



Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union  
This document is part of the project "776213/LION" which has received funding from the European Union's Annual Work Programme 'Integration of Third-Country Nationals' (2014-2020)



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΔΥΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### FINAL CONFERENCE OF LION PROJECT

Athens, 02/12/2019

The final conference of "Local Alliance for Integration" (LION) project, funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (AMIF-2016-AG-INTE), was successfully implemented on **Friday, November 29, 2019 09:00 - 18:00** at the Conference Room of School of Public Health (former NSPH), 196 Alexandra Ave., Athens.

During the conference topics related to integration of Third Country Nationals (TCNs) into the community in the fields of health care, labour market, social care and intercultural education and coexistence were addressed. The main aim of the conference was to present its results in each of the above 5 key sectors and to create a forum of dialogue. Through speakers' presentations and discussion with participants with years of experience and expertise, the needs and challenges of TCNs together with the challenges in formulating integration policies with the active involvement of TCNs were highlighted and a networking environment with stakeholders at multiple levels of governance was promoted.

In particular, the discussed topics focused on the needs and access of TCNs into the health system, but also on problems and challenges faced by TCNs in the process of finding a job. Also, topics related to housing, psychosocial support, the general support network at state and non-governmental level, along with issues of people's coexistence in Greek society and schools, without racist and xenophobic behaviors, created a forum of exchange of ideas setting the basis for further research.

Official guests who greeted the opening of the conference were, among others, the Secretary General of Primary, Secondary Education and Special Education of the Ministry of Education and Religions, Ms. Gika, the Secretary General for Migration Policy, Reception and Asylum of the Ministry of Citizen Protection, Mr. Georgiadis, the Vice Chancellor of the University of West Attica Mr. Kaldellis, the Dean of the School of Public Health of the University of West Attica Ms. Pavi and the Vice President - responsible for contagious diseases - of the National Public Health Organization, Mr. Panagiotakopoulos.

Also, representatives of TCNs organizations such as the President of the Cultural Association of Greece-Pakistan Mr. Syed Mohammad Jamil, the President of NGO Almasar Mr. Mahmud Abdel and the President of the Greek Refugee Forum Mr. Yonous Mohammadi discussed and exchanged views on integration with representatives of local authorities, policy makers, as well as academics and researchers involved in TCNs integration in the fields of health, labour market, social care and intercultural education and coexistence.

More information and the full agenda of the Conference are available on LION's website <http://allianceforintegration.eu>.