms can also be employed.

Additional materials

Table	Date - Activity Description - Photo Material
1.	7.12.22: From the Minutes Meeting “Invitation template” to be addressed to local collaborating actors and migrants.



MILE WP4 Municipality of Ioannina

Topic: Designing the Consultative Body for the Municipality of Ioannina

General description of the Mol's Consultative Body

A.Aim:

The consultative body on migration and integration issues of the Municipality of Ioannina aims to bring together both the migrant/and refugee communities of Ioannina and the policymakers of the Local Authority.

Specifically, establishing a consultative body provides a unique opportunity for the creation of a common ground between policymakers and migrants/refugees, who make up an integral part of the city's population, but are often left unheard and underrepresented in decision-making processes. It will function as a peer for the exchange of ideas, assessment of needs and challenges, sharing of different perspectives, and the formation of joint initiatives for improved integration processes and social cohesion within the Municipality of Ioannina. Moreover, it aspires to forge a space of fruitful exchange and dialogue, creating more common grounds in Ioannina, to promote not just the peaceful coexistence of the different populations, but to jointly seek the added value of this plurality that has been bestowed to the city.

General description of the Mol's Consultative Body

B. Number of seats:

The Mol's body consists of 9 seats occupied by policymakers and stakeholders and 5 seats occupied by migrant and refugee community representatives.

Policy Makers Seats: 9

- Mol's Social Protection Department representatives: 5
- Intercultural Centre of Social Integration (DIAKKE/Akadimia): 1
- Organization of Social Protection - Solidarity & Preschool Education: 1
- Melissa Network for Migrant Women in Greece: 1
- EKKE: 1

Migrant and refugee community Representatives: 5

Note: The gender-balanced demographic consistency of the body is constantly pursued and so is the equal representation between migrant and refugee communities, as their needs are diversified.

All the proposed seats, they are expected to be filled by

General description of the Mol's Consultative Body

C. Target Populations:

During the initial stages of the establishment of the consultative body, it is deemed equally important to reach out to **refugee populations that had arrived in Ioannina during recent years**, (e.g. Afghans, Syrians, Africans, etc.) **to migrant populations that had settled in the city a long time ago**, (e.g. Albanians, Eastern Europeans, etc.). Of special interest and goal is the outreach to the subgroup of female migrants that work as housekeepers or caregivers for the elderly in the surrounding villages of Ioannina, since they are especially underrepresented as the large percentage of the population they are.

D. Outreach and mobilization:

For the purposes of outreach, the three actors involved conferred with each other in December 2022 and each one internally. The exchange led to the agreement on the following actions/channels of communication that formed the outreach strategy of the initiative:

- Contact with related actors and networks
- Contact with the target population
- Word of Mouth

General description of the Mol's Consultative Body

E. Meetings:

The consultative body will meet once in 6-8 weeks in person, with the possibility of online sessions if need be. Each next date meeting will be decided at the closure of the running meeting within this framework. Lastly, emergency meetings can be called at any time by the majority of the body representatives for any reason they deem necessary.

Language & Interpretation

The meetings will be held in Greek or English, depending on the linguistic preference of the present majority. If a translator will be needed for non Greek (or English) speakers, it will be provided by the Intercultural Centre of Social Integration (DIAKKE/Akadimia).

Organizational Issues

The Mol's Social Protection Department as the implementing actor of the MILE Project will be providing administrative or other assistance to accommodate the CB needs.

MONTH	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3
February 2023	Establishment of the Mol's Consultative Body (final grant policy focus, expected outcomes, organizational and operational aspects) Initial meeting with actors and representatives for the Mol's body (initial stakeholders from Mol's Social Protection Department representatives: 9 persons) Intercultural Centre of Social Integration (DIAKKE/Akadimia): 1 person Organization of Social Protection - Solidarity & Preschool Education: 1 person Melissa Network for Migrant Women in Greece: 1 person EKKE: 1 person Setting the Meeting Agenda Deciding on the Meeting Dates	Outreach and mobilization with: - related actors and networks - target population Setting up the CB's seats occupied by migrant/refugee	The Mol's Social Protection Department along with DIAKKE will contact with local collaborating actors in migration integration issues, the invited feedback on migration, social status, problems, concerns, aiming to set the draft agenda of the 1st official meeting
March 2023	Evaluation of the 1st CB's Official meeting - Online questionnaires to be filled out by all members	Processing data from questionnaires to optimize processes	Deciding on 2nd Official Meeting Date - Setting the Meeting Agenda
April 2023	Concluding the "Consultative Body's 2nd Official Meeting"	Evaluation of the 2nd CB's Official meeting - Online questionnaires to be filled out by all members	Deciding on 3rd Official Meeting Date - Setting the Meeting Agenda
May 2023	Evaluation assessment or progress program so far by the Mol's presence in Greece (Municipality of Ioannina, Melissa, etc.)	Measuring effectiveness (problems reported where actually solved?)	Deciding publicly (last press release for the projects progress)
June 2023	Concluding the "Consultative Body's 3rd Official Meeting"	Evaluation of the 3rd CB's Official meeting - Online questionnaires to be filled out by all members	Deciding on 4th Official Meeting Date - Setting the Meeting Agenda
July 2023	During August if well be impossible to schedule an official meeting, but still be offered the a preparatory period for the next meeting, proposed activities for September - October 2023		
August 2023	Concluding an open discussion including other local stakeholders		
September 2023	Concluding the "Consultative Body's 4th Official Meeting"	Evaluation of the 4th CB's Official meeting - Online questionnaires to be filled out by all members	Deciding on 5th Meeting which will be the next to reflect government as a local level etc.
October 2023	FINAL EVENT - Open discussion Establishment of the Consultative Body working for all the administrative parts	Composing the Final Report on MILE (Mol, Melissa, EKKE)	
November 2023			



