



# ***ANNUAL REPORT*** ***2017***

**Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity**



WE ARE A TEAM OF PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT ORIGINS WHO WORK TOGETHER  
TO PROMOTE EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY, THROUGH THE  
EMPOWERMENT OF COMMUNITIES



# The Word of the Team

We are proud to acknowledge the growth and success of our organization in the year that has passed. 2017 was a challenging year in the field of migration. 2 years after the main flows of asylum seekers in Greece, they found themselves locked inside a country they were not meant to stay at the first place. The same time, more than 500,000 migrants who had already been living in Greece for years remained on the margins of the society.

In this environment, the need for an organization capable to support people in their need to integrate and claim a place in the Greek society became evident. Thanks to the support that we received, we managed to adapt to this need and provide more and more people the tools they need.

How did we do that?

**Rights:** What lies in the core of our activities is the ideal of information as a tool for empowerment. Through our lessons, workshops, events and field visits, we start together a new life in Greece in terms of dignity and respect.

**Equality:** As an organisation which was created through campaigning, we keep our eyes open and monitor policies in order to ensure access to rights on terms of equality.

**Diversity:** Living in societies composed by people with different origins, we claim equal access and visibility. Notably, we launched the Diversity in the workplace campaign to promote the idea of inclusivity and acceptance. Ideas which are already dispersed via our non-formal education tools at schools. We are a team with a goal to promote equal participation in a diverse society, through the empowerment of communities. With your constant support, we will continue.

Thank you



# Vision & Mission

**Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality and Diversity (G2RED) is the new generation of young people living in Greece, with different origins, sharing a common vision, that all of us have the right to equal citizenry.**

Based on that, we are engaged to advocate for equal participation in a diverse society, to support inclusion and promote the principles of active citizenry on an individual and communal level by focusing on shaping the public discourse on the realities of people with migrant background in Greece.



# History of Engagement

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G2RED is an initiative of a group of young people with migrant origins. Operating as an informal group as far back as 2006, affectionately referred to as 'Second Generation', our founding principle was to secure the rights of the otherwise invisible generation of children born and or raised in Greece from migrant backgrounds.

At the time, an estimated 200,000 children born and or raised in Greece to parents who are not Greek citizens were not entitled to automatic Greek citizenship, even when they became of age. Considered and treated as "foreigners" this longstanding legislative gap left children and young adults of migrant background in a legal limbo with virtually no rights, facing social exclusion and discrimination in a range of areas.

Working as active agents for social change we took part in consultations on immigration policies both on municipal and state levels. We facilitated consulting, support and counselling services for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Collaboration was key, and we actively sought to build working relationships between migrant communities, organizations and collectives active in the migrant scene. Finally, after decades long grassroots activism, political lobbying and other forms of social activism a law was passed in 2010 granting the right to citizenship for the second generation.

The battle however was far from over as a few years later in 2013, the law was ruled unconstitutional and we were back to square one. In response, we amped up our efforts, Second Generation joined forces with the Institute for Rights, Equality & Diversity (i-RED) and in December 2013 Generation 2.0 RED was founded.

Recognizing the importance of youth agency, we set up Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity to provide this necessary platform for youth work to flourish. Generation 2.0 RED not only works to raise awareness about young people of migrant backgrounds but to also advocate for the civil rights of all vulnerable populations.



# The Team

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Nikos Odubitan – *Managing Director*
- Emmanuel Olayinka Afolayan – Member BoD

G2RED composition reflects the reality of Greek society. Our team, composed by the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, is interdisciplinary and represents a mix of genders, ethnicities and social backgrounds. In 2017, we had 23 full time employees, 1 part time and 2 external consultants spread across our five departments. Volunteers are an integral part of our activities and this year we had 7 working with us on a fixed basis and 28 on a rolling basis. Together, we embody the principles of the organization to create the necessary spaces for social change.

# **FIELDS OF INTERVENTION**

*As an organization, we have over 12 years of experience in social & legal research, social action, project conception & planning, services provision, events' organisation, to promote rights, equality and diversity and combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination.*

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## **LEGAL SUPPORT**

***Inclusive framework means safe citizens***

**Goal:** Supporting inclusion by informing on legal status, citizenship acquisition and the naturalization process, procedures, rights and obligations, health, housing.

## **EMPLOYABILITY**

***Work means independence***

**Goal:** Promoting inclusion, autonomy and social rights.

## **NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**

***From A, B to Citizenship***

**Goal:** Strengthening access to the citizenship and supporting inclusion through language, culture and non-formal education.

