

## 2022 Review

2022 has been a transitional year for Kyclos. The lockdowns due to the pandemic were over, however changes in Greek policies were unfriendly to refugees and asylum seekers, i.e. by making the registration processes harder to access, and by closing down [ESTIA](#), the biggest accommodation program in Greece. Refugees are currently taken out of the apartments and directed to isolated camps (Schisto and Malakasa). These policy changes have affected the refugee population and have created new needs. Subsequently, KYCLOS' operations were affected, since we are an organisation run by our refugee members.

Despite the rough political frame, KYCLOS managed to maintain its core activities and respond to the new needs. In brief we gave **language courses** and provided **school-support** to students attending the Greek education system. We continued the **soap workshops** and the **olive oil production** and we organised **collective kitchen** for the community. We offered **social services** (e.g. accompanied our beneficiaries to services related to bureaucratic or medical needs and provided support with related paperwork), we supported Kyclos members to find **self accommodation**, and **job**. We provided **legal** counselling, **psychological** support and **empowerment** sessions thanks to our ongoing collaboration with the Athenian Institute of Anthropos , Center of Study, Research, Training and Development of Applications of the Social Sciences for Human ([AKMA](#)). We maintained existing **collaborations** and initiated new ones. Here below, some highlights of the year:

**1) Language courses** (mainly Greek and English) were given for all levels, including courses for illiterate people of all ages.



**2) Workshops** related to practical skills building, useful for oneself and potentially leading to income creation:



**Soap production:** we participated at the antiracist festival where KYCLOS' beneficiaries made some income by selling their soaps and artwork



**Olive harvesting:** We built upon the knowledge gained during 2021 thanks to the training given to KYCLOS' members by the American Agricultural School of Thessaloniki. In 2022 we have fully functioning equipment and a trained team who harvests olive fields.



**Cooking:** We were donated cooking equipment so that we can organise community kitchen for our beneficiaries and the community

**3) Empowerment and personal development** through dedicated meetings with psychotherapists and social scientists. Professionals from AKMA have been supporting KYCLOS also in 2022. In the context of our empowerment program we were proud to get one of our youngest students admitted to a Montessori private school in Athens. Afshin, 6 years old, was the first ever refugee child in the specific Montessori school. Afshin belongs to a single parent family, he has two more siblings and his father is a drug user. Through counselling, we managed for his mother to become independent, and for her children to go to school in Greece.



**4) Job finding;** we keep supporting KYCLOS' dedicated beneficiaries to find a job and make a decent living for them and their families.



Additionally, in 2022 we came closer to the local society. We met with the association of parents of schools of Athens municipality in order to share challenges and opportunities arising in multicultural schools. We were invited at the [Panteion University](#) to talk about our approach to social integration. We were also invited by a school in Athens to make a workshop against school bullying and the value of co-creating common values and culture. Additionally, in an attempt to bring Greeks closer to the refugee community we opened our doors to the theatrical play 'testimonies of refugees' organised by the theatrical team tZENerale Acting studio.



We try to respond in a meaningful way to the refugee crisis and the continuous need for integrating societies. We enter 2023 aiming to maintain and expand existing activities and operations in Athens and to transfer the KYCLOS model to more remote areas of Greece.

Our best regards and wishes for the new year to come

Alexandra Bonou 03/12/2022	
Katerina Polychroni 03/12/2022	

**ΚΥΚΛΟΣ**  
**ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΕΝΤΑΞΗΣ**  
 ΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΜΗ ΚΕΡΔΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΙΑ (Α.Μ.Κ.Ε.)  
 ΤΟΣΙΤΣΑ 9 - ΑΘΗΝΑ Τ.Κ. 106 83  
 ΑΦΜ: 996886330 - ΔΟΥ: Α - ΑΘΗΝΩΝ  
 ΤΗΛ: 693 2927832 - 694 6918265