**4th Pilot Seminar in the Framework of the Project**
**Setting-up a Council of Europe Academy for Democratic Leadership for**
**Persons with a Refugee Background**

**Democratic governance of migration: Aligning the national and the local**

**9-10 December 2019**
**Impact Hub, Karaiskaki 28, Monastiraki**
**Athens, Greece**

In response to the high number of refugees arriving in Europe since 2015, the Council of Europe is assessing the feasibility of setting up an 'Academy for Democratic Leadership for Persons with a Refugee Background'. This project's overall objective is to contribute pro-actively to the successful integration of newcomers into European societies.

The feasibility of the project is being explored by a series of four pilot seminars. With each seminar taking place in a different location, it will be possible to obtain a diversified pool of resources to draw from for feedback, ideas and proposals that will aid in establishing the conceptual and organisational parameters for setting up the Academy. The first three pilot seminars of the planned Academy took place in October 2018 in Berlin, in June 2019 in Strasbourg and in October 2019 in Rovereto and addressed respectively the themes of democratic participation of refugees in European societies and the efficient protection of unaccompanied minors, Refugees' education for democratic citizenship.

The 4th Pilot Seminar in the Framework of the Project Setting-up a Council of Europe Academy for Democratic Leadership for Persons with a Refugee Background, "Pathways Towards Sustainable Integration: Migration democratic governance: Aligning the national and the local", will take place in Athens from 9 to 10 December. It will bring together policy makers, organisations and individuals with a refugee background and actors representing civil society organisations working with refugees and migrants. The working language of the Seminar will be English.

The Seminar will discuss democratic governance of migration and forced displacement. Urban settlement and dispersal imply the generation of new forms of decision making that are often performed in collaboration between different actors (local administration, citizen initiatives, through multilevel governance) and through a continuous negotiation between global and local forces/needs. Despite wide accounts of the multidimensionality of integration, and recognition that housing, labour and welfare are integral and indivisible components of socially inclusive cities, they are still dealt with in isolation, often creating double standards. The lack of migrant and refugee voices in policymaking is also an issue that has been highlighted widely. How do cities decide on migration? How do migrant and refugee communities ensure democratic representation and participation in civic and political decision making? How do governments ensure standards of rule of law and human rights when it comes to migration and forced displacement governance?

# Programme

**Monday, 9 December**

**13:00-13:30    Registration – Light lunch**

**13:30-14:00    Welcome**

**On the Council of Europe Refugee Academies**

- Mr Michael Remmert, Head of Education Policy Division, Co-ordinator of the Schools of Political Studies Network, Council of Europe

- Ms Despina Syrri, Head, Symbiosis-School of Political studies in Greece, affiliated to the Council of Europe Network

**14:00-16:00    Session 1: Democratic governance and innovation**

Moderator: Mr Michael Remmert

- Mr Gavriil Sakellaridis, Head of Amnesty International in Greece

- Mr Lefteris Papayannakis, Head of Advocacy, Solidarity Now; former Vice Mayor on Migration and Refugees Athens Municipality

- Mr Harris Kaliaras, Advisor to the Mayor, Trikala Municipality

Discussion

Coffee break 15'

**16:15-18:00    Session 2: Education & Linguistic Integration of Refugees and Migrants**

Moderator:    Mr Petros Mastakas, UNHCR

- Mr Michael Remmert, Council of Europe

- Mr Mihalis Karakostantis, Integration through Education, Greek Refugee Council and School of Political Studies in Greece LIAM trainer

Discussion

**Tuesday, 10 December**

**9:30**          Welcome with coffee

**10:00-11:45    Session 3: Inclusion and Reform at the local level (Integration systems, Municipal Centres for Integration, urban living)**

Moderator: Ms Diona Lambiri, ACCMR Project Coordinator

- Mr Panayiotis Psathas, Athens Municipality

- Ms Vivian Kounio, Athens Municipality Innovation: Curing the Limbo

- Ms Meric Ozgunes, Major Thessaloniki Development Agency

Discussion

**11:45-12:00**  Coffee break

**12:00-13:45    Session 4: Refugees/Migrants, Democratic Representation and Communication**

Moderator: Mr Lefteris Papayiannakis

- Mr Yunus Mohamedi, Greek Refugee Forum

- Mr Nikodimos Kinyua, Solidarity Now

- Ms Jackie Abhulamen, Generation 2.0

Discussion

13:45-14:30     Lunch

**14:30-16:00    Group work on Migration and Enacting Citizenship**

Participants prepare questions to be addressed to Greek state officials and IOs during the two next Q&A sessions (in groups)

- **Housing and Reception**
  Facilitators
  Mr Kyriakos Giaglis, Country Coordinator Danish Refugee Council in Greece
  Mr Ljubisa Vrencev, Programme Coordinator Arbeiter Samariter Bund in Greece

- **Employment and Urban Living**
  Facilitators
  Ms Antigoni Lymberaki, Director Solidarity Now

Ms Dimitra Kalogeropoulou, Coordinator International Rescue Committee

- **Health and Well-being**
  Facilitators
  Ms Vassiliki Katrivanou, Greek Refugee Council
  Mr Apostolos Veizis, Medecins Sans Frontiers

- **Citizenship and Civic participation**
  Facilitators
  Mr Mahmud Abdelrasul, Almassar
  Ms Adla Shashati, Greek Forum of Migrants

- **Asylum and Access to services**
  Facilitators
  Mr Vasilis Papastergiou, Arsis
  Mr Vassilis Kerassiotis, HIAS Greece

**16:00-17:00     1st Q&A Session: Participants address questions to national authorities/bodies**

Moderator: Ms Despina Syrri

- Mr Dimitris Georgiadis, Ministry of Interior, Director of First Reception

- Ms Eva Tzavala, Greek National Commission for Human Rights

**17:00-18:00     2nd Q&A Session: Participants address questions to UN agencies**

Moderator: Mr Michael Remmert

- Mr Philippe Leclerc, UNHCR (tbc)

- Mr Gianluca Rocco, IOM

**Closing**