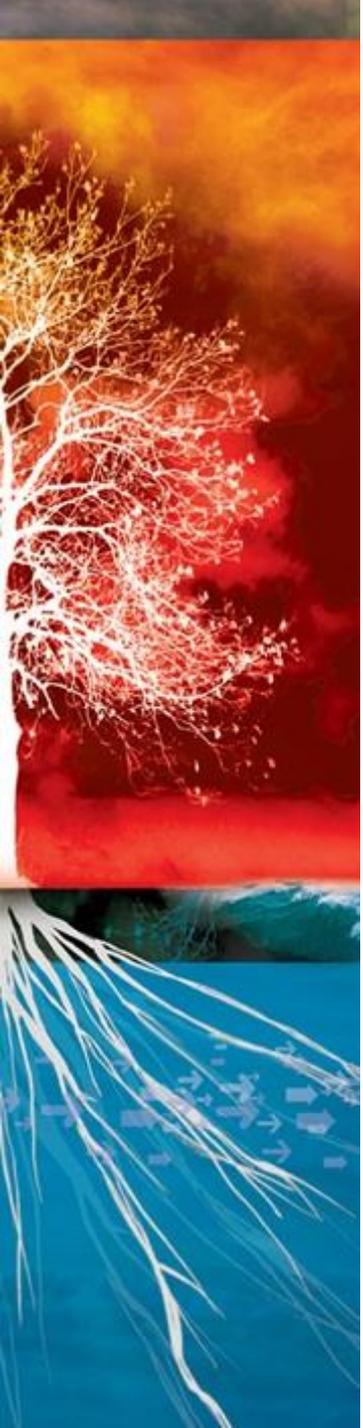


UNIVERSITY OF THE
AEGEAN

modern studies in the cradle of knowledge



InSPIREurope/ "Supporting Researchers at Risk" Initiative

***Hosting Refugees in Academic and
other Programmes of the University
of the Aegean***

Prof. Chryssi Vitsilaki
Rector
University of the Aegean

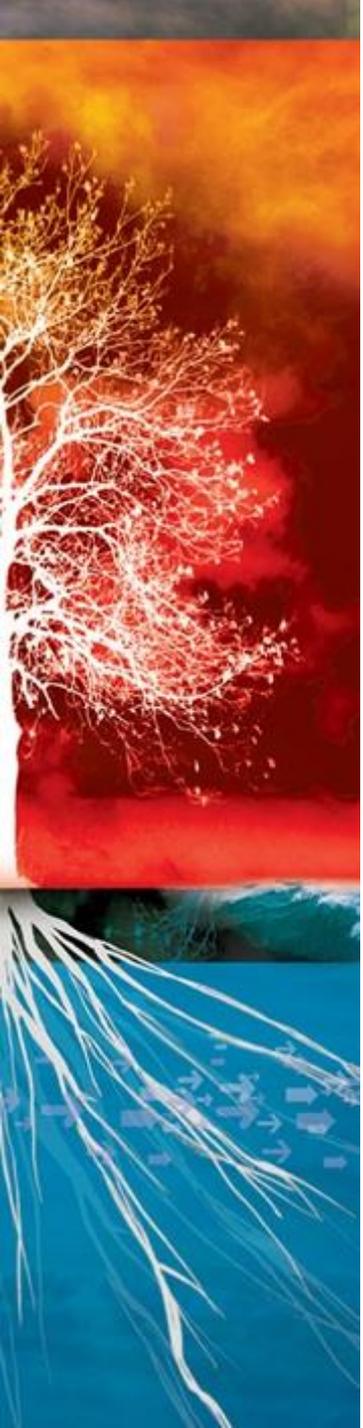
30.09.2020

A novel insular
network
university...

