



Effective collaboration for integration:  
The City of Athens Coordination Centre for  
Migrant & Refugee issues (ACCMR)

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# City of Athens – axes of strategic integration plan

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**Recording of current situation & identification of stakeholders for the development of synergies**

*Establishing a collaboration framework*

**Needs assessment and planning of interventions (institutional and service provision)**

*Vice Mayorship for migrant & refugee affairs, Integration Directorate, Centres for Migrant Integration*

**Evidence-based development of new tools, processes and services**

*(AORI, language courses, vocational support, contingency planning)*

**Development of a collaboration framework (with IOs, NGOs, other municipalities)**

*ACCMR, European Cities Networks, Cities Integration Network, co-funding partnerships*



# The City of Athens Coordination Centre for Migrant and Refugee issues – ACCMR (est. June 2017)

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ACCMR adopts an innovative, bottom-up, participatory approach and has become the physical and institutional space where a local authority (City of Athens) meets and develops synergies with civil society & IOs.

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# The Structure of ACCMR

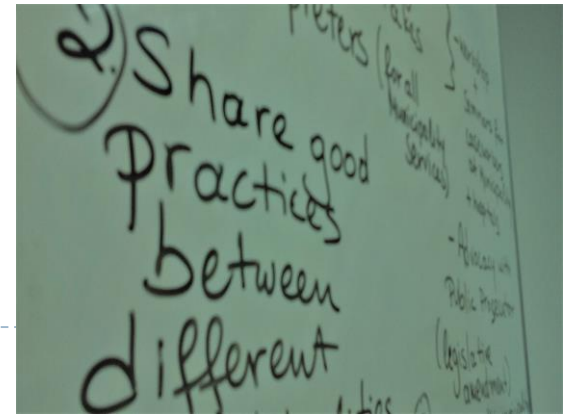
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## 6 Working Committees co-chaired by NGOs and municipal bodies

- Access and Legal Rights
- Livelihoods and access to the labour market
- Urbanisation and peaceful coexistence
- Education and Learning
- Health and Wellbeing
- *Women refugees and gender issues*

90+ member organisations

300+ representatives



# Achievements after less than 2 years of operation

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- ▶ ACCMR recognised as a **best practice** at European level (OECD report, World Economic Forum report)
- ▶ **Development of strategic tools for the City of Athens** through collective, inclusive, bottom-up and transparent processes (1<sup>st</sup> Preparedness mechanism for future refugee flows, 1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Action Plan for integration, 25+ proposals for integration initiatives, 10+ trainings and capacity building events with refugee & migrant communities, **ACCMR Digital Platform**)
- ▶ Establishment & promotion of a **culture of collaboration and co-creation** between a local authority (traditionally 'introvert') and local & international NGOs and IOs (often 'deprecatory')
- ▶ **Cities Network for Integration**: Setting the basis for the first network of Greek municipalities (**currently 13 city-members**). Capacity building, exchange of know-how, support for the development of integration initiatives, advocacy for institutional change at national and European level



# Next steps (and challenges ahead)

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- ▶ **Urban Integration Indicators – in collaboration with the Hellenic Statistical Authority and UNHCR**
  - ▶ Pushing beyond basic demographic profiling. Evidence-based approach to integration, which involves all actors active in service provision at local level.
- ▶ **Project-based approach to integration**
  - ▶ Significant risks linked with short-term solutions which jeopardise the viability of effective, low-cost initiatives (especially following possible changes in political priorities)