This project is co-funded by the 'AMIF'-programme of the European Union



4. 25.04.2023: MILE Project Introduction Letter to SEMP's President, Mr. Aivatidis*

ΠΡΟΣ: Πρόεδρο ΣΕΜΠ, κ.Αιβατίδη
Αντιπρόεδρο ΣΕΜΠ, κα.
Κωτσάνη

ΘΕΜΑ: ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΔΡΑΣΗ ΣΥΣΤΑΣΗΣ "ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΣΤΗΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΩΝ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΩΝ" ΣΤΟ ΠΛΑΙΣΙΟ ΥΛΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΡΓΟΥ "MILE"

Ο Δήμος Ιωαννινών συμμετέχει στο Ευρωπαϊκό Συγχρηματοδοτούμενο Έργο "Ενσωμάτωση μεταναστών μέσω τοπικά σχεδιασμένων εμπειριών - Migrant Integration through Locally designed Experiences" (ή απλοϊκώς "MILE"), το οποίο στοχεύει:

- Στην επίτευξη καλύτερης κατανόησης των αναγκών των δήμων και των κοινοτήτων μεταναστών και προσφύγων στο τοπικό πλαίσιο.
- Στη διεκδίκηση της πολιτικής συμμετοχής και ηγεσίας των μεταναστών και των προσφύγων.
- Στην προώθηση της διαχείρισης της συμπεριληπτικής και χωρίς αποκλεισμούς φερελής πολιτικής στους δήμους.
- Στη μετριοπλή συγκεκριμένων και μοναδικών εμπειριών μετανάστευσης σε προτάσεις για καλύτερες πολιτικές ένταξης και συμμετοχής σε τοπικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο.
- Στη δημιουργία συμβουλευτικών φορέων για τους μετανάστες και πρόσφυγες σε κάθε συνεργαζόμενο δήμο, ώστε δομημένα να συμμετέχουν στην υιοθέτηση τοπικών πολιτικών και τη λήψη αποφάσεων.
- Στη δημιουργία ενός πανευρωπαϊκού δικτύου δήμων που θα ανταλλάσσουν τεχνογνωσία και θα συνεργάζονται σε θέματα μετανάστευσης, ένταξης, διαφοροποιήσεων και συμμετοχής.
- Στη δημιουργία μιας πλατφόρμας υψηλής ανταλλαγής πρακτικών για τις οργανώσεις που ηγούνται των μεταναστών, δημοκράτους ή βάση για μελλοντικές συνεργασίες.

Κριματικές Υποχρεώσεις υλοποίησης του Πακέτου Εργασίας
Στο πλαίσιο υλοποίησης του 4ου Πακέτου Εργασίας (WP4 - Community Bodies), ο Δήμος Ιωαννινών μέσω του φορέα υλοποίησης του έργου, τη Δ/νση Κοινωνικής Προστασίας, πρέπει να προεισιτάσταση "Συμβουλευτικού Συστήματος για την ενθάρρυνση της ενεργού πολιτικής συμμετοχής Μεταναστών και Προσφύγων σε τοπικό επίπεδο" επίδικων:

The MILE project is funded by the European Union under the AMIF 2020-AG-CAL

ΠΡΟΫΠΟΘΕΣΕΙΣ ΓΙΑ ΝΑ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΕΠΙΛΕΞΙΜΟ

A. Για τη σύσταση του συμβουλευτικού σώματος:

- Το σώμα θα πρέπει να αποτελείται τουλάχιστον από 5 Εκπαιδευτικούς μεταναστευτικών/προσφυγικών κοινοτήτων (δίνοντας βαρύτητα στη συμμετοχή περισσότερων γυναικών)
- Επιπλέον θα πρέπει να δοθεί όδεια παρακολούθησης συνεδριάσεων - ως θέματα παρατηρήσεων στο σώμα 2 εκπαιδευτικούς από τους εταίρους του έργου στην Ελλάδα.
- **Μέλησα - Δίκτυο Μεταναστών στην Ελλάδα και Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικών Ερευνών (ΕΚΚΕ).**

B. Για την οργάνωση και τη λειτουργία:

- Το σώμα προβάλλεται να συνεδριάζει τουλάχιστον 4 φορές σε διάστημα 6 μηνών (Μάιος - Οκτώβριος 2023) δια ζώσης, ή και διαδικτυακά, προκειμένου να δημοκρατηθεί το παραδοτέο και να υποβληθεί στους εταίρους εντός Νοεμβρίου 2023.
- Εισηγήσεις για τα θέματα προς συζήτηση (από τα συνεδριάσεων) θα μπορούν να υποβάλλουν όλα τα μέλη του σώματος, δίνοντας προτεραιότητα στα επικαιρα/επιτακτικά ζητήματα που εισηγούνται τα μέλη των προσφυγικών/μεταναστευτικών κοινοτήτων.
- Στο τέλος των συνεδριάσεων, ενδεχομένως να ζητηθεί από τα μέλη να συμπληρώσουν φόρμα αξιολόγησης της εκάστοτε συνεδρίας προκειμένου καλυφθεί η ανάγκη αξιολόγησης - ανατροφοδότησης (για έλεγχο αποτελεσματικότητας).

