



**FREEDOM
GATE**
GREECE



Erasmus+

Organization's Profile

PIC	928081645
Full legal name (National Language)	ΠΥΛΗ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑΣ
Full legal name (Latin characters)	FREEDOM GATE GREECE
Acronym	
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Department (if applicable)	
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Profile

Type of organization	NGO
Is the partner organization a public body? (Yes or No)	No
Is the partner organization a non-profit? (Yes or No)	Yes



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Background

Freedom Gate Greece is a non-profit non-governmental (NGO) organization which was founded 2012 in Athens Greece. The purpose of the organization according to its statutes is to combat social exclusion of vulnerable social groups, as well as the psycho-social support thereof. Freedom Gate Greece is particularly sensitized on issues concerning prisoners' children, juveniles, at risk youth and incarcerated mothers and therefore we give emphasis and focus our activities on their support, promoting their welfare and on defending their rights.

Experience

We work mainly in juvenile penitentiaries and shelters for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and roma children which all belong to extremely marginalized groups among youth and young people with fewer or more precisely, no opportunities in Greece.

IRISES (International Roma Integration through Stakeholders Exchange of Successful practices JUST/2013/FRAC/AG/6204) was coordinated by Italian organization Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti Comitato Ciriè Settimo Chivasso (UISP)

Within the framework of this **IRISES** project Freedom Gate Greece implemented a program that targeted mainly juvenile offenders and focused on the prevention of future delinquent behavior. Our aim was to contribute through teaching of new social skills against aggressive or offending behaviors, juveniles' psychosocial and developmental growth, as well as the development of collective supportive bonds among them. This innovative intervention called **"Moral Dilemmas Discussion Group"** was designed on the evidence based model of R & R (Reasoning and Rehabilitation, Ross, Fabiano & Ross, 1986) which focuses and aims e.g. to prevent the appearance of future offending behaviors and to facilitate a smooth reintegration of the juveniles back into the society.

The interventions took place at the Juvenile penitentiary of Avlona which houses approx. 350 juvenile offenders aged 18-21 and in the Juvenile penitentiary of Corinth which houses approx. 15 juvenile offenders aged 15-18.

Within the framework of the European program **IRISES** Freedom Gate Greece organized events on the Rights of the Child between the 19th and the 22nd of January with the aim of informing and raising awareness of the public and stakeholders, as safeguarding the rights of children is everyone's responsibility.

Detailed program of the **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS WEEK:**

Event at the Center for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers of NGO Praksis in Petralona, Athens.

One day conference with the kind support of the Municipality of Korydallos in Athens, Greece. The title of the conference was "Passing through the Gate into the land of Children's Rights" and the main themes which were discussed and presented were the Legal framework regarding the Children's Rights, Minor asylum seekers, Child friendly justice, Children's access to health services and education in Greece.

Advocatory activities regarding the Rights of a Child at the Juvenile penitentiary of Corinth housing about 15 juvenile inmates aged 15 – 18 years.

Workshops and games in the relation to Children's Rights at the Support Center for Child and Family in Kolonos, Athens.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAM "ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR IMPRISONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"

This project aimed to understand and analyze the different methods about probation/penal measures which do not consider imprisonment for young people but which instead have the community contribute in the sense of a rehabilitation effort made by public bodies as well as private delegation of public authorities in the matter (those who work with Community Services). Freedom Gate Greece was chosen to replace another organization which due to



administrative changes was unable to participate in the project. We overtook therefore the task to train 10 participants from the Italian organization Cooperativa Sociale Progetto H in issues concerning alternative measures to prison e.g. community sanctions. There were 2 training sessions which took place 29-31/10/15 and 25-27/11/15. The content and topics of the two training courses were the same and the evaluation done by our Italian organization Cooperativa Sociale Progetto H was excellent both for the organization of the training course, as well as for its quality.

ERASMUS+ PROGRAM “CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

Freedom Gate Greece participated as a full partner in this project which involved 38 youth workers from 6 different European countries. The project's aim and main objectives were to improve key competences and entrepreneurial skills of youth workers, to increase the quality of services provided by the consortium member organizations in order to increase self-employment of young in business and to develop creativity, initiative and transversal skills among participants.

1st PAN-HELLENIC “OPEN CONFERENCE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY”

Freedom Gate Greece had a key role in organizing the 1st Pan-Hellenic “Open conference of the civil society for social economy” which was held in June 2016 in Athens. The 3- day conference was carried out and in cooperation with the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences and under the auspices of the municipality of Athens. 500 delegates - 80 speakers in 16 thematic unity highlighted problems and presented positions, policies and proposals for the Third Sector of the Economy in Greece. Maria Papastergiou-Logara, Managing Director of FGG was involved as a coordinator in the thematic of “Health and social care” as well as in the compilation of the final paper.

