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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Conseil
Subject: Summer school "Beyond the refugee crisis - Studying in Europe"
- Information from the Greek delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Greek delegation on the above subject, which has been included on the agenda under 'Other Business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 30 and 31 May 2016.

Summer School “Beyond the refugee crisis - Studying in Europe”

Short Project Description

The Greek Ministry of Education wants to pilot a flexible pedagogical model, which could address the needs of the heterogeneous group of refugees (18 -30 years old), temporarily residing in Greece, and which could be then widely implemented during the following academic year.

This project’s main objective is to facilitate access to university for refugees who will decide to stay in Greece or will be relocated. In order to achieve this objective, those refugees interested will receive knowledge and develop competences which will make the process of access and integration in a European university easier. Furthermore, a group of Greek students will act as peer students for the refugee students. Additionally, this pilot action will provide necessary first hand information to decision makers and higher education stakeholders concerning this specific target groups regards their size, profile, and needs. As a result, more effective policies and practices could be developed. The summer school is planned for 30-40 students. Of them, 2/3 will be refugees and 1/3 Greek students. The students, the coordinators and the teaching staff will be hosted from 18-28 August in the campus of the International Olympic Academy, in the ancient area of Olympia, in the Peloponnese.

Concerning the educational programme, a series of seminars in European Culture, workshops on language (Greek and English), workshops on human rights and citizenship, and presentations/ discussions concerning European universities and studies in them will take place. Free time activities (physical and cultural), and one excursion will also be part of the program. The courses and activities will take place in English.

The professors and the educators will be both from Greece and other European countries so that a broad and diverse view of Europe, its culture and its system (political and educational) will be transmitted.

Expected Results

A significant number of the refugees-participants will enter a Higher Education Institution. A success rate could be considered that 30% of the total number of participants in the Summer School will have entered universities within two years following the summer school.

The Greek students will actively support and facilitate refugee students and act as a link between the administration and the refugees.

The Ministry of Education after evaluating and revising the model will organize follow ups in the coming year.

Partners

The Greek Ministry of Education will launch this pilot action in cooperation with Greek Universities and academics from Europe, which will participate at a voluntary basis. Also, cooperation with the Council of Europe is considered of great importance, especially with regard to the sessions of Human Rights Education and Citizenship, and the development of the overall pedagogical concept.
