

The Municipality of Patras supporting refugees at Myrsini centre in Elia prefecture

Taking into account the refugees crisis, Patras tries to remain active. For the moment, the city has not been a destination for refugees. However, Patras is a main port of Western Greece and has been a by-pass city in the past (previous decade) for undocumented migrants who wished to illegally use the port and reach Central Europe (through Italy). Taking into account this experience of the past and the current circumstances, Patras tries to be prepared for providing services to refugees who may possibly reach the city.

In line with this concept, the Municipality of Patras has established links with the refugee centre of Myrsini, an area at Elia prefecture. Elia a neighbouring prefecture next to Achaia (where Patras is the capital). Both Elia and Achaia are parts of Western Greece region. The Myrsini refugee centre is run by the related Municipality of Andravida – Kyllini. More precisely, the Municipality of Patras is among local bodies members of Regional Association of Municipalities of Western Greece who signed an agreement on contributing in-kind to the operation of the refugees campus.

With this regard, Patras has been exploiting the operation of its social structures (bank of food, municipal wardrobe, municipal pharmacy) so that part of the collected material is transferred to Myrsini refugees center. Emphasis is put to the collection of toys and stationery for kids (bags, pencils, drawing material, etc.). The Mayor of Patras accompanied by the President of Patras City Council, organised a visit to the centre along with the Mayor of Municipality of Andravida – Kyllini (Mr Nabil Joseph Moradi), who briefed them on the situation. The center hosts approximately 340 refugees, the vast majority women and children. Over 60% of families are accommodated in the space has a related person in another country in Europe. The main demand of the refugees is that they immediately continue their journey and be reunited with their families.

The Mayor of Patras declared the solidarity of the city to the refugee centre and the willingness to maintain actively involved in helping its operation on a permanent basis.

In addition, it is noteworthy, that various related initiatives have been implemented by other bodies of Patras such as the Hellenic Open University, University of Patras, Technical Educational Institute, Associations of Employees in sectors of food, tourism, banking-finance, weapons industry, people with disabilities, etc. All this activation shows in practice the solidarity spirit of people of Patras, who at the same time, have been facing the impact of economic crisis, to themselves and their families



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