Με την ολοκλήρωση του πιλοτικού σχεδίου οι συμμετέχοντες στο σώμα θα κληθούν να δώσουν ολοκληρωτή συνέντευξη για την εμπειρία τους, η οποία θα προκομοστεί στους εταίρους του έργου ως testimonial για την υιοθέτησή του 4ου Πακέτου Εργασίας.

Παρακαλούμε όπως μας ενημερώσετε εάν το θεσμικό όργανο Συμβούλου Ένταξης Μεταναστών και Προσφύγων (ΣΕΜΠ) θα μπορούσε να αναλάβει το ρόλο του "Συμβουλευτικού Συστήματος για την ενθάρρυνση της ενεργού πολιτικής συμμετοχής Μεταναστών και Προσφύγων σε τοπικό επίπεδο" όπως αυτός απαιτείται από το πρόγραμμα MILE.

Με εκτίμηση,

Η Δ/ΝΤΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΤΑΣΙΑΣ

ΚΑΛΛΙΡΡΩΗ ΖΗΚΙΔΟΥ

ABOUT THE PROJECT

1 **Research and Policy**
Mapping migration, diversity and inclusion policies at the local and national level.

2 **Policy reviews**
Understanding the needs of migrants and refugees in different European cities in terms of their participation in policy-making.

3 **Reviews**
Evaluating migrant organisations and local policy-makers, to enhance inclusion, diversity and leadership skills.

4 **Training opportunities**
Building communities based in each municipality, to include migrants and refugees in a structured and inclusive way.

5 **Network for cities**
Creating a European network for cities to promote exchange on diversity participation and inclusion policies.

6 **Network for local migrant groups**
Creating a European network for local migrant groups to promote exchange and collaboration.

MILE IN A NUTSHELL

MILE stands for Migrant Integration through Locally designed Experiences and is about empowering the local community as a whole, including migrant communities - especially at the local level - through a bottom-up process that reflects the diverse population of cities and includes migrants and refugees.

MILE aims to promote the inclusion and active citizenship of migrants and refugees at the local level. We want to do this by connecting municipalities and migrant-led associations and provide them with tools for exchange and participatory policy-making.

The project currently involves municipalities in six European countries: Belgium, Greece, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK. Taking into account the diverse contexts and current needs of cities and local migrant communities, MILE is providing tailored tools for participation and inclusion that can be replicated across Europe.

In 2022, diversity and leadership training for municipalities and migrant communities will pave the way for the establishment of consultative bodies in each municipality where migrants can raise their issues.

In 2023, we will launch two Europe-wide exchange platforms: one for migrant-led organisations and one for municipalities to promote exchange, collaboration and inclusive policy-making.

For more information, you can visit www.mile-project.eu or contact Katerina.Dimitrakou@ec.europa.eu

*This context is in Greek since it was addressed to the SEMP's President, Mr. Aivatidis and the Vice Mayor, Mrs. Kotsanti.



This project is co-funded by the 'AMIF'-programme of the European Union

5. 22.05.23: Topics (& activities) proposed to be discussed on SEMP's Official Meeting*

<p>AGENDA</p> <p>Recommendations - Update</p> <p>Topic 1: Participation of SEMP in the MILE Project of the Municipality of Ioannina.</p> <p>Topic 2 : Participation of SEMP in the upcoming actions of Refugee Week Greece.</p> <p>Topic 3: Participation of SEMP in the International Refugee Forum.</p> <p>Topic 4: Update on the refugee situation in the area of the Municipality of Ioannina.</p> <p>Topic 5: Update from the Arab Community of Ioannina.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">TO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">President of the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council</p> <p>Subject: "Participation of the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council in Refugee Week Greece"</p> <p>The Municipality of Ioannina in cooperation with the Refugee Week Greece and the support of local actors and organizations including the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR, organize the opening event of the festival "Refugee Week Greece" with the theme "Compassion in Action". The festival, which is taking place in Greece for a second, is supported by the Network of Cities for Integration, of which the Municipality of Ioannina is a member. The festival is an initiative of the Athens Comics Library in collaboration with the British organization Counterpoint Arts and is supported by the Comic Relief across border program.</p> <p>The choice of the city of Ioannina to host the launch event was made, among other things, to honor the memory of the late Mayor, Moses Elisaf, whose actions and deeds strengthened the extroversion of the always multicultural city of Ioannina and developed an inclusive policy for all communities living in the city. In this context, we propose the support of the Festival by the SEMP, with the participation of the members and communities represented in the council in the actions that will take place from June 19 to 24 throughout the city by a multitude of municipal and civil society organizations.</p>
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*The screenshots are from the draft information documents received for the Mol's MILE Working Group information and consideration.

