


UNESCO YOUTH CLUB OF THESSALONIKI

Name of the organisation :	UNESCO YOUTH CLUB OF THESSALONIKI	
Address:	TSIMISKI 3 STR., THESSALONIKI	
Tel:		
Fax:		
Web site:	https://unescoyouth.gr/	

Name of the contact person:	Stefanos Katsoulis	
Function:	Director	
Address:	Tsimiski 3 str., Thessaloniki	
Tel:	+30 6976840812	
Fax:		
E-mail:	stefanoskatsoulis@unescoyouth.gr	

Type of organisation:

SME Training No Profit School X NGO University X Public Authority

Other (Specify)

Fields of action:

SMEs Equal opportunities Youth X Schools X Universities X Unemployed Public Authorities

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki is a non-profit local youth NGO that was founded in 2004 in Thessaloniki (Court of First Instance of Thessaloniki, Reg. Nr.: 7572/30.06.2004). Its establishment was approved by the Hellenic National Commission for UNESCO.

It is directed by a governing board comprised of 7 members elected every three years. The President of the board serves as the legal representative of the Club, while all the members of the board jointly oversee the various activities and govern the Club by establishing broad policies and setting out strategic objectives.

Our organisation is a member of the Greek Federation of Clubs, Centers and Associations for UNESCO, the “Great Silk Way - International youth Organization”, the Greek National Youth Council, the Network of Voluntary Organisations of Thessaloniki (Thess-Diktio), the Greek Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Euro-Med Youth Platform, the European Network Youthnet, the Network Select Respect for Human Rights, and the Hellenic Platform for Development. It is also a registered organization in the General Secretariat for Youth in Greece and the Transparency Register of the European Commission. Member of the Network of the European Youth Capitals.

UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki plays a leading role in youth activities in our region, promoting youth participation, inclusion and education initiatives. Youth employment and social inclusion, active citizenship, non-formal education, volunteerism and the EU Youth Strategy are listed among our main priorities when implementing our activities in local, national level & European level. Recently our Club has been nominated by the United Nations Regional Information Office in Brussels (Office for Greece and Cyprus) as a national promoter of the UN Youth Strategy 2030.

Based on the fundamental principles and objectives of UNESCO, as well as the EU, our activities can be mainly categorized in the fields of education and human rights, culture, science, information and communication. Our goal is to deploy the youth priorities and strategies of UNESCO and the EU in order to support young people, fostering their engagement within the local and European societies.

Our Club was actively engaged in the preparations of the candidature of the city of Thessaloniki as the “European Youth Capital 2014” and supported the implementation of the Municipality’s agenda afterwards (2012-2014).

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

In its fifteen years of existence, our Club has implemented various activities: organizing conferences and events; promoting the United Nations International Days; hosting seminars and trainings of formal and non-formal education; implementing regional projects with partner NGOs from the neighboring countries; running actions based on volunteerism; dealing with issues concerning the Monuments of the World Cultural Heritage of the city of Thessaloniki, as well as dealing with all aspects of fundamental human rights protections, boosting diversity and social inclusion, are only some examples of what has been done through the previous years.

Activities and projects (ERASMUS+, INTERREG and others) are implemented at a local, regional and European level, with an emphasis on the neighboring area, promoting interregional and cross-border cooperation. Our Club has envisioned and initiated, in cooperation with the organization Youth Alliance Krusevo, the international youth project “Contacts for the Common Future”, that aims to bring together young people and youth workers from the neighboring countries (since 2010). In addition, our Club was a main implementing partner of the project “ENVI: Local Communities in Environmental Action”, within the framework of the INTERREG European Territorial Cooperation Programme of the EU (2012-2014).

UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki has been a partner in more than 250 youth mobility trainings, giving the opportunity to almost 1500 young people to participate and live the unique experience of non-formal education in a multi-cultural environment. Through their participation, young people acquired valuable experience, improved their skills, increased their tolerance and met new cultures.

UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki was authorized by the Greek Office of the United Nations Regional Information Center in Europe as a national promoter of the International Year of Youth (IYY) of the United Nations (2010-2011). During the IYY, we implemented an agenda with numerous activities concerning youth, we edited the Greek versions

of the UN official informational material for the IYY and we welcomed the UN Youth Ambassador, Mrs. Monique Coleman, in Greece, organizing her tour in the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

