



Project funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2014-2020). Grant Agreement number: 776213- LION- AMIF-2016-AG-INTE

2nd Press Release

## PRESS RELEASE

### INFO DAYS ON HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL CARE FOR TCNs IN THESSALONIKI

*“From the professionals’ point of view I understand integration as a type of assistance, and provision of support to TCNs in a particular society, in Greece in the present case [...] so that these people can familiarise themselves with and take in the existing culture, habits, access to services. From the TCNs’ point of view, at least now that the refugee crisis is unfolding, I don’t think they perceive integration in the same manner as we do. I think they perceive it mainly as direct provision of assistance, and not so much as a gradual support process that will help them in the long run to find the resources they need” (NGO representative).*

*“[Integration means] that someone feels well, and the others treat him/her well wherever he/she goes, as if it was one’s home country” (TCN).*

*“We were in Athens and then moved to Thessaloniki. There was this girl at... NGO, (...) she helped us a lot, she accompanied us to the hospital and everything ran smoothly as far as this procedure is concerned” (TCN).*

The need to integrate Third Country Nationals<sup>1</sup> into the Greek society and promote their active participation in the field of formal education, healthcare, social care, employment and intercultural coexistence, becomes urgent than ever.

TCNs are entitled to a series of rights and needs in the field of healthcare, social care, formal education employment, and intercultural coexistence. The current European research, echoes, contemplates and imprints the thoughts and needs of TCNs as those have been expressed during the consultations on healthcare and social care that took place in the city of Thessaloniki on 17-18 December 2018 and 6 & 8 February 2019 respectively. Some of these needs are, the access to primary healthcare, strengthening interpretation and intercultural mediation, learning the Greek language, access to free medication, combatting stereotypes and discrimination in the field of healthcare and social care, social benefits, housing and free access to psychosocial support. The LION project which is funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2014-2020), with a duration of 24 months, intends

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<sup>1</sup> From now on TCNs.



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to exhibit current needs and shortcomings by setting up a consultation platform for both local stakeholders and TCNs through a 3-step process:

1. Consultation meetings to offer space to both target groups to express their needs and share their experiences;
2. Development and distribution of informative material based on consultations;
3. Organisation of info days.

The info days on healthcare and social care will take place in Thessaloniki on **19 April 2019**, at **11:00-13:00** at "OIKOPOLIS" (5<sup>th</sup> floor), 29A Ptolemaion Street, PC 54630.

The info day will present the main objectives of the European programme 'LION', summarise the main findings of the consultations on healthcare and social care, and distribute to the audience two info guides published in 4 languages; one for healthcare services and one for social care services in Thessaloniki.

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