6. 22.06.2023: Raising awareness proposals and communication planning*

<h2 style="margin-top: 20px;">ΠΡΟΤΕΙΝΟΜΕΝΕΣ ΔΡΑΣΕΙΣ</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MILE - WP4 "Consultative Bodies" • ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΩΝ 	<p>Δράσεις για ενσωμάτωση προσφύγων & μεταναστών στην τοπική κοινωνία</p> <p>Στο πλαίσιο υλοποίησης του 4ου Πακέτου Εργασίας (WP4 - Consultative Bodies), ο Δήμος Ιωαννινών με φορέα υλοποίησης το Συμβούλιο Μεταναστών και Προσφύγων - SEMP έχει τη δυνατότητα προγραμματισμού δράσεων για πρόσφυγες και μετανάστες (και τον γενικό πληθυσμό) επιδιώκοντας την κοινωνική συμπερίληψη σε τοπικό επίπεδο.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Στην παρούσα παρουσίαση θα βρείτε προτάσεις για διοργανούμενες δράσεις για το διάστημα Ιουλίου - Σεπτεμβρίου 2023, προκειμένου να δημιουργηθεί το παραδοτέο για το έργο ενός Οκτωβρίου 2023 και να υποβληθεί στους εταίρους. <p>Επιστημονικές:</p> <p>1. Οι προτεινόμενες δράσεις είναι εφάπαξ ή για δημιουργική συνεργασία μεταξύ των μελών ΟΔΕ του έργου - Μελών SEMP, καθώς υπόκειται τα μέλη τους εάν να έχουν προγραμματιστεί απόστασεις και να μην είναι σε ένταση μιας.</p> <p>2. Η χρονική περίοδος έναρξης προγραμματισμού δράσεων μπορεί να τροποποιηθεί, αρκεί να υλοποιηθούν οι προτάσεις για να αναπληρωθούν από τμήμα που θα απολυώσει στους Ευρωπαϊκούς Έταλους του Έργου.</p>
<p>Προτεινόμενες δράσεις: 1. Εθελοντική Αιμοδοσία</p> <p>Concept - Slogan*</p> <p>#bloodonoring: We donate blood, we build strong community ties with refugees & migrants</p> <p>Διαρίζουμε αίμα, δημιουργούμε ισχυρούς δεσμούς με πρόσφυγες & μετανάστες που διαμένουν στην περιοχή μας</p> <p>[*Το κείμενο και εικαστικά είναι ενδεικτικά]</p>	<p>Διοργάνωση εθελοντικής αιμοδοσίας</p> <p>Συνδιοργάνωση: SEMP με Ερυθρό Σταυρό ή Παν/κο Νοσοκομείο ΓΠΝΙ (Τμήμα Αιμοδοσίας)</p> <p>Focus Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Γενικός Πληθυσμός - Πρόσφυγες και μετανάστες <p>Σημεία αιμοδοσίας (ενδεικτικά):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Αίθουσα Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου - Πνευματικό Κέντρο (φουαγιέ) - Δομή Κατακεί (έλεγχος αν είναι εφικτό) για τους πρόσφυγες/ μετανάστες <p>Προτεινόμενες ημερομηνίες:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ιούλιος 2023 (λόγω των αυξημένων αναγκών σε αίμα την καλοκαιρινή περίοδο) - Σεπτέμβριος 2023 (λόγω επιστροφής γενικού πληθυσμού από καλοκαιρινές διακοπές) <p>Επισημάνσεις & προβολή:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ανοχήση χορηγών επικοινωνίας (τοπική τηλεοπτική σταθμοί, εφημερίδες, sites/blogs για αναπαράγωγή προωθητικού υλικού) - Δελτία Τύπου (αναπαράγωγή σε site/ social media Δ. Ιωαννινών, εφημερίδες & sites/blogs) - Newsletter προς αποστολή σε Urban Working Group (και άλλες λίστες παραλήπτιν) - Συνεντεύξεις Προέδρου/ Αντιπροέδρου SEMP - Press conference για να κληθούν τα τηλεοπτικά μέσα για την κάλυψη της δράσης <p>Προϋπολογισμός Δραστηριότητας:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Γραφιστική εργασία (αφίσες & flyers → έως 100€) - Παραγωγή υλικού (TV spot & radio spot → έως 200€) - Κόστη εκτυπώσεων (έως 400€)
<p>Προτεινόμενες δράσεις: 2. Εκπαιδευτική Δράση</p> <p>Concept - Slogan*</p> <p>#bookbinding: Tales and Stories from all over the World</p> <p>Διαβάζουμε Διηγήματα και Ιστορίες από όλο τον κόσμο</p> <p>[*Το κείμενο και εικαστικά είναι ενδεικτικά]</p>	<p>Διοργάνωση εκπαιδευτικής δράσης</p> <p>Συνδιοργάνωση: SEMP με Παιδαγωγικό Τμήμα Παν/μιο Ιωαννινών, ή ΜΚΟ (που να τρέχουν εκπαιδευτικά προγράμματα για ανηλίκους)</p> <p>Focus Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Μαθητές δημοτικού - Εκπαιδευτικό Α' Θύμισ Εκπαίδευσης Διαπολιτισμικών σχολείων <p>Χώροι Διεξαγωγής (ενδεικτικά):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Διαπολιτισμικό Δημοτικό του Δήμου Ιωαννινών (Κάτορα, Ανατολή ή Κατωκάκι) - Αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων Δ.Χατζή (Παιδικά Σφαγεία) <p>Προτεινόμενες ημερομηνίες:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Τέλη Σεπτεμβρίου ή αρχές Οκτωβρίου 2023 <p>Επισημάνσεις & προβολή:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ανοχήση χορηγών επικοινωνίας (τοπική τηλεοπτική σταθμοί, εφημερίδες, sites/blogs για αναπαράγωγή προωθητικού υλικού) - Δελτία Τύπου (αναπαράγωγή σε site/ social media Δ. Ιωαννινών, εφημερίδες & sites/blogs) - Newsletter προς αποστολή σε Urban Working Group (και άλλες λίστες παραλήπτιν) - Συνεντεύξεις Προέδρου/ Αντιπροέδρου SEMP - Press conference για να κληθούν τα τηλεοπτικά μέσα για την κάλυψη της δράσης <p>Προϋπολογισμός Δραστηριότητας:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Αμοιβή εκπαιδευτών (έως 3 άτομα → 29€ ώρα → 150€) - Γραφιστική εργασία (αφίσες & flyers → έως 100€) - Παραγωγή υλικού (TV spot & radio spot → έως 200€) - Κόστη εκτυπώσεων (έως 400€)

