

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



INFORMATION TEMPLATE

ON

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

in Greece

(INCLUDING GUIDELINES FOR EKCYP CORRESPONDENTS)



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1. The socio-economic situation of young people

1.1 Please explain which groups of young people are perceived as being socially excluded.

What are the main factors for being socially excluded as a young person in your country?

According to Greek Law No. 4019/2011 [Social economy and social entrepreneurship and other provisions](#). (Gov. Gazette A 216/30.9.2011), Article 1

“**Inclusion**” is the process of social integration of individuals that belong to vulnerable groups, mainly by promoting their employment.

“**Vulnerable groups of the population**” (henceforth vulnerable groups) are in general societal groups that face barriers to participation in social and economic life. This can be a result of social and financial difficulties, or it can be due to physical, mental, cognitive or sensory disabilities as well as unforeseeable circumstances that affect the proper functioning of the local or broader regional economy.

For the purposes of this law, vulnerable groups are divided into two categories.

a) “**Specific vulnerable groups**” include societal groups whose inclusion in social and economic life is hindered by physical and psychological factors or delinquent behaviour. People that belong to these groups include individuals with disabilities (physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory), persons currently or formerly addicted to substances, those who are HIV positive, prisoners or ex-prisoners, as well as juvenile offenders.

b) “**Special population groups**” include societal groups that are at a disadvantage with regards to smooth integration into the labour market because of financial, social or cultural reasons. Indicatively, these groups include unemployed youth, unemployed women, unemployed persons over 50, the long-term unemployed, single parents and members of many-child families (three or more children), abused women, illiterate persons, inhabitants of remote mountainous and island regions, people with diverse cultures, immigrants and refugees.

“**Social care**” is the production and provision of goods, health and welfare services for specific societal groups, such as the elderly, infants, children, persons with a disability and people with chronic diseases.

1.2 Please provide the percentage representing the share of young people (18-24) who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion (and/or severely materially deprived and/or living in a household with very low work intensity). Please compare it to the general population risk of poverty rate. What is the trend in your country – is the rate growing for example?

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 3 403 (in thousands)	31.0%
People living in households with very low work intensity: 978 (in thousands)	11.8%
People at risk of poverty after social transfers: 2 349 (in thousands)	21.4% (Total) 23.7% (0-17 years) 20.2% (18-64 years)
People severely materially deprived: 1 667 (in thousands)	15.2% (Total)

Source Eurostat (2011)

Comparing the percentage of the general population at risk of poverty after social transfers (21.4%) and the respective rate of young people aged from 0-17 years old (23.7%), the risk of poverty is higher by approximately 2.3 units (2011 data) and the rate is growing over the last few years.

1.3 Have you observed an impact from the current financial crisis on young people – particularly young people with fewer opportunities – in your country?

A huge impact of the current crisis on these needs for the entire population could be observed in Greece. An increase of absolute poverty in Greece has been observed with the needs for housing, food (nourishment-nutrition), clothing and transportation not being fulfilled for an increasing share of the population

Observatory of economic and social developments, Labor Institute, Greek General Confederation of Labor, December 2010

<http://www.ineobservatory.gr/sitefiles/files/meleti5.pdf>

2. Policy measures for young people at risk of social exclusion

2.1 Social subsistence/protection and health cover for young people living in poverty

Benefits, Allowances – Greek Manpower Organisation (OAED)

The unemployment benefits from OAED are provided to salaried workers or employees whose employment contract must have expired or been terminated and who have been insured, as a working person, with OAED's unemployment fund.

- Sickness and health care benefits

Sickness Benefits in Kind for Unemployed Persons (paragraph 4, Article 5, Law No. 2768/1999).

Unemployed persons, following a relevant application submitted to the social security institution they were insured with before their employment was terminated, are covered by this institution for sickness benefits in kind for a period of up to two (2) years. If they have been insured with more than one social security institution they will be covered by the one they have been insured with for the longest period of time.

Unemployed persons must submit an OAED certificate clearly stating that they have been registered as unemployed with OAED for a period of at least 12 consecutive months before their insurance application submission, that they are still unemployed and, moreover, that they are holders of an unemployment card which is renewable on a monthly basis.