SUMMER SCHOOLS IN GREEK PRISONS 2016

Within the framework of the program “Prevention and Social support of at-risk Youth” the general secretariat of Life Long Learning and Youth of the Ministry of Education in Greece has launched the operation of “Summer schools” at the “Second Chance Schools” in several prisons in the country. The functioning of the Second Chance Schools of these prisons during the summer months is an initiative which was proposed and tabled by the NGO “Freedom Gate Greece” in collaboration with the Network for Culture and Education “Georgios Zouganelis”. The ultimate aim of this action is to consolidate and expand the operation of summer schools in prisons across the country.

“SYMPLEFSI” partnership project

Freedom Gate Greece participated in a partnership of organizations named SYMPLEFSI (translated: consistency) which implemented psychosocial interventions in 3 schools. Our organization carried out “Moral Dilemmas Discussion Groups” which aimed to develop pupils’ critical thinking and decision-making, social skills as well as strengthening their skills of responsibility proceedings. The aim of this intervention was mainly to work as a preventive instrument and measure of juvenile delinquency and antisocial behaviors.

TRAINING SEMINAR OF EDUCATORS AND VOLUNTEERS IN PRISONS

The main objective of the training program is to provide educators and volunteers of Freedom Gate Greece and the Network of Education and Culture in prisons “George Zouganelis” with the necessary knowledge and skills in order for them to be able to implement programs and actions in prisons. Representatives of Freedom Gate Greece were invited as trainers in issues concerning the role of volunteers/educators in prison, personal boundaries and ethics and the legal framework of prison education.

PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING

Our volunteer psychologists have offered (free of charge) personal counseling to spouses of prisoners and children whose other parent is in prison.



LEGAL COUNSELING

The legal department's volunteer lawyers have offered (free of charge) legal advice and counseling for persons in need.

INFORMATIVE PUBLICATIONS

We have translated children's books and developed informational material concerning children's prison visits and explanatory leaflets on the terminology concerning the criminal justice and its proceedings. Furthermore, we have translated informative booklets for adults on how to handle spouses' imprisonment and especially how to tell the children about the other parent's imprisonment.

SEMINARS – TRAINING

Training seminar in Children's rights 28-30/09/2015 – A three days training seminar

“Unlocking Children's Rights: Strengthening the Capacity of Professionals in the EU to Fulfill the Rights of Vulnerable Children”

HIGGS 150 hours training – A training program designed specifically for the needs of NGOs operating in Greece and which aimed to provide the right skills and the necessary knowledge for the better functioning of NGOs in general and for creating successful funding proposals in particular.

MEMBERSHIPS

COPE Children of prisoners Europe

Eurochild Network of organizations and individuals to promote children's rights and well-being in Europe.

Network for Culture and Education in prisons “Georgios Zouganelis”.

AWARDS

Golden Award for our work in the psychosocial work with vulnerable groups received 2016 at the Athens Volunteer Festival

Global Sustain™ award for promotion of our program for Imprisoned mothers

What are the skills and expertise of key staff/persons involved in this application?

Key staff is consisted of founders Tina Törrönen, who is a senior student of sociology and Maria Papastergiou-Logara, who is the administration executive.

Our scientific teams consist of trained academic degree holders such as psychologists, criminologists, lawyers, sociologists and social workers, who receive supervision and constant training.

Since we founded Freedom Gate Greece we have established successful cooperation with several organizations mainly from the Scandinavian countries, Italy and the UK which are active in similar areas and we have a good working relation with all of them. We are member of the European organizations “COPE Children of Prisoners Europe” and “Eurochild”. The guidance and support which we have got from these organizations we believe is the factor in the successful implementation of the programs. We have developed our projects and programs using “proven tactics” and evidence based intervention which we have adapted to the Greek reality.

We are privileged to have some of Greece's top academician experts and university professors mainly in the field of criminology and social research as our scientific advisors and supporters.



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Implemented European projects as a full partner

EU Programme	Year	Project identification or contract number	Applicant/Beneficiary Name
Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Funding Programme	2014 – 2016	JUST/2013/FRAC/AG/6204	IRISES (International Roma Integration through Stakeholders Exchange of Successful practices)
Erasmus+	2015	2014-3-IT03-KA105-004925	Alternative measures to prison for young people
Erasmus +	2016	2016-1-RO01-KA105-023890 Mobility 3-14/11/2016	Creative entrepreneurship