

CWC NATIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Subject	Communication With Communities National Working Group Meeting
Date, Time & place of meeting	02/08/2017, 14.00, Solidarity Now Offices
Meeting Chair	Alexandra Zavvos (Solidarity Now, CWC WG Co-chair)
Minutes/notes prepared by	Alexandra Zavvos, Co-chair and Maanasa Reddy (Advocates Abroad)
Present organizations	TWB, Solidarity Now, Refugee Info, MetaDrasi, IFRC, Advocates Abroad,

1. Review of previous meetings/matters arising

Point/details	Details/Going forward	Suggested Actions
	There were no comments regarding minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved.	

2. Access to Unemployment card, AMKA, AFM for Refugees

Point/details	Details/Going forward	Suggested Actions
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IRC was informed that the OAED (ManPower Employment Agency) offices have been guided not to issue unemployment cards at all to Refugees. According to the OAED source, refugees are not eligible as they are not permanent residents in Greece. 2. While these guidelines are unofficial, according to the OAED coordinator, an official document is being drafted. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The stats were high (for Greece) so they wanted to keep them down ii. The OAED question refugee motives for the unemployment card; many refugees apply in order to qualify for free transportation <p>An advocacy letter was drafted, signed by 25 NGOs and sent to all relevant ministries and other stakeholders on Wednesday August 2, regarding obstacles in AMKA and AFM and unemployment card issuance (see attached). The letter aims to address circumstances exemplified in the above case and requests that access to these rights and services is facilitated substantively in the best possible way as existing legislation has proved insufficient. Specific instances of reportedly uncooperative tax offices, KEPs as well as</p>	<p>Action Point: Share advocacy letter with group.</p>

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	<p>misguided information provided by public officials are included in the letter.</p> <p>The letter advocates for the same rights to be extended to Pre-Registered POC due to the length of the procedure.</p> <p>Signatories include Solidarity Now & 24 other NGOs, both national and international (letter and summary in Greek are attached).</p>	
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3. Updates: Interpretation Projects TwB & Solidarity Now + AirBnB

	<p>1. Translators without Borders (TwB) Update: Event organised Monday, last week to present the communication research findings and to share information about new services provided by TwB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One Day Introductory Training in Interpretation• Free Resources in English and Greek (Field Guide 15 pages)• Interpreter Platform Project- job-finding and networking platform for qualified interpreters• Support for the testing of Interpreters capacity during interview• Glossary Application (Free)• Translators and Interpreters Sub-Working Group (Every Other Friday @ the Cube)• Research findings to be shared with CwC group at the next meeting. One of the products of the research, language factsheets are available online and in hard copy for Arabic, the Kurdish languages, Farsi and Dari. <p>2. Solidarity Now Update: “Guerilla Foundation: Interpretation Project”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training scheme for Asylum seekers and refugees to become interpreters: 96 hours of training – 1.5 months of training in Athens and Thessaloniki• 15-20 refugees per city per training cycle – followed by examination carried out by TwB. 1st cycle has finished training and is currently undergoing examination (in cooperation with TwB)	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Employment Services at Solidarity center Blue Refugee centers to help them find employment after. Some participants have already found employment (from Samos). • Applications for the next cycle will be opening as of September (see contact detail below). • The project does not fund accommodation throughout the duration of training. Support can sometimes be found from referring agencies or through alternative schemes i.e. Air B'n'B • Contact for Referral: Vaso@solidaritynow.org <p>Solidarity Now introduced "Open Homes" (Airbnb Project), a programme to provide accommodation for refugees and people on the move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process very similar to AirBnB platform, interested beneficiary or NGO must search through partner(SN in Greece). • In Greece, AirbBnB partners with Solidarity Now. • So far there are 50-60 hosts in Greece and 29 apartments in Athens, 9 in Thessaloniki, also some on Islands. • Candidates must be recognized refugees or fully registered. • For short term/Temporary Request –up to a month. • Contact Harry Adraktas: Harry@solidaritynow.org for more information or for a request. 	
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4. AOB

	<p><u>Cash Programme</u> Cash remains amongst the most pressing issues for CwC actors. Streamlining of Cash programme into one system is ongoing but the extent of streamlining is not well known or understood by partners. An official update from the GCA is requested (for next meeting). Cash Q & A is being finalized to attempt to cover most general and specific questions that have been gathered.</p> <p>Cash focal point at SN shared information that CRS has started a cash card program to fill the gaps in monthly cash transfers for</p>	<p>Chair to request an update from Greece Cash Alliance co-ordinator at next CWC meeting.</p>
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	<p>UNHCR accommodation partners until UNHCR card and installment is received. This has been working efficiently since the start of the implementation last month.</p> <p><u>UNHCR ProGres</u></p> <p>UNHCR has started giving (limited) access to the online database (ProGres) to the implementing partners on the accommodation scheme. A pilot phase is currently ongoing with SolidarityNow in Attica, expected to roll out to other NGOs and locations starting in September, gradually increasing the access rights to the database as well.</p> <p>Questions arose as to what will happen with 'Urban Cash', undertaken by Care until now, IRC informed group that the programme will be continued by IRC at the end of the Summer. A helpline/contact is not yet available for interested beneficiaries.</p>	
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