Delivery of Health care for Unemployed Persons Aged up to 29 Years (Article 18, Law No. 2639/1998).

Unemployed youth aged up to 29 come under the Social Insurance Institute IKA (Greek Institute) scheme for sickness benefits in kind, after they have submitted a relevant application to the local IKA office in their place of residence.

When they submit their programme inclusion application, these unemployed persons must also submit an OAED certificate stating that they have been registered with the OAED as unemployed for a period of at least two months, that they are still unemployed and, moreover, that they are holders of an unemployment card which is renewable on a monthly basis. Additionally, they must be uninsured, they must not be students and, as soon as they enter employment, they must officially state it to the local IKA office in their place of residence.

The health booklet issued is valid for a six-month period and is renewable on condition that a new OAED certificate is submitted, stating that they are still unemployed.

- **Pupil and Student Leave for Participation in Written Exams**

Payment of Wages for an Additional Annual 30-Day Leave to Pupils and Students who are Absent from Work in order to Take Part in School Examinations (Article 2, Law No. 1346/83, Joint Ministerial Decision 31930 /14-7-1983, Joint Ministerial Decision 33894)

Working pupils or students, apart from their annual paid vacation days, are entitled to 30 additional working days of unpaid leave per year (for which, therefore, no social insurance stamps are provided) in order to take part in the examinations of the educational institution they attend.

Postgraduate students are entitled to an annual 10-day leave.

OAED subsidises pupils and students attending state or state-supervised educational institutes of any type or tier (State IEK, OAED Apprenticeship) who are employed in private enterprises or those which, on the basis of relevant legislation, are no longer public ones, in order to take part in their school exams, by granting them an amount that is equal to the unskilled labourer's minimum wage, as determined each time by the National Collective Labour Agreement (for up to 30 days).

- **Subsidy for New Labour Market Entrants – NSRF**

OAED grants a special benefit for unemployed youth who have reached 29 years of age and who have graduated from a state institution of education and are degree or diploma holders. They are required to have registered in the special OAED unemployment lists at least within three (3) months after they have received their degree or diploma, and, in the specific case of men, they are also required to have completed their military service or be legally exempted from it.

- **Special seasonal allowance**

To those employed in specific professional categories – characterised by “seasonal” employment – OAED grants a special seasonal allowance during the period they cannot practise their professional activity. The seasonal allowance is paid annually. The specific amount paid depends on the professional sector or industry the beneficiary belongs to.

- **Special Social Group Unemployment Card**

The beneficiaries of the Special Social Group Unemployment Card are offered the opportunity to participate in OAED employment programmes for members of Special Social Groups. Moreover,

the unemployment card gives its holders the opportunity to benefit from the provisions of Law No. 2643/98.

- **Special Social Group Unemployment Card**

Depending on family income, a student may be entitled to free meals, free accommodation or a housing allowance. Also, a range of grants and scholarships are offered by numerous state bodies and foundations.

- **Private sector support**

It is worth mentioning that, during the recent economic crisis, special prices for unemployed people are offered in general by the private sector (theatre, cinema, commercial enterprises, etc.)

2.2 Measures for meeting the medical care needs of young people at risk of social exclusion

Health Voucher – Ministry of Health

With a national unemployment rate of 24.8% (June 2012) and an estimated 800 000 citizens uninsured, the Ministry of Health has designed a pilot mechanism (launched on 2 September 2013) which was set up to address the problem of a growing number of Greeks losing their public health care cover after becoming unemployed. The government has set aside 46 million euros to fund the “Health Voucher” scheme, to ensure access to primary health care services for uninsured citizens.

The programme aims to provide up to 230 000 applicants with vouchers that will allow them to see doctors without charge.

In order to expand the Health Voucher programme to more citizens and include more services, the Ministry of Health, in co-operation with other Greek authorities, will try to extend its life span to cover uninsured citizens over the next five years. Young people, who meet the criteria set out in order to be a beneficiary, will be able to make use of the services.

Since 2 September 2013, 31 800 applications have been submitted and more than 20 400 vouchers have already been issued.

