



## VAI-Volunteering Among Immigrants

<b>Programme</b>	Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund (AMIF)
<b>Topic/Keywords</b>	Inclusion / Integration, Volunteerism, Migrants, Refugees, Training, Participation
<b>Project</b>	<p>VAI project points out that immigrant volunteering can be both instrument for and indicator of integration. Many EU States have recognised the potential of volunteering as instrument for integration and as consequence, have endeavoured to introduce measures to promote immigrant volunteering. Migration, integration and volunteering are subject to considerable public and political debate in EU. The project aims to link these debates under working question “How can volunteering among immigrants be better used in order to increase Third Country Nationals (TCNs’) participation in society?” VAI project is set up by 10 partners from Academia, Civil Society, Local Government and Media, to explore innovative actions to the topic of the “social integration” and “active participation” of TCNs – focusing on volunteering as an instrument.</p> <p>Project partners address motives and contexts of migrant volunteering, including TCNs’ concepts of, and attitude towards volunteering. They will issue guidelines and how volunteering can contribute to the better integration of migrants who are TCNs’, the better integration of the societies of which they are part. They also address pilot actions that facilitate these activities. Finally, EU network of national contacts and new initiatives in the field of migrant volunteering will be established allowing increased transnational dialogue between stakeholders and supported by virtual platform. At the end partners of the VAI project will hold an International Conference to discuss consequences of migrant volunteerism, as well as pilot actions conducted by them during VAI’s life. Recommendations will be formulated to different actors concerning actions which can take place at different levels.</p> <p><b>Role of Municipality of Piraeus</b></p> <p>Municipality of Piraeus will be responsible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• establish a network of relevant stakeholders, that will foster creative ways to address challenges, will enable the attainment of high impact interventions and will ensure the long term sustainability of the project.</li><li>• to develop a plan for Involving Immigrants in Voluntary work opportunities (identification of immigrants’ needs, definition of a roadmap, strategic plan, development of an action plan, etc)</li><li>• to develop a platform for voluntary schemes, that will be available via a free App easy to be used and dedicated to connect TCNs’ and voluntary organisations, newcomers with welcomers, immigrants with mainstream voluntary stakeholders, refugees, migrants and immigrants with hosting societies’ opportunities to volunteer.</li><li>• to organise an awareness raise event/festival in the context of pilot actions that involve training of immigrants that want to volunteer or of in house trainers of volunteering organisations, a promo movie that will promote volunteering of and for migrants, etc.</li></ul> <p>Finally, the Municipality of Piraeus will participate in the final conference discussion, output of which will be a policy recommendation paper.</p>
<b>Partnership</b>	<p><b>Lead partner:</b> Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)</p> <p><b>Other partners:</b> <b>Greece:</b> Municipality of Piraeus, Four Elements Non-Profit, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Hellenic Red Cross, <b>Italy:</b> Università della Calabria), CIDIS Onlus, <b>Germany:</b> Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover, <b>Austria:</b> Verein Multikulturell, Freies Radio Innsbruck FREIRAD Verein zur Förderung der Medienvielfalt und der Freiheit der Meinungsäußerung, Initiative Minderheiten Tirol</p>
<b>Duration</b>	24 months
<b>Budget</b>	<p><b>Total:</b> 741.680 €</p> <p><b>Municipality of Piraeus:</b> 75.290 €</p>