Προτεινόμενες δράσεις: 3. Άσκηση - Αθλητισμός				Προτεινόμενες δράσεις: 4. Πολιτισμός		
1. Εντατική εκπαίδευση πολιτιστικής για παιδιά και ενήλικες <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με αθλητές Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: Δημοτικό Κολυμβητήριο 	2. Άθληση - Στίβος για παιδιά και ενήλικες <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με ΟΚΠΑΠΑ Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: Πανεπιστημιακό στάδιο 	3. Μαθήματα ιππασίας για παιδιά και ενήλικες <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με Ιππικό Στάδιο Ιωαννίνων Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: Ιππικός Στάδος Ιωαννίνων 	3. Ορειβασία για παιδιά και ενήλικες <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με Ορειβατικό Σύλλογο Ιωαννίνων Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: (διοργανώνει ετήσιες νησίδες Ιωαννίνων) 	1. Τελετή εκδήλωσης για παιδιά και ενήλικες <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Θρησκευμάτων Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: Δημοτικό Μουσείο Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο Βυζαντινό Μουσείο Μουσείο Κέρκυρα Οργανισμός Παύλου Βράλλη 	2. Θεατρικά παιχνίδια <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με Παιδαγωγικό Κέντρο και ΟΚΠΑΠΑ Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: Ομάδες για θέατρο παιδικό/εφηβικό Παιδική ομάδα (για χειμερινή περίοδο) 	3. Επιστημονική Ημερίδα Τάξης (π.χ. Αρχαιολογία, Αρχιτεκτονική, Γεωγραφία, Γλωσσική, Κοινωνική, Φύση) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Σε συνεργασία με Παιδαγωγικό Κέντρο και ΟΚΠΑΠΑ Τίτλος διεξαγωγής: Οι κύριοι διδασκάλους σε άμεση συνάρτηση με το είδος της δράσης
Χρονική περίοδος υλοποίησης: Ιούλιος - Σεπτέμβριος 2023 (Επιστημονική: Η χρονική περίοδος μπορεί να τροποποιηθεί)				Χρονική περίοδος υλοποίησης: Ιούλιος - Σεπτέμβριος 2023 (Επιστημονική: Η χρονική περίοδος μπορεί να τροποποιηθεί)		