Municipal Health Clinics – City of Athens

The City of Athens operates **seven** Municipal Health Clinics in six of the seven City Districts in an effort to ensure primary health care services are accessible to all citizens and in close proximity to their home or workplace. The goal is, in a city of major social diversity, to provide every citizen, privileged or otherwise, with a comprehensive range of health and social care services, to feel secure in the knowledge that they have access to medical and social care, close to their home, whenever they need it.

As a primary health care provider, the Municipal Health Clinic network offers all citizens a range of basic health care and social welfare services including:

- healthcare services which do not require hospital admission;
- assessment of citizens' health needs, planning and implementation of measures for illness prevention and health promotion;
- infrastructure for storage and management of the population's complete medical information and data;
- family planning;
- preventive dental care;
- post-hospital care and rehabilitation;
- monitoring of chronically ill patients;
- community care.

2.3 Measures to re-engage young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)

2.3.1 Cross-sectoral action plan of targeted interventions to enhance youth employment and entrepreneurship

The central objective of the action plan is to promote specific policies and measures for the development of youth employment and entrepreneurship among the two age groups 15-24 and 25-35 in Greece.

Ministries and beneficiaries

The ministries involved are the following:
Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs
Ministry of Development and Competitiveness

The total number of beneficiaries of the action plan is expected to reach 358 980 people, of which 65 974 are unemployed. The other 293 006 people come from the education community; more specifically they are students in secondary and tertiary education, students of initial vocational education, etc.

Priorities

- a. Creating jobs for young people according to their qualifications.

Business grants for hiring unemployed university graduates up to 35-years-old

Description: the objective is to create new full-time jobs in private companies for unemployed graduates. The programme runs for a total of 27 months, subsidising companies for the first 24 months, while the remaining three months are covered with company resources.

Beneficiaries: 2 474 unemployed persons.

Creating a National Network of Direct Social Intervention for unemployed young people up to 30-years-old

Description: the primary objective is to provide comprehensive services for homeless people and people living in or at risk of poverty. The network particularly aims to recruit unemployed people to new and existing social structures.

This action provides two-year funding for 195 Social Structures (Social Grocery Stores, Social Pharmacies, walk-in centres for the homeless, etc.) throughout Greece.

Beneficiaries: 1 200 people.

Charitable work programmes in the field of culture for young people

Description: the aim is to enhance employment through co-funded projects that involve the construction, promotion and preservation of cultural infrastructure as well as archaeological site and museum storage services (archaeologists, architects, engineers, etc.). Through this programme, employment is provided to unemployed youth for a period of six to seven months.

Beneficiaries: 3 200 unemployed young people up to the age of 30.

- b. Strengthening vocational education and training and apprenticeship systems, with an emphasis on combining training and work experience, while further investing in work placements and internships during and after training.

Internships and apprenticeships for students and recent graduates

Description: this programme supports students and recent graduates from certain education and training institutions in order to obtain valuable work experience, relevant to their studies. The programme is aimed at six target groups: a) internships for university students (20 472); b) internships for students of Technological Educational Institutes (TEI) (10 060); c) internships for graduates of Vocational Training Institutes (Greek Acronym IEK) and other agencies of initial vocational training (15 217); d) apprenticeships for students of vocational education provided by the Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED) (5 042); e) internships for students of Merchant Marine Academies (5 173); apprenticeships for recent graduates of technical education (8 475).

Beneficiaries: a total of 64 439 students and recent graduates; beneficiaries per target group available above.

- c. Adopting systematic programmes that facilitate the transition from education to employment (school-to-work programmes) to support the acquisition of work experience (through a combination of guidance, counselling, training and employment) tailored to the specific profile and needs of unemployed youth.

Introducing a cheque for entering the labour market for unemployed youth, according to their qualifications (graduates of tertiary education and graduates of compulsory secondary and post-secondary education)

Description: this programme promotes placement in private sector firms through a structured labour market entry path, securing the necessary conditions for the integration of young people into the labour market. This is achieved through the acquisition and improvement of knowledge, in parallel with theoretical training and practical experience in a real working environment, adjusting knowledge to the real needs of the production process.

Beneficiaries: 45 000 young people up to 29-years-old.

