



MUNICIPALITY OF LIVADIA: “The Housing Programme ESTIA – the experience of Livadia”

**Speaker:
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Funded by
European Union
Civil Protection and
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**Implementing Organization:
KEDHL**

Accommodation and Services Scheme

“Since the beginning of November 2016, the Municipality of Livadia in collaboration with its Public Benefit Organization (K.E.DH.L.) has been implementing the Project «**ESTIA – Emergency Support to Integration & Accommodation**» in rented apartments with the support of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the funding of the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO)”.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STAGES

2016

- Cooperation among the Municipality of Livadia - Ministry of Migration Policy – UNHCR. **40 apartments had to be found in 15 days.**
- The Civil Council of Livadia assigned the Housing Programme for Refugees in apartments to the Public Benefit Organization of the Municipality of Livadia (K.E.DH.L.).
- K.E.DH.L. - UNHCR signed a Project Partnership Agreement for 2016 and the necessary personnel for the implementation of the Project was hired.
- 55 apartments were assessed as appropriate and equipped to avail 330 accommodation places in 2016.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STAGES

2017

- The abidance by the terms and conditions of the Agreement contributed to the continuation of the Project for 2017:

Main Goal: 420 accommodation places in 70 apartments

2018

- An increase of the target by 10 additional apartments is agreed.

Main Goal: 480 accommodation places in 80 apartments

- Municipality of Livadia implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Migration Policy and IOM the pilot programme “**HELIOS**” for the refugee integration in the society and the labour market.

ACCOMMODATION FOR PoC IN LIVADIA

ACCOMMODATION

Current places: 480

Occupied places: 454

- Recognized Refugees: **150**
- Asylum Seekers: **304**



1,099
PoC have
been hosted
in total since
2016

DEPARTURES

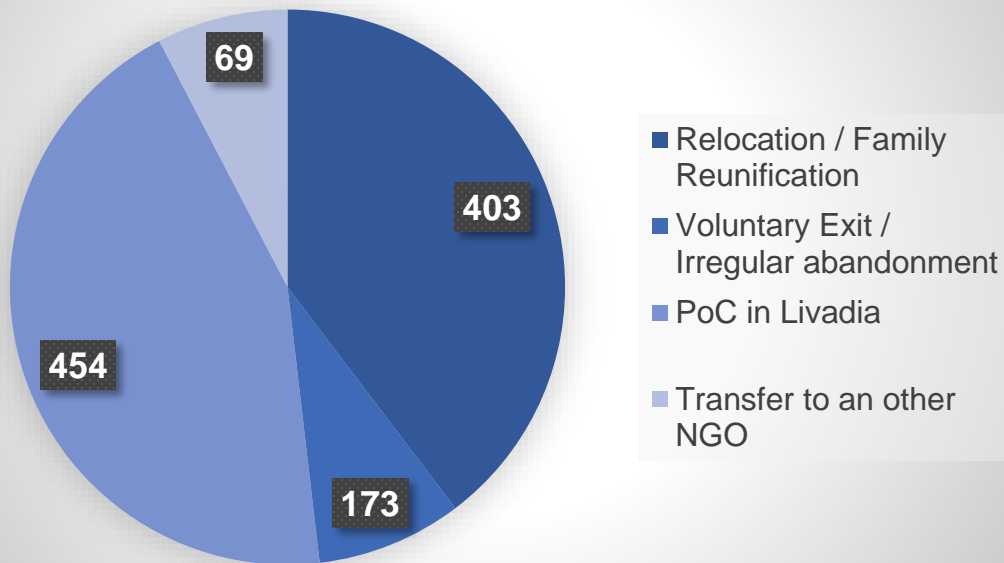
✓ **403 PoC** left for relocation purposes or due to family reunification in another M.S.

✓ **173 PoC** voluntarily exited or irregularly abandoned our accommodation scheme.

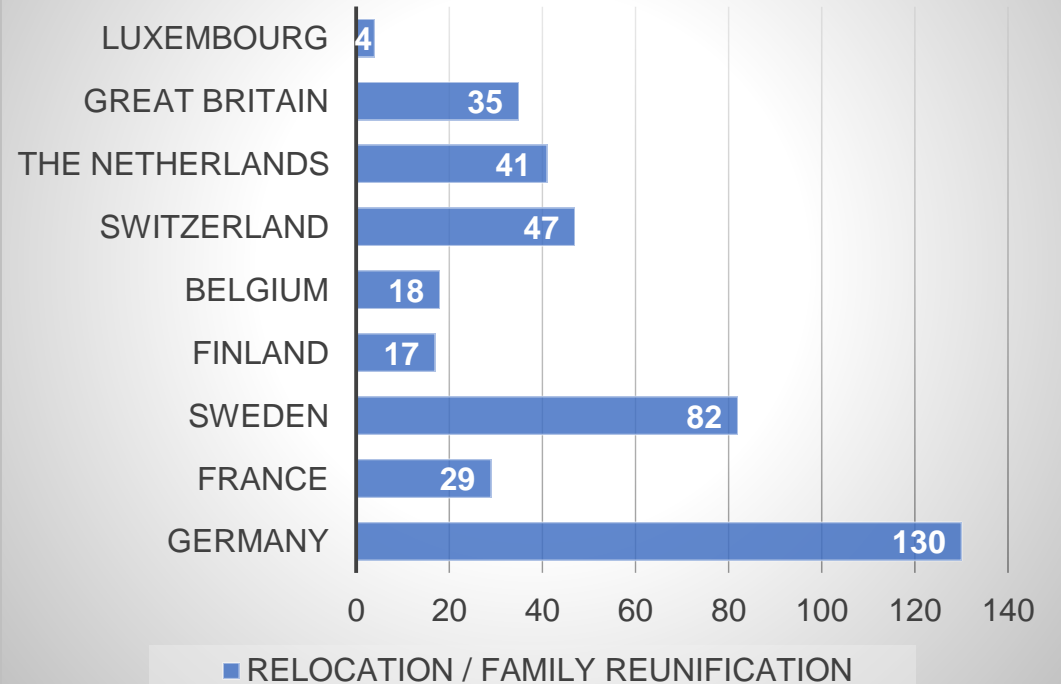
✓ **69 PoC** transferred to an other Accommodation Partner.