... forming the
Eastern borders
of Europe

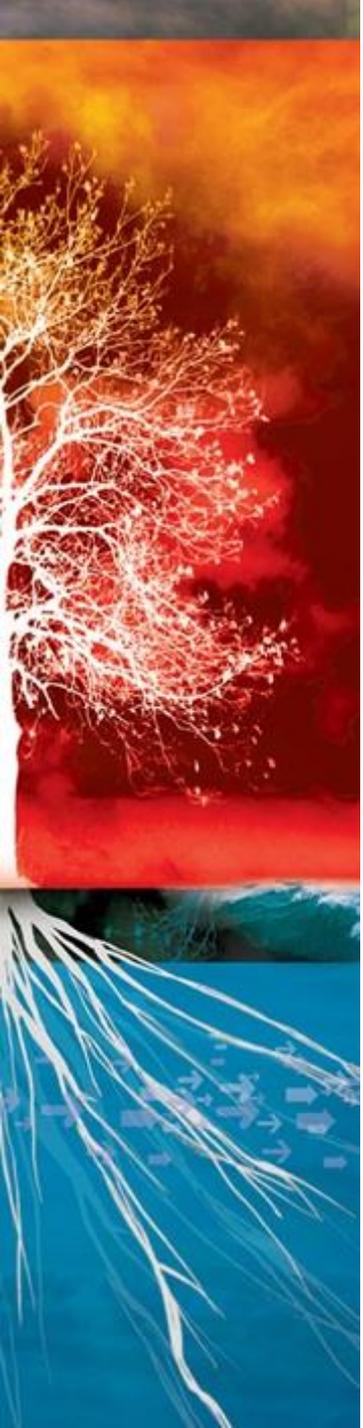


... the gateway
of the refugee
waves to
Europe



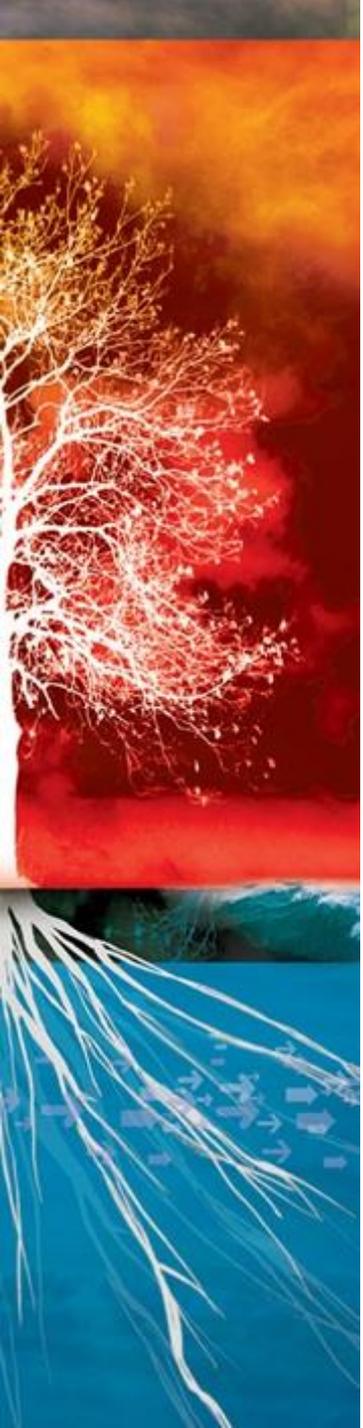
University of the Aegean

- ❧ A network of “*academic ports of studies and research*” successfully established in 6 campuses spread across the Aegean Archipelago.
- ❧ Strong **social and economic stakeholder** in the region.
- ❧ Great degree of **involvement** with the **local communities** on various levels