Strategic communication - dissemination plan

<p>ΔΗΜΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΩΝ ΔΙΝΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΙΑΣ</p> <p>ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΣΥΓΧΡΗΜΑΤΟΔΟΤΟΥΜΕΝΟ ΕΡΓΟ: MILE</p> <p>ΠΡΟΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΒΟΛΗΣ ΙΟΥΝΙΟΣ 2023</p>			
<p align="center">Έργο MILE - Traditional Marketing</p>			
ΠΑΚΕΤΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ	ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΕΣ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΒΟΛΗΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΕΡΙΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙ ΚΟΣΤΟΣ (ΝΑΙ/ΟΧΙ)	ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΔΑΠΑΝΩΝ
WP4 Επιστημονική - άλλους ΣΕΜΠ	Δημιουργία αφίσας και φυλλαδίου (poster & flyer) για τοποθέτηση/ διανομή σε διάφορα σημεία της πόλης.	ΝΑΙ	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> γραφική εργασία εκτυπωμένες posters & flyers
	Καταχωρήσεις σε έντυπα μέσα (εφημερίδες, περιοδικά)	ΝΑΙ	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> γραφική εργασία προβολή στις εφημερίδες/ περιοδικά
	Δημιουργία TVC (τηλεοπτικού spot) και radio spot για προβολή αντίστοιχα: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> σε τοπικούς τηλεοπτικούς σταθμούς τοπικούς ραδιοφωνικούς σταθμούς 	ΝΑΙ	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> παροχή τηλεοπτικού spot προβολή στα τοπικά κανάλια προβολή στους ραδιοφωνικούς σταθμούς ** Έλλογος αν στο δημοτικό ραδιοφωνικό σταθμό να έρουν προβολή χωρίς κόστος.
<p align="center">Έργο MILE - Digital Marketing</p>			
ΠΑΚΕΤΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ	ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΕΣ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΒΟΛΗΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΕΡΙΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙ ΚΟΣΤΟΣ (ΝΑΙ/ΟΧΙ)	ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΔΑΠΑΝΩΝ
WP4 Επιστημονική - άλλους ΣΕΜΠ	Κατασκευή φορητών διαφημιστικών εργαλείων (roll up banners) για τοποθέτηση σε διάφορα σημεία της πόλης.	ΝΑΙ	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> γραφική εργασία αγορά μηχανοκίνητο και εκτύπωση
	Τοποθέτηση αφισών σε στάσεις λεωφορείων	ΝΑΙ	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> γραφική εργασία μέθοδος διαφημιστικού χώρου
	"Ντύσιμο" Λεωφορείων	ΝΑΙ	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> γραφική εργασία εκτύπωση/ τοποθέτηση και μέθοδος σχημάτων
<p align="center">Έργο MILE - Digital Marketing</p>			
ΠΑΚΕΤΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ	ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΕΣ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΒΟΛΗΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΕΡΙΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙ ΚΟΣΤΟΣ (ΝΑΙ/ΟΧΙ)	ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΔΑΠΑΝΩΝ
WP4 Επιστημονική - άλλους ΣΕΜΠ	Δημιουργία και αποστολή newsletters	ΝΑΙ (έλεγχος κτήσεων σημείων)	Περιλαμβάνει κόστος για: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> εργασία προγραμματισμού - to newsletter έχουν συγκεκριμένο format template, το οποίο αγοράζεται αγορά προγράμματος αποστολής email στις λίστες εγγραφμένων παραληπτών - Έλεγχος αν έχουμε τήρηση προγράμματος χωρίς έξτρα χρέωση <p>*** Η ενέργεια δεν έχει κόστος αν την αναλάβει το Τμήμα Προγραμματισμού, στα προγράμματα του Δήμου ή της συνεργαζόμενης εταιρείας για τη διαχείριση του site (από ιστορία παύτα να ελεγχθεί με τον κ. Καρβόνη και τον Ανθόνακο, κ. Βάρδα)</p>
<p align="center">Έργο MILE - Άλλες ενέργειες</p>			
ΠΑΚΕΤΟ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ	ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΕΣ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΒΟΛΗΣ ΕΡΓΟΥ	ΠΕΡΙΛΑΜΒΑΝΕΙ ΚΟΣΤΟΣ (ΝΑΙ/ΟΧΙ)	ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ ΔΑΠΑΝΩΝ
WP4 Επιστημονική - άλλους ΣΕΜΠ	Τακτική παρουσίαση προόδου έργων σε UWG και ΣΕΜΠ	ΟΧΙ	Δεν περιλαμβάνει δαπάνες (εκτός αν βιντεοκαταγράψω)
	Παρουσίαση προόδου έργων στα μέλη του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου	ΟΧΙ	Δεν περιλαμβάνει δαπάνες (εκτός αν βιντεοκαταγράψω)
	Διεξαγωγή press conference	ΟΧΙ	Δεν περιλαμβάνει δαπάνες (ωστόσο θα πρέπει να προηγηθεί συνάντηση με το Γραφείο Τύπου για να παραδοθούν δημοσιογράφοι τοπικών ΜΜΕ)
	Παροχή συνεντεύξεων	ΟΧΙ	Δεν περιλαμβάνει δαπάνες (ωστόσο θα πρέπει να προηγηθεί συνάντηση με το Γραφείο Τύπου για να παραδοθούν δημοσιογράφοι τοπικών ΜΜΕ)



*This context is in Greek since it was addressed to the SEMP's President, Mr. Aivatidis and the Vice Mayor, Mrs. Kotsanti. The concepts/ creatives are also indicative for open discussion amongst the collaborating members.

7.

17.07.2023: Meeting by Circulation of the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees of the Municipality of Ioannina (SEMP).

1. Screenshots of administrative paperwork (important to see the procedure).
2. Screenshots of Press releases and other **photos of the body's Participation in Refugee Week 2023.**

Invitation to SEMP Members

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ ΔΗΜΟΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΩΝ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΕΝΤΑΞΗΣ ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΩΝ</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Α/ΝΔΠ: ΠΑ. Α. Πανεπιστήμιο Σ 48221 - ΙΩΑΝΝΙΝΑ ΤΗΛ: 2651 3 61113 ΦΑΞ: 2651 3 65180 e-mail: pa@iannina.gr mkoltsidas@iannina.gr</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Ioannina, June 20, 2023</p> <p>TO: As a Table of Acceptors</p> <p>SUBJECT: "Meeting, by circulation, of the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees of the Municipality of Ioannina"</p> <p>According to No. Δ12/ΓΡ. house 23983/2022 ΚΥΑ (FEK 2137/Λ Β /April 30, 2022) as amended and valid, we invite you to, by circulation, meeting of the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees which will take place on Friday, 23.06.2023, at 10:00, with the following agenda items:</p> <p>Topic 1: Participation of SEMP in the MILE Project of the Municipality of Ioannina. Topic 2: Participation of SEMP in the upcoming actions of Refugee Week Greece. Topic 3: Participation of SEMP in the International Refugee Forum. Topic 4: Update on the refugee situation in the area of the Municipality of Ioannina. Topic 5: Update from the Arab Community of Ioannina.</p> <p>The decision-making process by circulation will take place as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each member of the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees will fill in and vote on the attached special form. 2. The answers (vote) of each member of the Council for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees should be sent by e-mail to the e-mail address of the Independent Department of Support of Political Bodies (e-mail: mkoltsidas@iannina.gr and ds@iannina.gr) in PDF format, until Friday 23.06.2023 at 12:00. 3. If the members of the Council wish to include their views – remarks in the decision of a topic, please formulate a summary of them. <p style="text-align: center;">THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IOANNIS AJVATIDIS</p>	<p>Table of Recipients</p> <p>REGULAR MEMBERS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mohamed Mohamed 2. Serigne Sow 3. Khalid Gil Mahmood 4. Mbiassa Youmbi Celestin Cardin 5. Haymanot Addisu <p>ALTERNATE MEMBERS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sulaiman Jaloh 2. Musko Xhelo 3. Justina Oppong <p>Share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor, Mr. Dimitrios Papageorgiou • Deputy Mayor, Christina Kotsanti • General Secretary of the Municipality, Mr. Vasilios Zografopoulos
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The Members Participation Form

