



## GREECE

### How does multicultural diversity benefit Greece?

From emigration country, looking for shelter and work opportunities abroad, to become one of the most important first reception countries. The post-2015 influx of migrants has increased the multi-cultural element within the Greek society.

### THE CHARACTERISTICS

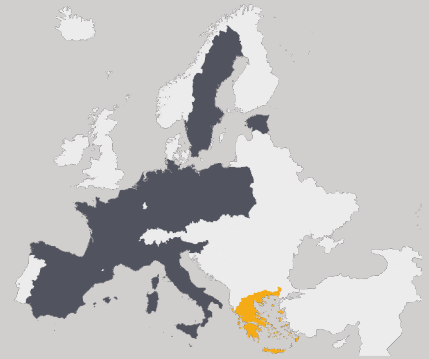
With a population of almost 11 million people, currently, there are over half a million migrants residing legally in the country, including 79,500 refugees.

Despite their high educational background, many migrants do low-skilled and precarious jobs, and many are unemployed. 75-80% are economically active.

Besides the right to labour market access, legally residing migrants do not receive any additional support to get oriented, trained or recognised in their field of work.

**To unblock the full potential that a diverse society can have, it is essential to recognise and empower migrants skills and knowledge.**

To learn more about Greece and the integration of newcomers, as well as these initiatives, be sure to look at the [research reports of the MAX project!](#)



## UNITED IN DIVERSITY

There is an expanding network of cultural activities with the aim of promoting the integration of newcomers into the Greek society:

- ✓ **Hope – Refugee Football Club:** established in Piraeus in 2016 by Organization Earth to facilitate integration and through football programs for refugees and asylum seekers.
- ✓ **The Art and Action Network:** created by an association of teachers and artists to offer “First Aid Education” to refugee children.
- ✓ The **“HAnds on Refugees Talent and Sustainability – HARTS”**: a workshop that focuses on the promotion and development of women refugees’ skills towards autonomy and inclusion in the Greek Society.
- ✓ The **Cultural Center of African Art and Cultures “ANASA”**
- ✓ The project **“Odysseus”** that aims at providing the Greek language skills, as well as the social and intercultural competences for the cultural and social inclusion.

## THE WAY AHEAD

- Greece is facing several societal challenges from becoming a main receiving country. Levels of unemployment remain high and the birthrate decreases. In this context, migrants are an important group of citizens who contribute by paying tax, working and bringing new needed skills.
- To protect migrants and maximise their contribution, policy priorities to promote the recognition of credentials and to ensure protections for labour migrants, including the informal economy, need to be put in place.
- Media play an important role, sometimes adding to stereotypes and rumours. More cultural activities can provide an open environment for meeting others and discussing cultural difference, while cultural heritage can reinforce community cohesion and reflective environment.

**#KeyMessage: Enable migrant economic participation**

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a welcoming multicultural society, follow like/share/contact  
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