



During the last two years, Europe and particularly Greece have faced the largest refugee and migrant influx in their recent history. The need to integrate Third Country Nationals (TCNs) into society and promote their active participation in the Greek socio-political fabric (i.e. education, sociability, employment and access to health), becomes urgent than ever.

The general objective of the LION project is to promote the active participation of third-country nationals (TCNs) in important aspects of local community and societal life and also enhance the capacities of local authorities in order to effectively address factors that lead to marginalisation and socio-economic exclusion of third-country nationals.



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“ Let's all work together towards a peaceful coexistence and inclusive society

Let's all form the basis for mutual trust and common responsibilities

Let's bring change and hope to our societies ”

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## WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR

- **Thorough research on best practices**

Under the leadership of Gent University, Best Practices in terms of integration policies were mapped at the EU and National level, with a specific focus on Greece. The synthesis report produced, set a solid basis for the design of capacity-building activities that will be implemented in the following weeks and months. Social integration of TCN's was examined through the following domains:

- employment,
- education,
- health care,
- social care,
- intercultural coexistence

Best practices (available at LION's website) were mapped using the following tools: extensive desk research, focus groups and interviews with TCNs (asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection) and local stakeholders in Thessaloniki.

- **Mapping the local field for implementing the proposed framework for integration**

Through desk research and interviews with key social actors, the project team mapped the key field actors in Thessaloniki to prioritise the needs and collect information on the already existing practices in Thessaloniki in terms of social integration of Third Country National in the abovementioned 5 sectors. Challenges were identified and recommendations formulated in order to tailor the future activities of the project.

- **Development of a tailor made methodological action plan**

The aim of the plan is to:

- address the preconditions for the active participation of the TCNs to civic and cultural life;
- promote tolerance, non-discriminatory practices and encourage intercultural dialogues;
- identify the gaps and needs in public services towards a multicultural society;
- promote communication channels and their further development between TCNs and local society;
- foster TCNs' civic orientation and their needs for information regarding the history, fundamental norms and values of the host country;
- enhance the active participation of TCNs in collective bodies at local level in order to give them a voice;
- highlight the needed leadership skills of TCNs



## NEXT STEPS

- Capacity building to the host society. Specifically, workshops/trainings will be organised for Frontline practitioners, hospital staff and police officers, also including 8 training activities for teachers and 6 info days for parents aiming at raising awareness of the network and spread its value.
- A multidisciplinary team will be also established which will provide psychosocial and legal support to TCNs. 3 trainings of 20 participants, lasting 6 hours each, will be organized for members of migrant and local communities.
- Common activities will also take place aiming at networking TCNs and relevant stakeholders. TCNs along with members of the local community will visit basic points of the city, will interact with groups and associations of the local society and will jointly organise events on sports, art, music, culture etc. To further assist the networking processes a physical platform will be developed where key stakeholders and TCNs will participate in a series of consultation meetings



## LION PROJECT PARTICIPATION IN FORA

- To support its dissemination activities, LION project will be presented at the 14th Panhellenic Conference for the Administration, Finance and Policies of Health on 11 -13 December 2018. The paper accepted for the presentation is about healthcare and social care and is scheduled to be presented on 11 December 2018 (ESDY Team). Related information available at: <https://www.healthpolicycongress.gr/>
- LION project will be also presented at the International Conference of DIVINA 2018, Diversity in Adult Education: Community, Integration, Governance on the 13th of December, in the frame of Greek AMIF Programs. Related information available at: <http://diversityadulthood.eu/> and <http://www.amif-greece.gr/>

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