## **ADVOCACY**

***Monitor, identify & intervene***

**Goal:** Promoting institutional and social inclusion. Enhancing the visibility and civil participation of migrant communities.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IN ACTION**

***Put your cause at practice***

## **LEGAL SUPPORT**

### ***Legal Counselling & Intercultural Mediation***

With more than 12 years of experience in Intercultural Mediation and the Migration Code, one of the core functions on the organisation is providing one-on-one counselling sessions on legal issues and monitoring specific cases that need additional support. 157 individuals from 46 countries of origin. The largest age group is 30-45 years old and male.

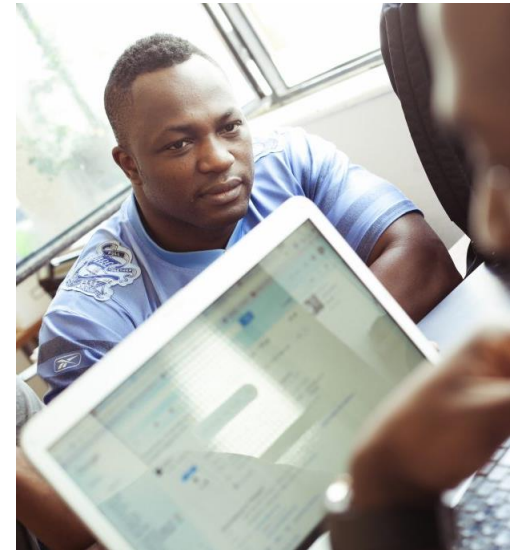
Seeing the great need for reliable and valid information for issues concerning people with migrant origins, the service expands online with useful material provided in different languages, published supporting documents for residence permits and acquiring Greek citizenship, announcements and updates of the relevant services, as well as other information concerning the appropriate constituency, both in Greek & English. All in all, this year alone, 31 articles were published on the website.

On the other hand, G2RED facilitated the preregistration of asylum seekers to the asylum service via the Skype procedure. Unfortunately, despite the number of asylum seekers arriving to our offices, the inefficiency of the system brought to a very low number of beneficiaries proceeding [*only 65 persons in the first four months of the year*], leading actually to the termination of this action . A report with statistics and observations on the Skype procedure was also published, reaching to 300 unique views.

As an official and active member of the Racist Violence Recording Network, the organization is also eligible to record racist incidents, which are then forwarded to the Network.

**“Residence Permits & Citizenship, Procedures & Developments” Informative Event.** In this event, organized by G2RED, communities and authorities of regional services had the opportunity to highlight practical everyday issues that they are facing on both migration and citizenship issues, as well as get informed on the latest updates and developments, following an open discussion.

The number of the registered attendants came up to 133. Based on the information gathered by this event, we created a document which was translated in English, in order to facilitate all the interested parties which were unable to attend the event. The article had more than 250 unique views and 139 downloads.





## LEGAL SUPPORT

### *Paralegals in rural areas of Greece*

With this program, G2RED aims to create a database of working conditions and probable violations of workers' fundamental rights, while also organising paralegal trainings for Third Country Nationals land workers. The term Paralegals concerns people who specialize in legal issues and procedures of the immigration code, the citizenship issue, the asylum process and working rights. After being properly trained, their role is to spread the information among their community.

3 field visits have been made in 2 rural areas (Manolada & Filiatra), 13 candidates (9 Bangladeshi & 4 African) were trained twice, and 110 questionnaires were completed. Also, meetings were held with local stakeholders in order to exchange information and advocate in the situation of the land workers.



## **EMPLOYABILITY**

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One of the core functions of the organization, the individual Career Counselling includes CV writing/improving, job search techniques and preparation for a job interview. Mediation with employers, development of telephone skills and the provision of information on labor rights, the recruitment procedure, the educational programs and vocational training are also a very important part of the sessions.

The service expands also with online material, where fresh job adverts are published every week, along with a list of free educational programs, job search resources and volunteering opportunities which are kept up-to-date.

### **Facilitating Access to Work for Vulnerable Populations in Athens**

This program aims at a smooth integration to the Greek labor market of people with different cultural backgrounds. The program includes the reinforcement of the above mentioned individual Career Counselling sessions, group job search sessions with the use of computers, specially designed soft skills development workshops (13 in total) and short-term vocational trainings (2 in total). In 2017, 411 unique individuals attended at least one career counselling session, in total 450 sessions were realized, resulting to 43 recruitments.

The program also maintains the *Diversity in the Workplace* campaign, aiming at the development of a growing network of companies and organisations, which invest, in effect, in diversity. Until now, 18 companies are engaged in this program, while our “Embracing Diversity” video campaign was released in order to raise awareness to the general public and mobilise the employers, reaching up to more than 41.000 views.

An Employability Guide in English, Farsi & Arabic, which contains in just a few pages all the tools a newcomer needs for an easier access to the Greek labor market, was published online.