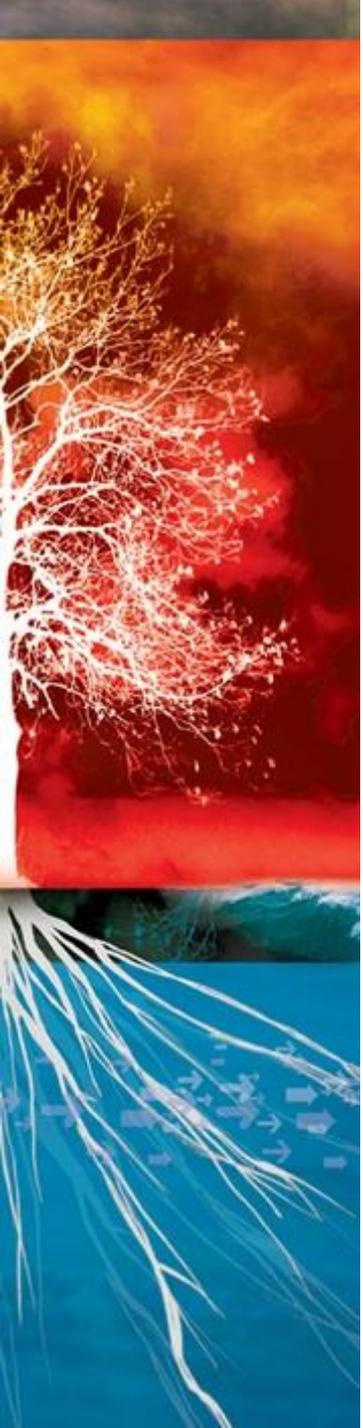
University of the Aegean

- ✧ Very active engagement in the refugee crisis for almost a decade
- ✧ Great degree of voluntary engagement of members of the academic community from the beginning of the refugee flows to the islands
- ✧ Also undertook more structured forms of intervention in the refugee crisis



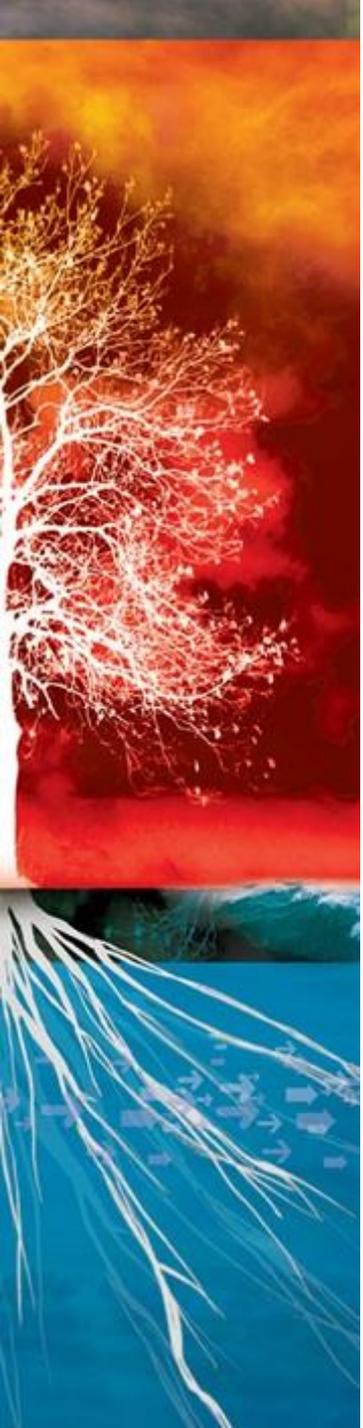
Antiracist Observatory of the University of the Aegean

- **Comprised of** : Professors and researchers of the University of the Aegean.
- **Established** : 2012
- **Aim** : To intervene in order to deal with racist manifestations or practices taking place in Greece and focusing on the islands of the Aegean where the various departments of the University of the Aegean are based.
- **Structure** : Horizontal cooperation across the six islands



Antiracist Observatory of the University of the Aegean

- **Basic principles** : The right of all
 - to **secure** basic living conditions with dignity, and
 - to **be respected and equally treated**, irrespective of their cultural, religious, ethnic, social or other characteristics.
- **Emphasis on** :
 - ✓ 2013 and 2016 : issues related to the transition of refugees from various countries to the EU area, whose first stop is Greece.
 - ✓ 2017-2020 defending the rights of migrants and refugees and tackling racist practices at the local level.



