

SYMPLEXIS

Athens, Greece

<https://symplexis.eu>

info@symplexis.eu

Athens, September 2022

Press release In-CREATE project

“Exploring the role of culture and arts in TCNs' integration and best practices” - Greek report

The In-CREATE project

The purpose of the In-CREATE project is to address the basic need and challenge of promoting the successful integration of TCNs within the EU and cultivate creative expression as means to promote their social inclusion and community cohesion. Implemented in six partner countries, the Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Belgium, Turkey, and the UK, the purpose of the project is to cultivate creative expression as means to promote social inclusion and integration. In-CREATE will focus on developing and applying pioneer methodologies to various alternative ways of expression (such as visual art, literature, theatre, creative writing, film, and photography) and the social economy models.

The report “Exploring the role of culture and arts in TCNs' integration and best practices”

The first outcome of the project was the report on “Exploring the role of culture and arts in TCNs' integration and best practices”. Culture and the arts have a role to play in the process of integrating TCNs, to help them to better understand their new environment and its interaction with their own socio-cultural background, thus contributing to building a more cohesive and open society. The partners that participated in the development of these reports' output conducted desk research in their countries aiming to:

- examine the presence of TCNs in culture and arts,
- explore the role of culture and arts in the integration of TCNs on the local/national/EU level,
- identify good practices on how to utilize arts for promoting the integration of TCNs, and
- identify issues and needs for improvement.

Each partner country (CZ, GR, ES, BE, TR, UK) produced a report presenting the main findings and conclusions of the desk and field research.

**Youth Included** **symplexis** **BÜYÜK ORTADOĞU
SAĞLIK VE EĞİTİM VAKFI** **FORUM
EDUCATIVO****FILMWORKS
TRUST** **ReadLab**
Research Innovation and Engagement Lab**diesis**
network

The Greek report

Greece has continued to grapple with a high refugee influx despite having restrictive citizenship. Greece has become a hosting destination for international immigrants from Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Due to the increased immigration leading to the asylum crisis, Greece has prioritized integration by setting up the Directorate of Social Integration to integrate TCNs into Greek society.

Various programs have been established through the Directorate to create migrants' legal status, and facilitate access to health, employment, education, and other social security services. However, the integration programs have been hindered by Greek's economic crisis, administrative delays, TCNs' unwillingness to stay in Greece, language barrier, and limited skills.

According to the report findings, culture has been recognized as an essential tool in enhancing the integration of TCNs in Greece. Notably, artistic, and cultural expression facilitates the acquisition of language, which is an essential factor in the integration process. There has been significant growth in the network of cultural activities in Greece to enable the integration of migrants and refugees into Greek society. Some of the good practices already adopted in Greece for promoting arts and culture in TCNs integration include The Acting Project which pursued ways of using arts like theatre to support refugees and migrants into the Greek society.

It is worth noting that most professionals working with TCNs in Greece have adequate training to use arts in supporting TCNs. Arts generally make people feel good and play a significant role in making everyone as part of the community. The majority of TCNs agree that arts and culture are significant in their lives. Thus, there is a need to create more opportunities for TCNs and professionals to participate in arts and cultural activities in their communities. Some of the highly preferred arts include painting, music, photography, dance, fashion, and writing.

Despite the growing popularity of arts and culture in the integration process, there remains a skill gap among professionals, limiting their ability to handle TCNs. Thus, the focus should be placed on improving professionals' social and networking skills to ensure that they take part in community arts and cultural programs as an essential integration tool for TCNs. Greece should create a multifunctional cultural center and shelter for TCNs. Further, culture-specific events should be organized to celebrate diversity and more volunteers and professionals should be mobilized to support arts and culture for the successful integration of TCNs.

The report on "Exploring the role of culture and arts in TCNs' integration and best practices" in Greece is available [here](#).

symplexis

The "Exploring the role of culture and arts in TCNs' integration and best practices in Greece" is produced by SYMPLEXIS in the framework of IN-Create, a project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union Grant Agreement 2020-1-CZ01-KA227-ADU-094404.

The content of this publication represents the view of the author(s) only and is his/her/their responsibility.