**PARTICIPATION FORM
IN (BY CIRCULATION) MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
MUNICIPALITY OF IOANNINA
June 23, 2023
TIME 10:00**

AGENDA

TOPIC	I HAVE BEEN INFORMED	REMARKS
1. Participation of SEMP in the MILE Project of the Municipality of Ioannina.		
2. Participation of SEMP in the upcoming actions of Refugee Week Greece.		
3. Participation of SEMP in the International Refugee Forum.		
4. Update on the refugee situation in the area of the Municipality of Ioannina.		
5. Update from the Arab Community of Ioannina.		

**THE MEMBER
OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
OF MUNICIPALITY OF IOANNINA**

The detailed presentation of the Agenda Topics

Topic 1.

Submission of a Proposal for the Participation in the European Co-funded Project "MILE"

The Municipality of Ioannina participates as a co-applicant in the European project entitled "Migrant Integration through Locally designed Experiences". MILE is based on the understanding that policy making at the local level should be a co-shaping process that reflects the diverse population of cities and gives a voice to migrants. By engaging municipalities, migrant groups and research groups across Europe, MILE aims to empower refugees and migrants and strengthen the creation of lasting connections between migrant groups and local governments/self-governments in Europe.

In particular, the MILE project aims to:

- Achieving a better understanding of migrant and refugee needs.
- Facilitating the political participation and leadership of migrants and refugees.
- Promoting the establishment of inclusive and inclusive policy-making in municipalities.
- Translating concrete and unique migration experiences into proposals for better integration and participation policies at local and European level.
- The creation of advisory bodies for migrants and refugees in each partner municipality, so that they can participate in the adoption of local policies and decision-making.
- The creation of a pan-European network of municipalities that will exchange know-how and cooperate on migration, integration, diversity, and participation.
- The creation of a platform for peer-to-peer exchange of practices for organizations leading migrants, creating the basis for future collaborations.

In the context of the implementation of the program, the Municipality of Ioannina proposes the inclusion of the Council for the Integration of Migrants in the implementation actions of MILE, and specifically the action: "Establishment of an Advisory Forum to encourage the active political participation of Migrants and Refugees at local level", with a budget of 3,500 euros.

The consequence of the inclusion of SEMP in MILE's actions is the following:

- SEMP is expected to meet at least four times over the next six months (May - October 2023) in person, or online, in order the project to create the deliverable and submit it to the partners within November 2023.
- Suggestions on the topics for discussion (agenda of meetings) at the SEMP's meeting will be submitted by all members of the body, giving priority to topical/urgent issues proposed by members of refugee/migrant communities.
- At the end of SEMP's meetings, members may be asked to fill in an evaluation form for each meeting in order to meet the need for evaluation - feedback (for effectiveness testing).
- Upon completion of the six meetings, the participants of SEMP will be invited to give a short interview about their experience, which will be presented to the project partners as a testimonial to support the 4th Work Package of the project.

Topic 2.

Subject: "Participation of the Migrant and Refugee Integration Council in Refugee Week Greece"

The Municipality of Ioannina in cooperation with the Refugee Week Greece and the support of local actors and organizations including the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR, organize the opening event of the festival "Refugee Week Greece" with the theme "Compassion in Action". The festival, which is taking place in Greece for a second, is supported by the Network of Cities for Integration, of which the Municipality of Ioannina is a member. The festival is an initiative of the Athens Comics Library in collaboration with the British organization Counterpoint Arts and is supported by the Comic Relief across border program.

The choice of the city of Ioannina to host the launch event was made, among other things, to honor the memory of the late Mayor, Moses Eliaf, whose actions and deeds strengthened the extroversion of the always multicultural city of Ioannina and developed an inclusive policy for all communities living in the city. In this context, we propose the support of the Festival by the SEMP, with the participation of the members and communities represented in the council in the actions that will take place from June 19 to 24 throughout the city by a multitude of municipal and civil society organizations.

More specifically, we are indicatively mentioning some actions pending finalization of the program and its announcement by the municipality.