2.3.2 Greek Manpower Organisation (OAED)

The Greek Manpower Organisation is the governmental body charged with the responsibility of promoting employment in Greece and implementing policies and vocational training initiatives with organisations of social partners, local governments and the tertiary sector economy, both at central and regional level.

a. Employment programmes

- Subsidy programme for enterprises to recruit unemployed graduates up to the age of 35 from university and technological Higher Education Institutes
- Work experience programme for new labour market entrants aged 16-24 years
- Special three-year programme for aiding employers through a subsidy which is equal to the amount of social insurance contributions, aimed at recruiting 2 300 unemployed people with disabilities, ex-addicts, ex-convicts, young delinquents or young people at social risk, and a subsidy programme for 50 jobs involving the Ergonomic Arrangement of Workplaces for People with Disabilities
- Subsidy programme for 800 new entrepreneurs with disabilities, ex-addicts and ex-convicts aged 18-64 years, and a subsidy programme for 50 jobs involving the Ergonomic Arrangement of Workplaces for People with Disabilities
- Subsidy programme for 4 000 new female entrepreneurs and professionals aged 22-64 years, entitled “Entrepreneurship of unemployed women aged 22-64”
- Programme for new entrepreneurs from the year 2009 – Cycle B
- Programme for 6 000 new entrepreneurs – young scientists of the year 2009 – Cycle B

b. Vocational Training Institutes of the Greek Manpower Organisation (OAED)

- d. Two-year vocational training programme with subsidised internships in disciplines from all three sectors of economic activity.
- e. Vocational training programmes in OAED’s Vocational Training Institutes (IEK) in specialities from all three sectors of economic activity.

OAED also promotes the following **activities** for young people:

- financial support for starting a business;
- activities of specialist counselling (writing a business plan, sustainability principles, etc.) for those who receive financial aid;
- specialist activities to support youth entrepreneurship in the sectors of tourism, culture and environment, according to the particular needs of the local economy;
- grants for youth co-operatives and social enterprises;
- the programme "One Start, One Chance" allows young people aged 16-25, who have completed or dropped out of school and who do not intend to continue their studies, to enter the labour market. Also, new recruitment in the tourism sector is encouraged through the conversion of the seasonal unemployment benefit in the labour market support.

2.4 Measures to ensure access to decent housing for young people at risk of social exclusion

The General Secretariat for Youth has developed the programme “No one is left out” to help young people in this period of national financial crisis. It offers services and support to those youth on the verge of losing their homes, via a network of specialists who act as counsellors and intermediaries between those in need and the state bodies, with the aim of helping young people to retain their homes and their financial independence. The programme is made possible with the co-operation of the NGO “KLIMAKA for the Development of Human & Social Capital to Combat Social Exclusion”.

2.5 Measures addressing the social integration of young people with disabilities

- A Network of **Specialised Centres for Social and Professional Inclusion of People with Disabilities** is created and accredited by EOPPEP (National Organisation for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance) with the aim of addressing programmes and completed services of learning and counselling to people with disabilities (including young people with disabilities). It is estimated that more than 1 480 persons with disabilities will benefit from programmes with an overall budget of 13 090 000 euros.
- Interventions in favour of socially vulnerable groups by accredited **Specialised Centres for Social and Professional Inclusion and Centres of Professional Learning (KEK)**. The budget of these programmes is about 79.5 million euros with 23.5% available for programmes in favour of people with disabilities and people facing problems related to drug use. The aim of these programmes is to ensure interventions in favour of unemployed socially vulnerable groups – groups of the population that are threatened with social exclusion by promoting their equal integration in the various social and labour environments.
- Creation and operation of a structure of **Daily Care Centres** for the direct provision of first degree services of social care for people with physical and sensory disabilities, mental disorders and mental retardation, multiple disabilities or other kind of disabilities. During 2011-2012 more than 2 300 persons (elderly and disabled) were provided services in Daily Care Centres all over Greece and the programme continues today.
- The **Supported Living Residences (SLR)** are run on the principles of Community Psychiatry, de-institutionalisation, semi-independent living, psycho-social rehabilitation and social integration of intellectually disabled and socially disadvantaged persons. The operation of SLR aims to involve residents’ peers and family members in the treatment process and support adjustment to the new way of living, to enhance residents’ social skills and foster participation and social interaction and to offer family-style high-quality accommodation, health care, recreation, training and support services.

