

UNHCR Europe NGO Consultation 2017 Regional Workshops – Southern Europe

Promoting the Inclusion of Beneficiaries of International Protection Across Europe

Title of the session	Self-Reliance of Beneficiaries of International Protection in Southern Europe, with a Focus on Access to Employment
Countries (as per UNHCR organisational structure)	Date: 16 October 2017 Time: 11:30-13:00 and 14:00-15:30 Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Turkey
Focal points / Moderators	Jessica Anderson , Associate Protection Officer (Regional), UNHCR Regional Representation for Southern Europe andersoj@unhcr.org Petros Mastakas , Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR Greece mastakas@unhcr.org Katrine Camilleri , Director, Jesuit Refugee Service Malta katrine@jrsmalta.org Note taker: Minos Mouzourakis , ECRE Secretariat
Background	<p>Inclusion is one of the most pressing gaps in Southern Europe. Improvement in this area is crucial in supporting Southern European countries to shift from transit countries to becoming receiving countries that can provide a durable solution to persons in need of international protection. Achieving self-reliance is a landmark along the path to full integration and social inclusion. However, for many beneficiaries of international protection living in Southern Europe, accessing post-recognition support and/or employment is a serious challenge.</p> <p>This session aims to explore the nature of these challenges and develop concrete and innovative responses, both in terms of policy-related advocacy and projects that could be implemented by NGOs and/or UNHCR, or other actors.</p> <p>In order to provide background for this discussion, some of the main challenges related to integration and self-reliance in each Southern European country are described in a background paper which provides details on the specific situation in each country. See Background Paper on inclusion in Southern Europe, drafted by UNHCR offices.</p>

Objectives / Guiding ques- tions

Objectives

- ❖ Information exchange on existing challenges, advocacy, initiatives, and projects related to self-reliance, especially access to employment, in the region.
- ❖ Develop concrete ideas for new and/or strengthened access to employment-related projects in each country. These projects could be potentially carried out by NGOs and/or UNHCR or other actors. Follow-up after the meeting would include exploring feasibility, funding opportunities, etc.
- ❖ Explore possibilities for creating common regional project(s) on self-reliance, particularly with a focus on access to employment.

Guiding questions: Tour de table

1. What is the main barrier for beneficiaries of international protection to achieve self-reliance in the country where you work? In particular, what obstacles do they face in accessing employment?
2. What are some effective policies/initiatives/projects that are currently being used in your country to promote access to employment? (This will serve as a form of mapping of existing employment-related projects).
3. What are some policies/initiatives/projects that have *not* worked well or that have had a negative impact on access to employment?

Guiding questions: Break-out sessions

1. Complete the 'project design table' hand-out in order to come up with concrete project idea(s) related to access to employment [*What is the problem? What is the solution? By whom? What resources are needed? What will be the result?*] Such ideas could cover a wide range of approaches that facilitate access to employment e.g. language learning, vocational training, qualification recognition, education, job matching, partnerships with the private sector, etc.
2. Discuss possible opportunities for regional self-reliance initiatives / projects, with a focus on access to employment.

Methodology

The session will start with a plenary discussion / tour de table regarding the main barriers to self-reliance in the region, focusing on obstacles in accessing employment. The tour de table will also map existing responses and projects.

The remainder of the session will involve break-out sessions, dividing into 2-3 groups to develop concrete project ideas focusing on access to employment.

Agenda

11:30-11:35 – Introduction

Opening remarks: [Jessica Anderson](#), [Petros Mastakas](#), [Katrine Camilleri](#)

11:35-12:15 – Tour de table

Introduction of participants, sharing general self-reliance challenges and obstacles to accessing employment in each country, as well as describing existing responses and projects in this area: [All participants \(2-3 minutes per NGO\)](#)

12:15-13:00 – Break-out sessions

Start of discussions on designing concrete project ideas to promote access to employment, using the 'project design table' handout.

Lunch

14:00-15:00 – Break-out sessions

14:00-14:45 – (Contd.) designing concrete project ideas to promote access to employment;

14:45-15:00 –Brief brainstorming on possibilities for regional initiatives / projects on access to employment

15:00-15:30 – Reconvening

Presentation / discussion of project ideas

Conclusion and brief update on follow-up plans: [Jessica Anderson](#), [Petros Mastakas](#), [Katrine Camilleri](#)