ACCOMMODATION AND RELOCATION DATA

PoC



RELOCATION / FAMILY REUNIFICATION



INTEGRATION PROCESS

- Provision of accommodation in apartments in decent living conditions.
- Health care, vaccination for refugee children and equal access to local Healthcare Units (General Hospital of Livadia and the National Primary Healthcare Network).
- Refugee children's enrollment in schools of every educational grade.
- Organization of common cultural events and sports activities.

The Programme was recognized as an innovative programme for Housing Refugees and also as a good practice example for other Municipalities of the country.

SYNERGIES

For the optimal implementation of the Project we collaborate with:

- The Civil Society, i.e. the Refugee Solidarity Network in Livadia.
- The Ministry of Education through its regional and local structures.
- The Ministry of Health, the Local Structures and Healthcare Organizations (General Hospital of Livadia and National Primary Healthcare Network).
- Civil Engineers of the Technical Chamber of Greece.
- The Trade Association.
- The Sports and Cultural Clubs in town.
- National Organizations i.e. the Hellenic Red Cross etc.
- International Organizations i.e. IOM, the International Solidarity Network, Pharmaceutical Industries etc.
- Embassies i.e. U.S. Embassy, United Arab Emirates Embassy, German Embassy

CHALLENGES OF THE PROGRAMME

- The financial and administrative management of the Accommodation Programme based on the managerial skills and services of the Municipality of Livadia with no contribution of NGO.
- Keeping the balance between the citizens' and refugees' rights through the enhancement of the Social Structures and social policy.
- Durable bureaucratic procedures for the refugees' social integration (e.g. Issuance of Social Security Number, Tax Identification Number, Registration in the Manpower Employment Organization, Opening of a bank account).
- The provision of information to the citizens for the elimination of social concerns and the avoidance of acts of racism.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME

- Cultivation of ethical values such as solidarity and humanism.
- The local community gets in contact with the cultural diversity of the hosted population.
- Financial Assistance provided to the local society
 - Diffusion of more than €2,6 million for services and purchases
 - New job positions

NEXT STEPS

- Coordination of the national planning policy with the local management policies.
- Synergies of Municipalities for the proper use of tools and social integration policies that are in accordance with their needs and priorities.
- Claiming funding of the state and the E.U. for integration actions and the sustainability of the Housing Programmes for Refugees.

RECOGNITION OF THE SUCCESS & INNOVATION OF THE PROGRAMME

I. The programme had a great impact on the national and international media:

- Newspaper “Kathimerini” 16.12.2016: ***“Livadia embraced Refugees and sets a good example”***.
- ERT TV 21.12.2016: ***“Livadia – The Municipality that hosts Refugees in a different way”***.
- Newspaper “To Vima” 03.04.2017: ***“Livadia: An innovative Accommodation Programme for Refugees hosted in apartments”***.
- Euronews 05.04.2017: ***“Livadia a home from home for Refugees”***.
- Newspaper “Proto Thema” 18.09.2017: ***“The U.S. Ambassador’s article to Proto Thema: Livadia, a good example of hospitality to Refugees”***.
- “EL PAIS” 19.12.2017: ***“Refugiados con techo en la ciudad”***.

RECOGNITION OF THE SUCCESS & INNOVATION OF THE PROGRAMME

II. Reporters, diplomats and institutional factors visited Livadia to directly receive information on the Programme:

- Ministers of Migration Policy & European Commissioner Mr. Avramopoulos



- U.S. Ambassador Mr. Geoffrey Payatt



- Foreign Diplomats of the E.U. & DG ECHO Representatives



- Mayor of the German Town Altena Mr. Andreas Hollstein



- Reporters / Communication Specialists of the E.U.





The Municipality of Livadia and K.E.DH.L. have proved that the local Authorities are able to and they should implement the Programme for the accommodation and the integration of Refugees.

The adoption of the Programme by other Municipalities (Larissa, Trikala, Karditsa, Tripoli, Municipalities of the wider area of Athens and Crete), justifies not only our efforts but also our opinion that this kind of accommodation must become the pillar of the national planning.