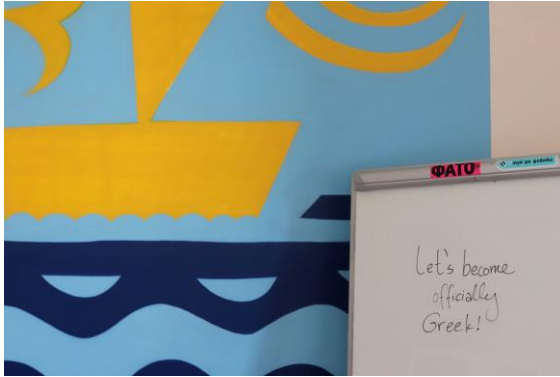
Last but not least, the monthly column “Choosing to Dream” presents employment stories of beneficiaries, aiming at the encouragement of people who could identify themselves with the people presented each time, but also highlighting barriers faced by refugees and migrants towards their inclusion in the Greek society. In 2017, 3 interviews were published, ranging from 50 to 220 unique views each.

16 press clippings are marked for our employability department on big news sites, while an interview on an employability newspaper was also published.



## NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

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### **“REDucation” Program**

#### **Preparation lessons for the naturalization interview**

Recognizing the great difficulty in managing the material provided for the naturalization interview, our educators developed a study system and created a handbook which provides appropriate preparation for those wishing to apply for Greek citizenship. Participants had the chance to take the role of the co-teacher as our goal is to scale the teaching, not only prepare them for the interview but to give them an instant way to share their knowledge. 10 participants from 9 countries, 33 sessions in 2 periods (02/05-22/06 and 07/11-21/12).

Using interactive methods to teach Greek to adults. In mid-2017, due to the spacious new building, we had the opportunity to start teaching Greek: 3 beginner classes, 1 intermediate and 1 advanced. 52 students, (39 men and 33 women). Lastly, we have registered 20 refugees and asylum seekers for Greek lessons at level A1 and A2 at the University of Athens in cooperation with the Career counselling department of G2RED.

#### **“The Other in Me” Educational Program**

A series of workshops (educational games and interactive activities) concerning bullying in school, aiming to tackle the phenomenon of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and homophobia. Social exclusion due to racial characteristics, language or religion, and discrimination due to gender, social background or physical/cognitive peculiarities were among the subjects discussed in the classes. The program was presented in 6 Secondary Schools in Athens, Kallithea, Antirio and Nafpaktos, with 962 students from 11 to 14 years old participating.

**Duration:** 15/11/2016 – 15/10/2017, **Cooperation:** Apeiron, **Press clippings:** One

#### **The Diversity Volcano**

This is an innovative floor game designed as an alternative educational tool aiming at familiarizing students with the concepts of diversity, and human rights. It targets students from 11-14 years old, who travel on a world map by answering a variety of questions relevant to different cultures, religions, rights and traditions and become Citizens of the World.

The game was implemented in the 1st School Street Festival of Art & Acceptance on October, as well as on the Break Free action in March, where more than 50 organizations, movements, communities and initiatives marched against any form of environmental degradation and social or political repression. In both events, Generation 2.0 RED held a key role on the organization and promotion of the event.

## ADVOCACY



The Advocacy Department has always been one of the most important core functions of the organization. In 2016, the **Observatory on Citizenship** was created, which monitors on a daily basis the services responsible for the implementation of the Law on Citizenship and the Migration Code, identifies improvements that should be made and applies pressure towards policy makers.

Within 37 articles produced from the Advocacy Team, a very important claim was brought to the light, that of the big discrimination on second generation's **social security rights**, which was reported to the Greek Ombudsman asking for an intervention and then in a letter to the Ministry of Labor, asking for drastic measures.

Apart from that, **after G2RED's reports**, the Migrant Integration Council of the Municipality of Athens published a complaint about the unacceptable amendment tabled and passed by the Greek Parliament, concerning the compensation of the local population of Moria, with money coming from the (reciprocal) fees for residence permits by third country's citizens.

The team not only publishes **statistics regarding Citizenship** based on official data provided to us by the Ministry on Interior, but also searches and publishes on a monthly basis the positive naturalization decisions posted on the **Government Gazette**, ie facilitating and making this important information more accessible to the general public.

**Networking** with relevant groups abroad, the citizenship issue in Italy was also documented in 2 articles published with more than 200 single viewers.

Advocacy extends to the refugee issue as well, where 8 articles putting pressure were published, while field visits to Lesbos and Samos were made to assess the situation and document the deteriorating living conditions of the asylum seekers who are constrained in the islands after the EU-Turkey deal. Meetings with local stakeholders, such as organizations and municipal authorities were also made, whereas the testimonies from both trips were used for the publication of the report ***"From Lesbos to Samos: Asylum Seekers speak out"***, with 397 views and downloads.

