



City of Athens: How innovation promotes social inclusion and local governance

- The migration and refugee reality of 2015, the 10 year financial crisis: the challenge of social cohesion
- The importance of integration
- Administrative reform
- New department, Center for Migrant Integration (funded by ESF), engagement of the Council for Migrant and Refugee Integration

- Cooperation with the private sector and civil society: Athens Coordination Center for Migrants and Refugees
- The number of refugees that will remain in Athens is uncertain – however we do know that many people will not be able to leave – even if they want to...



ATHENS COORDINATION CENTER FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

- A full understanding of the constantly changing situation of the refugee/immigrant population is needed, in order to assess needs & possibilities for inclusion and integration.
- A plan with 5 axes, 90+ organisations participating
- Digital Platform of Coordination, Research on the tendencies of citizens, Local strategy on integration, preparedness mechanism, Working groups

- Innovation and Social Cohesion: The projects
- Curing the Limbo – a project that is „connecting the growing refugee population to local citizens, by providing them with affordable living spaces, whilst in return, refugees work for the public benefit and receive on-the-job training from the University of Athens. The refugees will acquire skills in language learning, psychosocial support and knowledge about their legal rights”



CURING THE LIMBO

- The POLIS² project aimed to revitalise abandoned buildings by providing small grants to residents, small enterprises, creative communities and other civil society groups and bring life to all corners of Athens.
- The Digital Council, in which the city brought together companies and educational institutions to offer trainings on digital literacy and civic technology trainings.



ATHENS DIGITAL LAB



POLIS²

- Athens Trigono project leverages existing government resources and private investment to create a more vibrant and sustainable public space. Project partners included synAthina, an online platform that engages and connects hundreds of community groups in civic activities. 8,300 sq metres of graffiti were removed, new pedestrian zones created, and 29 arts events hosted in Athens Trigono engaged 178 artists.



COMMERCIAL TRIANGLE PROGRAM

- Athens Partnership – a non-profit entity that is an example of cross-sector partnerships between the municipality and businesses, universities, foundations, and others. With €12 million raised to catalyze innovative projects, the initiative pulled off the Athens Digital Lab (working with six startup companies to develop digital applications to help the municipality serve residents better) and Open Schools.



ATHENS OPEN SCHOOLS

- synAthina, an online platform that won a €1 million prize in the 2014 Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge. The platform has registered nearly 400 groups who have carried out more than 3,000 activities, from graffiti removal to organizing gardening workshops. It's also created a continuously evolving map of Athens' growing civil society, giving donors, issue experts, and others a path to support promising initiatives.

- One recent success was the restoration of the derelict Kypseli Market. Not only was the city able to consult with the community through synAthena to decide on a new purpose for the structure, but it also found partners to help run it. The market building reopened this month as a new collective space for nonprofits who aim to foster social and cultural innovation in the city.



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ATHENS CULTURE NET



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Thank you