



Curing the Limbo:

Reactivating the city inertia

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Refugees arriving in an uneven reality



Temporary shelters at the Piraeus port



Entering the Eleonas camp



Life in the Eleonas camp



Life in the Eleonas camp



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JIMI HENDRIX

63

**Vacant properties in
the center of Athens**



**Vacant properties in
the center of Athens**



Vacant properties in the center of Athens



City Plaza



Khora community center



ΚΙΝΗΤΗ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΘΗΚΗ
Pirûkxan
کتابخانه سیار



ECHO Refugee Library

City challenges

- **High unemployment rates, population outflow and vacant properties**
- Refugees are receiving first-aid help but have been out of activity for too long
- Immigrants who stay in Athens are **under-skilled**
- **Vibrant civil society** and active community groups/initiatives working on un-addressed city needs
- High number of **vacant buildings** and uncoordinated efforts for solving the issue
- Ensure that the lives of these vulnerable groups of people will have a linear and **smooth integration despite the unevenness of the surrounding reality**

The idea:

“Curing the Limbo” capitalizes on the vibrant civil society of Athens to help refugees overcome the stage of inertia and be back in action. At the heart of the program lies a cycling “gift” system where refugees receive low cost spaces to live while they participate to activities for the public benefit supporting the needs of the local community.



LINK TO THE MARKET

New micro businesses
Social enterprises
Higher opportunity for employment



POLICY CHANGE
Model for proprietors to
activate their properties



University of Athens provides
expertise and trains locals
to become mediators



On-the-job language learning courses,
psychological support and soft-skills
training will be offered to the
target groups during all the
phases of the program



synAthina



Open Calls:
- psychological & cultural support
- technology workshops
- professional matchmaking (internships)



ESTIA shelters
Housing Facilitat'on Unit
Private Properties



- » mobile laundrette
- » keep the block clean from graffiti
- » urban farms on the roof-tops
- » food recycling
- » ethnic cuisine labs



Refugees support
the needs of the
local community
near the places
they live



Refugees receive
affordable apartments
and in return they
participate to community
activities for the
public benefit

Innovation

- Addressing the **limbo phase/apathy**
- **Psycho-social integration**
- Addressing the **social context of Athens** in which we integrate new citizens
- Integration together with local community groups and local unemployed:
inclusive integration
- **Language learning embedded** in direct occupation - translators become mediators
- Not a mechanism of consuming resources but **a mechanism of generating social impact**
- Producing a **prototype for city pressing needs**/empty buildings/engagement around local problems

Change

- **Better buildings/better neighborhoods/better society**
- **Higher opportunity for employment**
- **New social entrepreneurs**
- **Attracting models for proprietors to manage vacant properties**
- **Policy change**
- **Transferable model**

Partnership

City of Athens

leadership & engagement with local activities in the neighborhoods (synAthina)

University of Athens

training & on the job soft skills learning

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

affordable housing model

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

job readiness program

Athens Development Agency

financial administration & communication

Streams of Work

Training

- Training on languages courses and ICT
- Enhancing soft skills on the job
- Psychosocial support

Housing Model

- Mapping housing stakeholders: Individuals, institutions, Public organizations
- Motives to landlords to participate
- Exchange model for housing

