

Maropamatra - concept



Organisation name:

Maropamatra.

Organisation website: None yet.

Organisation country: Greece

Organisation city: Thessaloniki

Organisation email: Also none yet

Year of registration: Not yet registered, but first conceptualised in May 2017

IDEA

Idea title*

Uniting our communities, celebrating our diversity

Idea subtitle

Using arts coaching and practice to bring together refugees, migrants, and the native people of Greece's second city

Idea pitch*

Thessaloniki is one of the major crossroads on the migration routes from East to West, and has historically boasted a diverse population from across Europe and beyond. In the context of the ongoing refugee situation resulting from wars across Asia and Africa, a group of the city's residents –

who themselves originate from many different nations – have come together to pool their skills to set up and run a multi-cultural centre: a safe space, where new arrivals and natives of the city can come together and share their art, dance, music, literature, poetry, language, and food with one another.

Visualise your idea

Upload a photo or illustration that visually supports or explains your idea. Make sure that you have the property rights to share this picture. You can upload a .jpg, .png or .gif of up to 3 MB in size. The image should be in landscape (not portrait) format and have a width of at least 400 pixels.

Topic*

(Choose 1-2 topics that describe your project. Your answer to this question does not influence the selection process. It helps us to get a better overview over the proposals we receive).

2) Arts and cultural activities 4) Social inclusion

Other

Democracy and participation; Migration; Communities

Location details

Thessaloniki, Makedonia, Greece

Linkage to the Ruhr area

Is your project connected to the Ruhr area of Germany through project partners or audiences? Please provide further details. (max. 200 characters)

At present, there is no connection to Germany's Ruhr area, but as the project progresses, we would be happy to provide services where they are needed. Included in our group are professionals who have been working with refugees since the start of the current situation, and we know many have family members in Germany, including in the Ruhr area.

ROAD TO IMPACT

How will your idea strengthen democracy in Europe?*

European democracy's crisis is one of dissociation and disenfranchisement. Our idea helps people share and benefit from each of their unique insights and talents; bridging gaps between them; helping them play an active role and showing how diversity unites them – that combining their talents makes their community stronger and mutually-beneficial.

What would be a successful outcome for your project?*

We will have helped the refugee and migrant community to have integrated with the local native and student populations, building a far greater, stronger, more flexible and multi-faceted community than exists today. This is the major challenge, and opportunity, for Greece and the whole of Europe at present.

How do you plan to get there? Remember to highlight what makes your project design or idea different and innovative.*

We will run a space where activities including painting, dance, videography, literature, cooking, music, photography and other activities, will be coached and performed (including to the public) by people of diverse cultural origins. This is unique in Thessaloniki, which lacks such a space, and will be

facilitated by our experience working with people, including refugees and migrants, on this kind of project. It is an innovative way to help integrate the large number of people who have arrived here since 2015 with those who have been here longer, which is vital to the well-being of all.

Why is this idea important to you?*

We have worked with refugees and migrants in Thessaloniki for several years, and many of us are migrants. We know the newcomers to Thessaloniki have much to offer the city, but while they are hidden or prevented from entering the wider community, their skills are lost. This must not happen for their sake, or that of the city, Greece, and Europe as a whole.

Who are you doing it for?*

This project is for the city as a whole: it is for Greek people, migrants and refugees, and succeeds because everyone can be, and is, involved. This project will help refugees and migrants integrate with the wider community, and help the community as a whole develop, strengthen and become closer. It is for our city – a city that belongs to all who live in it.