OAED programmes

There is an ongoing programme for 800 New Entrepreneurs (people with disabilities).

City of Athens

Disability support office

The office's role and responsibilities comprise the following.

- Provision of services for the support of disabled persons and their families during emergency situations and use of the Counselling Section
- Implementation of programmes concerning disabled persons in collaboration with municipal agencies and services
- Implementation of programmes at the municipality's recreational, entertainment and cultural venues
- Gathering of information to enable the office to act as an Information and Referral Centre which co-operates with competent agencies, bodies and services
- Advising competent services on major issues such as parking areas for disabled drivers, special signals and audio signals, etc.
- Collaboration with agencies and competent ministries on accessibility in the workplace
- Support of initiatives
- Promoting relations with Athens citizens
- Cultural intervention programmes for disabled persons and their families
- Organisation of information seminars and participation in seminars and conferences (related to disability, accessibility, public awareness, etc.)
- Traineeships – fieldwork (for students of Training Centres for the Disabled)
- Collaboration with agencies which implement European Union programmes relating to disabled individuals
- Advising competent agencies on accessibility for the disabled to workplace areas, educational centres and cultural venues
- Confronting the specific problems faced by disabled individuals

Disabled Persons Agencies Database

The City of Athens Disability Support Office has documented agencies and services, special schools, training centres and disabled individuals association, among others, and has created a "Disabled Persons Agencies Database" in digital format, to effectively inform citizens. Database figures are constantly updated.

On a daily basis, the City of Athens **Office for People with Disabilities** is in contact with and receives individuals whose family environment includes children and adults with disabilities and who, therefore, wish to obtain information. In recent years, the Office for People with Disabilities has built up a database which comprises details on agencies, services, schools, associations for people with disabilities and vocational training centres.

The first playground with special equipment that is accessible to children with disabilities operates at Akadimia Platonos.

Additionally, the City of Athens hosts and entertains youngsters with disabilities and their families at its **children's campsite at Agios Andreas** on weekends.

2.6 The contribution of youth work (and youth centres) to social inclusion of young people

The General Secretariat of Youth (GSY), in collaboration with several Municipalities and Prefectures, finances and supports the Network of Youth Information Centres to provide information and services to young people belonging to vulnerable groups of population. Moreover, by financing youth organisations, the GSY enhances youth workers to take actions concerning social inclusion.

3. Research on social inclusion

Is there any national report/national survey investigating the social exclusion of young people in your country, including issues of discrimination?

A parliamentary discussion on poverty and social exclusion that included academic contributions incorporates an article entitled “Dimensions of Poverty and Social Exclusion of Greek Youth – Policies for the transition from education to employment and professional life,” by Professor Sotiris Chtouris from the University of the Aegean. The report focuses on high unemployment rates, which have been exacerbated during the economic crisis, and discusses policies for addressing this issue, a key theme being the need to develop closer links between education and employment. The article is available online (http://www.ekke.gr/images/PDF/Vouli_Nea_Ftoxeia.pdf), however it is entirely in Greek.

National Report – Structured Dialogue

The EU Structured Dialogue on youth, for the period January 2013 to June 2014 (Irish, Lithuanian and Greek presidencies), is focusing on the social inclusion of young people. Young people are consulted via a questionnaire during each presidency cycle, and every country compiles a national report that feeds into a final report compiling the responses from all EU member states. National reports prepared during the Irish (first round) and Lithuanian (second round) presidencies include information on social inclusion. It should be explicitly noted that these reports provide information on the insights of young people in relation to social inclusion, and while they can be indicative they should not be treated as representative of the situation on the ground.

The first round focused on **social inclusion in relation to youth work**; however, as with the first round on the theme of social inclusion, the questionnaire included several questions relating to social inclusion in general. Respondents indicated that the three major challenges for including young people in society are:

- the guarantee of income and resources for a decent standard of living (64.1%);
- fighting social exclusion, discrimination and racism against young people with a migrant background and young people with fewer opportunities (50.6%);
- equal access to social and health services for all (46.8%).

When asked which groups of young people are at greater risk of social inclusion, as well as which stages in life young people may be more vulnerable to social exclusion, respondents indicated the following.

