



GREECE

OVERVIEW

Greece has continued to grapple with a high refugee influx despite having restrictive citizenship. Greece has become a hosting destination for international immigrants from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Due to the increased immigration leading to the asylum crisis, Greece has prioritized integration by setting up the Directorate of Social Integration to integrate TCNs into Greek society.

Various programs have been established through the Directorate to create migrants' legal status, and facilitate access to health, employment, education, and other social security services.

MAIN PROBLEMS AND OBSTACLES

- The integration programs have been hindered by Greek's economic crisis
- Administrative delays
- TCNs' unwillingness to stay in Greece
- Language barrier
- Limited skills

ART AND INTEGRATION

It is worth noting that most professionals working with TCNs in Greece have adequate training to use the arts in supporting TCNs. Arts generally make people feel good and play a significant role in making everyone part of the community. The majority of TCNs agree that arts and culture are significant in their lives.





FURTHER DEVELOP ART AS INTEGRATION TOOL



Skills of professionals

Despite the growing popularity of arts & culture in the integration process, there remains a skill gap among professionals, limiting their ability to handle TCNs. Thus, the focus should be placed on

- improving professionals' social and networking skills to ensure that they take part in community arts and cultural programmes as an essential integration tool for TCNs
- Greece should create a multifunctional cultural center and shelter for TCNs
- Culture-specific events should be organized to celebrate diversity and more volunteers and professionals should be mobilized to support arts & culture for the successful integration of TCNs.

Topics and art forms

The priorities identified are:

- to create more opportunities for TCNs and professionals to participate in arts and cultural activities in their communities
- some of the highly preferred arts include painting, music, photography, dance, fashion, writing.

Methodologies and approaches in educational programmes

- culture has been recognized as an essential tool in enhancing the integration of TCNs in Greece
- artistic and cultural expression facilitates the acquisition of language, which is an essential factor in the integration process
- there has been significant growth in the network of cultural activities in Greece to enable the integration of migrants and refugees into Greek society
- some of the good practices already adopted in Greece for promoting arts and culture in TCNs integration include The Acting Project which pursued ways of using arts like theatre to support refugees and migrants into the Greek society.



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