

Greece National Education Working Group

MEETING MINUTES

05/09/2016 – UNHCR, ATHENS, GREECE

Agenda

1. Update from the MOE meeting of 29 Aug
2. Situation overview of the ESWG partners' activities (Naoko + all)
3. RRMRP & ESWG strategy in support of the MOE plan
4. IM updates (Activity Info)
5. Accreditation with the Institute of Education Policy for partners (<http://www.iep.edu.gr/index.php/el/2-general/438-diadikasia-egkrisis-ekpaideftikon-draseon-entos-ton-domon-filoksenias-prosfygon>)
6. AOB

*list of participants – see the bottom of the document

Agenda item	Discussion points	Action points (by whom and by when)
1. Update from the MOE meeting of 29 Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Many UN and NGO partners were invited to the meeting organized by the MOE to announce its plan of integration of refugee children through the Reception Classes http://www.minedu.gov.gr/grafeio-typoy-kai-dimosion-sxeseon/news-in-english/23025-30-08-16-ministry-presents-refugee-education-plans-cooperates-with-ngos http://www.minedu.gov.gr/grafeio-typoy-kai-dimosion-sxeseon/news-in-english/23207-06-09-16-cooperation-of-ministry-of-education-with-international-organizations-ngos-for-refugee-childrenThe plan is to integrate refugee children to learn in the “Reception Classes” specifically set up for the refugee children nearby camps, with subjects of Greek, English, Maths and Art/Sport from 2-6pm. Greek teachers who have skills to teach inter-cultural education will be recruited and trained.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Article 36 legislation needs to pass to accept the refugee children. 2 ministerial decisions will be signed by the 2 Ministries (Ministry of Education and Finance) to execute the plan by the end of September: 1 – for the establishment of the Reception Classes and 2 – for the additional staffing For islands – the plan is not yet clear and may have some delays Municipalities are sending teachers to the camps, not in coordinated manner with the MOE plan. This needs to be addressed to the MOE to solve the lack of coherence In order for MOE to better coordinate the response, it is asking all organisations working for refugee education to submit the registration form through: http://www.iep.edu.gr/images/perigraph_ekpaid_drast_prog.docx The above form should be sent to the Institute of Education Policy at info@iep.edu.gr before 15th September. The MOE plan needs to be disseminated to the refugee parents and children – for ESWG to coordinate with MOE 	<p>ESWG coordination team to inform MOE and seek advice on the coordination with municipalities</p> <p>ESWG coordination team to coordinate and develop a CwC plan with MOE</p>
2. Situation overview of the ESWG partners' activities (Naoko + all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naoko presented a simple 3W of who is in which camps. This exercise is to quickly map partners for ongoing and planned activities to avoid duplication. With the uncertainty in the period of the commencement of the Reception Classes, the partners agreed that <u>they continue the preparation and implementation of Education activities such as Greek, English and Maths until the MOE plan starts rolling out. After the Reception Classes start, the ESWG will fully cooperate with MOE's plan to send children to schools outside the camps, and the classes in camps will shift to the morning hours only, focusing on mother tongue languages, homework support, life skills and psychosocial support activities.</u> Save the Children is starting activities in Skaramangas and Malakasa until the end of the year with Greek and English language teaching and psychosocial support activities, until the MOE plan starts to roll out. Teacher training is ongoing with Greek teachers. UNICEF intends to support the mother tongue activities of ESWG members through guidance and teacher training. IOM's assistance on school bus from camps to schools and for 9,000 children distribution of school materials – funding until the end of the year: the preparation is ongoing but without the school list and the number of children, IOM cannot start a detailed planning. IOM's transport and material supports will be coordinated with other ESWG partners' activities so that their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naoko to check with the partners who have not made inputs to Activity Info - Should you need support for mother tongue language education in camps, contact Naoko (nimoto@unicef.org) -

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	<p>assistance will be complementary to other forms of support such as non-formal education (NFE), information and refugee community support to send children to go to school. Please see attached the standard school kits sent by MOE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finn Church Aid/Apostoli – Agios Andreas school integration activities continuing until the end of the year • SOS Children’s Village – Eleonas, Chisto, Lesvos – Greek, English and PSS • Mercy Corps – Lesvos and others. Mercy Corps/NRC: Assessment – about to start. 15-20 years old youth and adolescent on the island on Education and employability 	
On the organisation/ membership of the ESWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National ESWG should consist of the education partners who are: (i) working in several regions, and (ii) can support strategic planning and coordination of the ESWG. NGOs working in specific regions should join the regional ESWG – currently operational in Attica and North, with the Island ESWG in the pipeline. • The ESWG works closely with the MOE and its scientific committee for refugee education to facilitate effective coordination of all education partners. There should be a good representation by the national NGOs. If there is any recommendation, the coordination team would be happy to include – no organization should feel excluded. • Northwest – Epirus region? It is difficult for them to join the North (Thessaloniki) group. Finn Church Aid and Apostoli are planning to intervene. If there are more partners, we can start the coordination group with MOE. • (not discussed in the meeting but later agreed) For islands, Save the Children plans to take the lead in a couple weeks time after the arrival of an Education officer based in Lesvos. 	-
Other partners’ activity information	<p>Be Aware and Share http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-school-chios-greece-lessons-in-life-for-the-migrant-children-a7229916.html</p>	
3. RRM RP & ESWG strategy in support of the MOE plan	<p>Else presented the draft strategy and the definitions/standards of the ESWG – to be agreed with the MOE/IEP – see attached</p> <p>The participants discussed the importance of setting standards in order to maintain certain quality of interventions. It should aim to standardize the interventions regardless of the difference in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The coordination team will discuss with IEP on the definitions/standards - Partners to comment on the draft strategy and the

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	<p>conditions of space etc. to avoid creating inequality for different camps. 15-20 children per classroom may sound luxury given the current situations, but 40 children should be too much to maintain the quality of teaching/learning.</p> <p>This should be agreed by all partners and MOE/IEP.</p>	definitions/standards by the next national ESWG meeting
1. AOB	<p>Incentive/payment for refugee volunteer teachers:</p> <p>Naoko is following up with the Cash Working Group who is liaising with the Ministry of Labour to establish an agreement to pay skilled refugee volunteers in 2 ways: 1. Refugee volunteers working in camps as teachers. 2. Refugee volunteers who can assist the Reception Classes as cultural mediators/interpreters</p>	- Naoko to follow up on Cash WG and discuss with MOE about the endorsement of the agreement between UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour
2. Next meeting	19 th September, @ UNHCR, 11h- (for the moment, until another venue is proposed)	

Participants:

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