**Media Mentions:** 4 websites, 2 newspapers



## HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IN ACTION

### **1. G2RED's shelter for unaccompanied minor refugees**

Generation 2.0 RED, in cooperation with Medin, took over the function of one of the first 5 shelters of the HOME Project. From March until August 2017, 18 boys were hosted from 12 to 17 years old, from 5 different countries (Algeria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh and Pakistan), while the capacity of the shelter reached up to 25 children.

### **2. NEW GENERATION GOT GAME Vol. IV**

New Generation Got Game is the G2RED's annual Intercultural 3on3 Basketball Tournament, which focuses on the promotion of a healthy social integration process of young Athenians with different origin, who share the same neighbourhoods in Greek society.

On the 24th & 25th of June, the Vol.IV of the tournament "New Kids on the Court" was hosted at the outdoors courts of Ampelokipi. With James Gist supporting the event, 70 teams registered, 280 boys and girls of all ages and nationalities, while more than 1500 people attended the event. Athens Pride honoured us with 3 teams that strengthened the female presence and the freedom of sexual orientation on the courts. The winners travelled to Syros and participated in the "LG AegeanBall" basketball tournament, the most famous 3on3 basketball tournament in Greece, winning the first and the second place in the PROs women's and men's categories.

**Media Mentions:** 12 websites, 3 radio shows, 2 TV screenings

### **3. NOT ANOTHER WALL AGAINST THE WORLD: THE MURAL PROJECT**

G2RED collaborated with "Nebula team" in this collective artistic intervention in the public space. Athenian street artists and refugee artists collaborated in order to create together a mural, while the public had also the opportunity to create a collective artwork on the same wall. Encouraging free expression and collective action, the goal on this initiative was to spread a message of unity, raise awareness on equality and human rights, and spread respect for individuality and diversity within the city.

**DATE:** 5th of June, Falirou 88 in Koukaki



## PARTICIPATIONS IN EVENTS

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As a Contributor in → 7 Conferences

→ 3 Workshops

As a Facilitator in → 1 Workshop

As a Participant in → 4 Conferences

→ 2 Forums

→ 1 General Assembly

→ 1 Seminar

→ 3 Study Visits

→ 4 Trainings

→ 1 Festival

As a Trainee in → 2 Workshops

→ 4 Trainings

As a Guest in → 1 Movie Opening

→ 1 Arts Festival





# COOPERATION

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We are partners and official members of:

- The [European Network Against Racism](#) (ENAR), the only pan-European anti-racist network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitating cooperation among civil society anti-racist actors in Europe
- The [Racist Violence Recording Network](#) (RVRN), a big network of organizations with trained personnel which records racist violence incidents and drafts an annual report
- The [Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants](#) (PICUM), a network of individuals and organizations that fight for social equality and human rights of undocumented migrants
- The [Anti-Defamation League](#) (ADL), that fights antisemitism and all forms of bigotry, defending democratic ideals and protecting civil rights for all
- The National Working Group on Structured Youth Dialogue, which aims to encourage the active participation of young people in shaping European youth policy
- The [Athens Coordination Center for Migrant and Refugee issues](#) (ACCMR), which was established to lead the efficient coordination of initiatives on migrants and refugees in Athens
- The Council of Migrant Integration, which operates as an advisor for the municipality to enhance the integration of immigrants into the local community

# COMMUNICATION

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In the year of 2017, the G2RED brand new site was launched, fully translated in both the Greek and English language. Being mobile friendly as well, we aimed towards a more efficient, functional and user friendly site, where socially vulnerable groups would find valid, accurate and reliable information, and the latest news on immigration and refugee issues.

The “Monthly Newsletter” was also launched for the first time in August, providing the latest updates to our constituency. This gave us the opportunity to engage more groups and communities, thus reaching out to new members and supporters.

This year has been a very important one for G2RED, where a lot of focus has been given to opening up and communicating its action to the wide public. A big boost was also given to the online presence of the organization, as well as the physical appearance in events, conferences and presentations.

**Website:** 182 articles posted, from 300 - 6.880 hits, all in all 105.700 visitors

**Facebook likes:** 2835, 362 posts, 8 videos reaching 49.669 views

**Twitter Followers:** 294

**Instagram Followers:** 273

**Newsletters:** Monthly newsletters to 1.218 contacts, 410 open regularly

**Youtube videos:** 6 videos, 2.366 views

**Media mentions:** 41 in newspapers, TV, radio and websites



# CONTACT

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**Website:** [g2red.org](http://g2red.org)

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**Facebook:** [Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity](#)

**Instagram:** [@g2red](#)

**Twitter:** [@G2RED](#)

**Linkedin:** [Generation 2.0 for Rights, Equality & Diversity](#)