Programme or initiative	Reference number	Beneficiary organization	Title of the project
ERASMUS+ KA2	2019-1-BG01-KA205-061890	SDRUZHENIE NATSIONALUE MLADZHKAKARTA (National Youth Card Association /NYCA)	YOUTH WORK and YOUTH WORKERS across EUROPE – good examples from practice about volunteering, employment, education and training
ERASMUS + KA1 Youth	2018-3-EE01-KA105-051223	TDM 2000 Estonia	Tales for a Better Europe
ERASMUS + KA1 Youth	2018-3-NO02-KA105-001378	Medvirkningsagentene	Basic skills for Digital youth work
ERASMUS+ KA205 - Strategic Partnerships for youth	2018-2-BG01-KA205-048192	Bulgarian teacher's union	Approaches to promote of innovative skills among young people (APISAYP)
ERASMUS + KA1 Youth	2017-3-RO01-KA105-046981	Network of European Youth Capitals (NEYC)	NEYC MEETUP -Urban Consultation Mechanisms in Youth Friendly Cities
ERASMUS + KA2	2017-2-PT02-KA205-004545	DNA Cascais	Youth Capital to Youth Capital - Inspiring, Sharing, Learning
Europe for Citizens/ Strand 2/ Network of Towns	2017-3445/001-001	Municipality of Paionia	EU Border Communities: sharing experiences and practices on refugees' reception and social solidarity/ EUBorCo
ERASMUS + KA2	2017-3-NL02-KA205-001922	Stichting art.1	Alexander project / Perform2Reform
ERASMUS + KA2	2017-1-RO01-KA205-036152	PONT Group Asociatia Grupul PONT Csoportpont Group	Com'ON Europe - European Platform of Participatory Budgeting for Youth
ERASMUS + KA2	2016-3-FR02-KA205-012167	French-Italian Chamber of Commerce of Marseille	A Network for NEET mobility
ERASMUS + KA1 Youth	2016-1-RO01-KA105-023225	Asociatia KASTA MORRELY	Upgrade youth work
ERASMUS + KA1 Youth	2015-2-RO01-KA105-015534	Asociatia KASTA MORRELY	Equal chances for labour market
ERASMUS + KA1 Youth	2015-2-IT03-KA105-006178	SMART Association Italy	CULTURAL MAKERS, Intercultures, youth and active citizenship

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

During the last 4 years, our Club is actively engaged at school level in the area of Thessaloniki. In cooperation with the teachers and the directorates of secondary education we carry out non-formal educational activities concerning the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, since 2016, we have started being engaged in activities promoting social inclusion of young refugees and unaccompanied minors who are accommodated in the urban area of Thessaloniki. Main goal of our efforts is to support and encourage the young refugees to integrate into the formal education system and other non-formal education activities.

In addition, our Organisation was an Associated Partner to the Erasmus+ "I Have Rights - Towards the Recognition of Non-discrimination Principles at School" Project, aims at providing secondary school teachers with the skills to deal with multicultural classrooms through the acquisition of intercultural competences based on the understanding of human rights and non-discrimination values.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki has a significant experience in projects planning, preparation and implementation, consulting on grants allocation, while there is a profound organizational capacity building and experience in the fields of social rights protection, youth education, youth inclusion and engagement, social action and local community development. The knowledge gained from previous experience on European Projects will be a good practice guide to newly run projects. The past experience in effective communication and networking between the partners in the design and implementation of robust actions to comply with the targets, the successful observance of timetables, deadlines, and finances is an important knowledge for future projects such this proposal.

In UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki we have combined our skills and networks in order to define, promote and establish new forms of binding democratic participation in political processes, free of discrimination and exclusion; developing civic awareness on institutional practices regarding rights, based on the premise that practicing human rights protection equals democratic rule of law. We advocate for the political, social, and economic participation of migrants and vulnerable communities at the local, national and European levels, and for the inclusion of marginalised groups in the public sphere.

Towards the successful implementation of our project will contribute: i) the experience of the organisation of courses, workshops, seminars, conferences and various types of events, ii) the cooperation and synergies with other Greek and European organisations and institutions such as communities, migrants' and refugees' associations, civil society organisations, local authorities, cultural centres and research associations, iii) the connection and interaction of the civil society with the local authorities in terms of capacity building in decision-making, policy designing and advocacy on fundamental human rights and human dignity.

In addition, visibility for the active engagement of young refugees and displaced youth during the project (and beyond) will be given via accompanying media-work to change the 'narrative' on forced displacement of youth, promoting a positive image of young refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, communicating real facts and good practices and combating stereotypes. Media engagement in activities will foster the project's impact on the 'narrative' on migration in society generally, as well as with policy makers.

Last but not least, our organisation is a member of the Greek Federation of Clubs, Centers and Associations for UNESCO, the Network of Voluntary Organisations of Thessaloniki (Thess-Diktio), the Greek Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Select Respect Network for Human Rights. Select Respect Network of civil society organisations is a network which encompasses the main 15 human rights and humanitarian NGOs in Thessaloniki and will provide the access to a range of actions and possibilities regionally and locally.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Stefanos Katsoulis is currently the Director of UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki. He is a collaborator of the "UNESCO Chair in Intercultural Policy" of the University of Macedonia. He served as the President of the Board of UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki from 2010 to 2018. All these years he has acquired great experience in management and coordination of ERASMUS+ (KA1 and KA2) and INTERREG projects. He is a PhD student at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, in the field of the Law of International Economic Organizations. He holds an MA in International Economic Relations and a BA in International and European Economic Studies of the University of Macedonia. He is also a researcher and administrative assistant of the ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "European Constitutionalism and Religion(s)" of the Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2018-2020).

Until recently he was employed as a Project Administrative Assistant in the organisation "Symβiosis-Civic School of Political Studies of the Council of Europe". He was also a member of the Research and Implementation Group of the "I Have Rights" Erasmus+ Programme (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Project "Discourses on European Union and Human Rights" (Kalliopi Koufa Foundation on International and Human Rights Law). In the past he was a Field Coordinator of the project "Quality play-based learning and non-formal education; enhanced psychosocial wellbeing and positive integration for refugee children in Greece" that was implemented by ELIX Conservation Volunteers Greece and was funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid with the support of UNICEF.