- People with mental and psychological disorders, chronic health problems or disabilities (60.9%)
- Immigrants and/or their children (57.7%)
- Young people with family income below poverty level (51.4%)
- Unemployed young people (45.8%)
- Gay and lesbian young people (37.5%)
- Women (13.5%)
- Children from single-parent families or with divorced parents (7.2%)

Most participants replied that the promotion of the social inclusion of young people is still a problematic area in Greece. Many also mentioned the need for a public awareness campaign.

The full national report from the first round is available here:

http://europa.eu/youth/content/ireland-presidency-national-consultations_en

The second round focused on **social inclusion in relation to young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)**. The full national report from the second round is available here:

http://europa.eu/youth/content/lithuania-presidency-national-consultations_en

Is there any longitudinal research focused on the cumulative nature of disadvantage (taking place across generations of the same family)?

“Intergenerational transmission of poverty in Greece and EU: Theoretical approaches and empirical (practical) analysis”

Observatory of economic and social developments, Labour Institute, Greek General Confederation of Labour, December 2010

<http://www.ineobservatory.gr/sitefiles/files/download7.pdf>

Apart from national reports and surveys, are you aware of other research that is valuable for understanding the situation of young people (especially those with fewer opportunities in the current crisis)?

“Dynamic analysis of the poverty phenomenon in Greece”

Observatory of economic and social developments, Labour Institute, Greek General Confederation of Labour, December 2010

<http://www.ineobservatory.gr/sitefiles/files/meleti4.pdf>

4. Examples of practice

What are the relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level promoting the social inclusion of young people?

General Secretariat for Youth Programmes

“Entrepreneurship Hubs” project: its objective is to support young people who have been achieved distinction in entrepreneurial competitions by providing entrepreneurial training and developing entrepreneurial skills, as well as to support them in the implementation of their entrepreneurial plans in the open market. It aims to: a) promote young people’s entrepreneurship in order to help them develop their entrepreneurial spirit and their skills in organisational procedures management and unit administration as well as to make them familiar with research and technology issues; and b) to link, in the most effective way, the education system with the labour market by strengthening pupils’, learners’ and students’ entrepreneurial spirit.

“Scientific Support to Young Farmers” programme: this is a programme which is in line with the main policy axes for the promotion of “green development”, the decentralised youth policy and the horizontal co-operations at central and regional level. Its aim is to make young farmers more competitive by co-operating with the university community in order to train them in new methods and suggest innovative practices at all stages of agricultural production.

Pilot programme, under the name “Triptolemos”, for young people up to the age of 40, who want to be professionally active in the agricultural sector. It has been suggested by the General Secretariat for Youth in co-operation with the Ministry of Rural Development and Food that the programme is implemented all over Greece. It will aim to: a) strengthen and support the participation of young people up to the age of 40 in the agricultural sector and the agricultural economy; b) guide the trainees in new cultivation methods, in sustainable agricultural and husbandry holdings; and c) make them capable of advertising and distributing their natural or processed agricultural products both in internal and international markets. The objective of the programme is to train young people living in towns who are seriously looking into the possibility of returning to rural areas in order to get involved with primary production.

“Youth Legal Aid”: free legal counselling and services to socially disadvantaged adolescents and young people up to the age of 35, who come into contact with the law. The services are offered by young lawyers under 35. The programme is being run in collaboration with Bars around the country that have signed a relevant contract with the General Secretariat for Youth. Cases may refer to criminal, civil, public and labour law. This programme maintains a strong social character, by offering legal protection to young people in need, while also having a strong developmental character, characterised by the offering of job opportunities and training to young lawyers through the undertaking of the responsibility to defend youth in various cases.

“Social Work Programme for Young Offenders” (article 82, paragraphs 6,7,8,9 of Criminal Law), in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice. Young prisoners may pay off their sentence by offering social work in ministry services under supervision, with the aim of helping them integrate into society with fewer problems while receiving training, continuous counselling and support.

“We live like you live” programme, in the framework of the ministry’s policy measures to combat social discrimination based on the different sexual orientations of young people. The programme includes a relevant campaign via the press (youth press, local press) to inform and raise awareness among people, the organisation of relevant seminars and the operation of a four-digit telephone helpline, giving integrated counselling services to young people, parents and teachers.