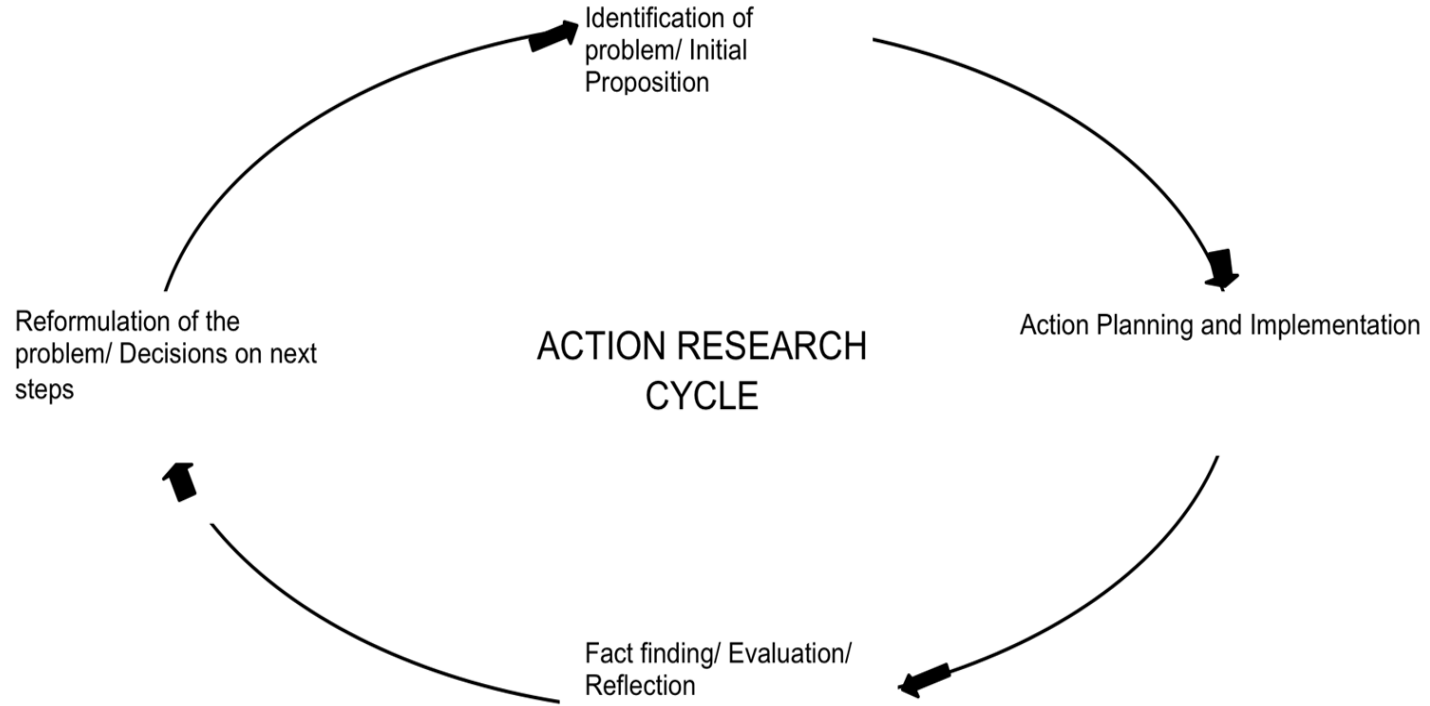
Community led Activities

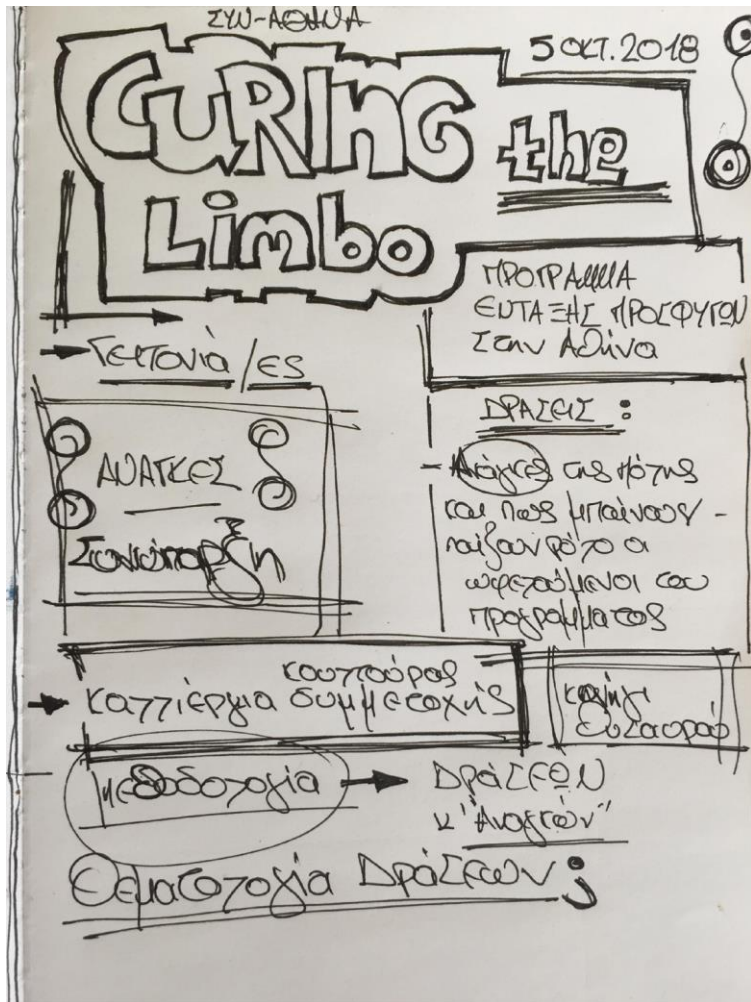
- Engage with civil society networks and active citizens
- Public events to the neighborhood to collect city needs
- Giving back to community based on the needs of the city

Job Readiness

- CV guidelines
- On the job training
- Potential networking

Method





co-designing with community groups' leaders



Victoria Square Project



Urban Dig site specific mapping



El Sistema Orchestra

A photograph of two young children standing outdoors in a rural setting. They are holding up rectangular mud masks in front of their faces. The child on the left is wearing a light-colored, sleeveless top, and the child on the right is wearing a red t-shirt with a graphic. The background shows a thatched-roof hut, trees, and a clear blue sky with some clouds. A white chevron symbol is on the left side of the image.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

[SUBMIT]

Ethnofest





Caravan Project