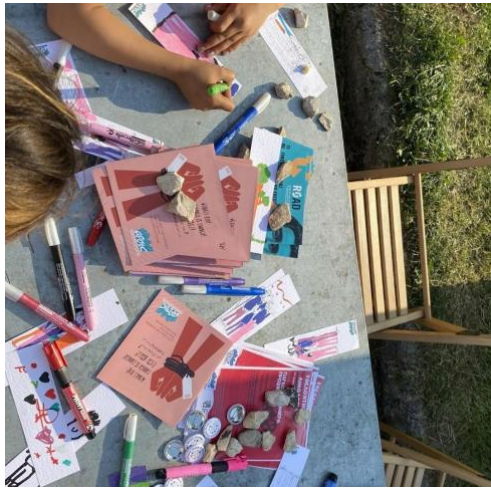
- 19/06/2023: Launch Event
- 20/06/2023: Film screenings and activities for teenagers.
- 22/06/2023: Seminar on issues of protection and combating stereotypes.
- 23/06/2023: Action for children and adolescents with an emphasis on interaction through art and play.
- 24/06/2023: Football tournament in cooperation with local groups and with shelters for unaccompanied minors.

At the same time, the IOM's "Exploring our Cities" and Solidarity Now photography exhibitions will be open to the public throughout the festival.

Thank you very much for your attention.

	<p>Topic 3.</p> <p>Submission for the Participation to the Global Refugee Forum</p> <p>The Global Refugee Forum is a UNHCR's initiative and a critical platform that emerged from the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees in December 2018. The forum, held every four years, serves as an opportunity for governments, NGOs, civil society, and other stakeholders to come together and address the challenges faced by refugees globally.</p> <p>The Global Refugee Forum has the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilizing political will: The forum seeks to generate political will and commitment among member states and other actors to strengthen the protection of refugees and their host communities. Sharing good practices: It provides a platform to share successful approaches and initiatives from different parts of the world, encouraging countries to learn from one another and replicate effective strategies. Ensuring financial support: The forum aims to mobilize financial resources to support the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, facilitating sustainable solutions and enhancing the resilience of refugees and their hosts. Fostering partnerships: Collaboration between governments, humanitarian organizations, civil society, and the private sector is essential to address the complexity of refugee situations. The forum promotes partnerships and cooperation among these stakeholders to find comprehensive and durable solutions. <p>The Global Refugee Forum addresses a range of thematic areas, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Education: Ensuring access to quality education for refugee children and youth, which plays a vital role in their protection, integration, and future prospects. Livelihoods: Enhancing economic opportunities and self-reliance for refugees, promoting their inclusion in local labor markets, and supporting entrepreneurship and skill development. Protection: Strengthening the protection of refugees, with particular attention to women, children, and other vulnerable groups, and ensuring their access to essential services. Solutions and resettlement: Encouraging countries to increase their resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees, while supporting host countries and communities. Climate and displacement: Addressing the impacts of climate change on displacement and exploring innovative approaches to build resilience and provide assistance to those affected. Health and well-being: Ensuring access to healthcare services, including mental health and psychosocial support, for refugees and host communities. <p>The first Global Refugee Forum was held in December 2019 with the participation of 3,000 delegates and was a milestone in building solidarity with the world's refugees and the countries and communities that host them. The next Forum will be held in Geneva in December 2023. The active participation in this global event with the commitment of the participants to the implementation of a pledge towards the goals of the Global Refugee Forum.</p> <p>The municipality of Ioannina proposes the participation in the Global Refugee Forum with the pledge of the establishment of a center for the integration of migrants and refugees (KEM).</p>	<p>Topic 4 (as submitted by the representative of the African Community)</p> <p>Difficultés que rencontrent les Africains dans la ville de Ioannina</p> <p>On observe que les Africains résidents à Ioannina ont beaucoup de problèmes d'ordre général mais en particulier :</p> <p>-Celui lié au renouvellement de leurs titres de séjour, Les plus part des réfugiées attendent des années pour avoir une repense a leur demande d'asile et lorsque elle est positive ils reçoivent le carte déjà expirée. Le renouvellement est presque impossible.</p>
	<p>Topic 5 (as submitted by the representative of the Arab Community)</p> <p>Briefing of the Arab Community in Ioannina</p> <p>After talking to the members of the Arab community living in the city of Ioannina, they told me the following requests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Because most members of the Arab community are of Muslim religion, they have certain systems and laws related to their daily affairs. An example of this is that there is no meat (halal) in the city of Ioannina, so we ask the municipality of Ioannina to contact one of the slaughterhouses to take this issue into account and provide a point of sale containing meat (Halal). Also, one of the important demands is to provide a place of worship for the establishment of prayers appropriate to the Muslim religion and to put it on an equal footing with the rest of the places of worship of other religions located within Ioannina, where there are many churches and there is a Jewish temple, but there is not a single place suitable for Muslims whose number exceeds 2000 people, according to the assessment, of different nationalities (Arabs - Afghans - Pakistanis - Africans - Albanians ... Etc More activities that help bring together foreign communities in the city of Ioannina, for example, activities related to Greek culture and Arab culture, and focus on common ground within the two cultures, which will greatly help integrate the Arab community in the city, also help Greeks get to know each other and benefit everyone in all their differences. 	
	<p>Photo Material of Participation in Refugee Week 2023</p>	
	<p>1. Press releases for dissemination (indicative links)</p>	





Municipal Authority, SEMP Members, MoI Working Group Members, Representatives of IOM, UNHCR, Akadimia and other local NGOs participation in Refugee Week