Founding member of the “National Network to Combat School Bullying”, (www.antibullyingnetwork.gr). The network was established in 2010. Other members: Greek Ombudsman for Children’s Rights, Pedagogical Institute, Child Psychiatric Clinic of Athens University Medical School, Child Health Institute, The Greek Branch of IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People), Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists’ Association, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, Ministry of Education (Anti-Bullying Observatory).

Activities co-financed by the European Social Fund

Local projects on social inclusion of social vulnerable groups

Subject of these interventions is the social activation and co-ordination of local players for the cover of needs of vulnerable social groups aiming at the implementation of a complete program for labour integration of individuals of socially vulnerable population. It is estimated that 12 000 people will benefit (from a budget of 60 million euros) and the implementation of these interventions has already begun. In particular, it is expected that 5 000 people belonging to socially vulnerable groups will find a job and 3 000 will create their own enterprise.

Local plans for the employment and local network operation

Networking of 11 Municipalities and a Prefecture, in the district boundaries of which 9 Local Networks were created and operated. In these networks various bodies participated which directly or indirectly influence employment on local level. The aim of these networks is the action assumption for the creation of jobs.

Learning of the Greek language to help promote equality of opportunity in the access to the labour market

Teaching the Greek language, in certified Centres of Vocational Training, to unemployed immigrants, refugees, and repatriated groups of the population who are threatened with social exclusion. The project aims to facilitate their integration into various social and labour environments, and enable their attendance on specialist vocational training programmes, according to their qualifications and their areas of expertise.

Activation of vulnerable social groups (Roma, homeless people) for their integration into the labour market in Corfu and Attica

The staffing of five psycho-social rehabilitation centres with the aim of implementing a programme to integrate individuals from socially vulnerable sections of the population into the labour market. The foundation and operation of the centres, in the regions of Attica (Acharnes, A. Liosia, Athens) and Corfu (Ahileon, Parelion), were partly financed by the EP "Health-Providence 2000-2006". They serve a total of 75 chronic mentally suffering individuals and employ approximately 115 staff.

Information Network of the Thessalian rural population

The creation and operation of a voluntary, collective, informal collaboration of institutions, consisting of public and private sector bodies, municipalities, social actors and citizens and structured as "network". The object of this network is the development of an extended social debate, following a bottom-up approach, on the topics of regional development, such as quality products and foods, organic agriculture – farming, social security structures, environment and water resources, culture and cultural routes, local – intra-regional networking and collaboration.

Discrimination, racism, equality and the media

Development and pilot implementation of two guides aimed at the integration of culturally diverse people as well as the training of journalists on issues of social discrimination.

Have young people and youth organisations been given the political and financial support to allow them to be involved in the policy-making process on social inclusion?

The General Secretariat for Youth (GSY), the governmental body responsible for the planning and implementation of youth policy in Greece, co-operates closely with **the Hellenic National Youth Council (HNYC)**, as the official representative of young Greeks in Greece and abroad, on all levels and issues that concern young people.

The HNYC is an independent, non-government, non-profit federation of youth organisations comprising up to 59 youth organisations (six political youth parties and numerous non-governmental youth organisations). Thus, the HNYC, according to the number of members in its organisations, represents over 350 000 young Greek men and women.

By politically and financially supporting the HNYC, the Greek government establishes consultation structures and develops a comprehensive national dialogue with youth organisations concerning domestic matters and issues under discussion, such as social exclusion, racism, xenophobia, oppression of sexual diversity, unemployment, isolation, etc. For all these matters and via the process of structured dialogue, young people and youth organisations have the opportunity not only to highlight the problems that relate to social inclusion but also to shape opinions and policies concerning the younger generation in order to be heard.

In order to achieve its objectives on social inclusion, the GSY issues leaflets and material, coordinates the implementation of programmes and projects in Greece that are the result of participation in European or other international institutions, promotes and finances the participation of young people and youth organisations in international events and ensures the exchange of experiences and ideas with international organisations that deal with the issue of social inclusion. Aiming to continuously train and inform young people on this crucial issue, the GSY, in collaboration with other state bodies and social institutions (universities, unions, other NGOs) organises public events (conferences, workshops, seminars) and numerous activities that directly target young people.