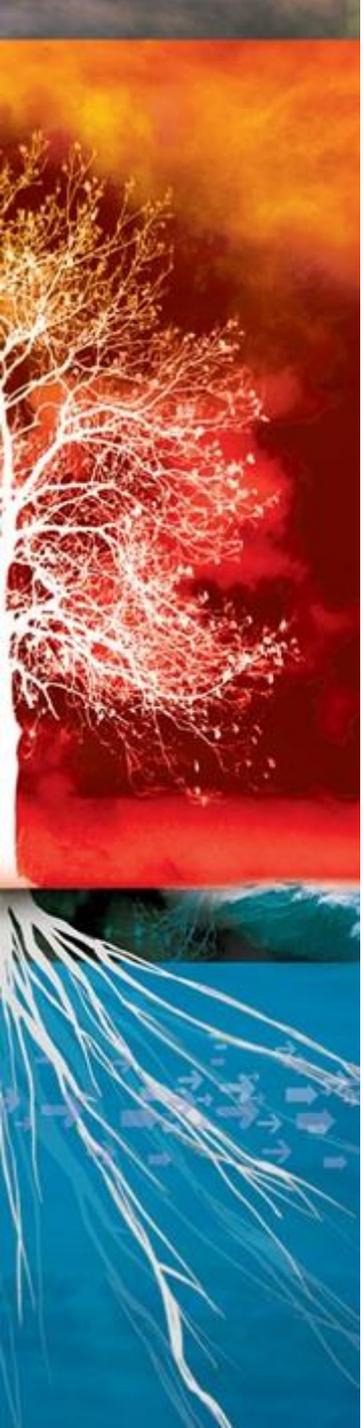
Science for Refugee Scientists in Aegean Archipelago (SCIREA)— Horizon project

UoA Status : Coordinator

Aim : To ease the integration of refugee scientists in the European research system and labour market by targeted support and training

Emphasis on :

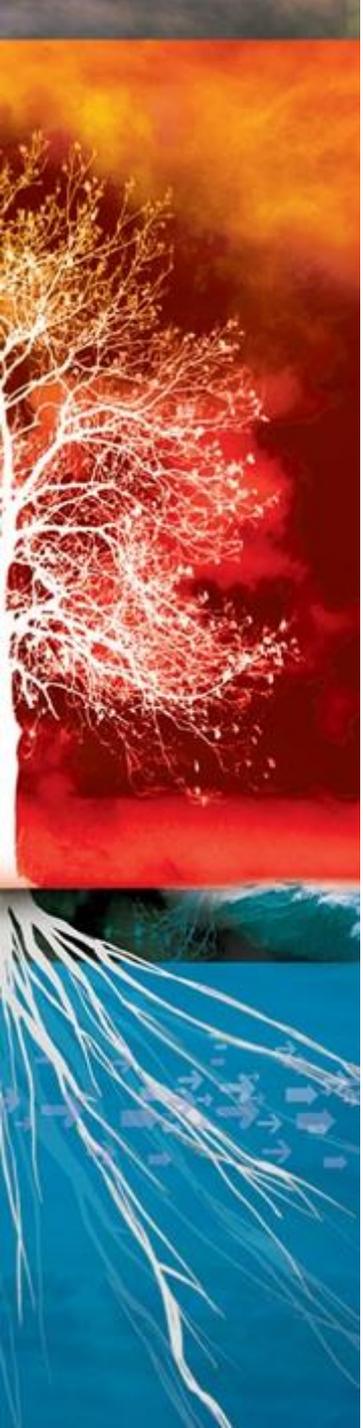
- ✓ tailor-made seminars and webinars and given scholarships to refugee scientists to restart their academic career.



Science for Refugee Scientists in Aegean Archipelago (SCIREA)— Horizon project

Emphasis on :

- ✓ assistance on the practical issues of writing CVs, job-seeking in Europe and asylum procedures.
- ✓ platform including an offline repository of people's CVs in partnership with European internship network [Praxis](#), which informs participants about job and research opportunities.
- ✓ the need to care for the environment

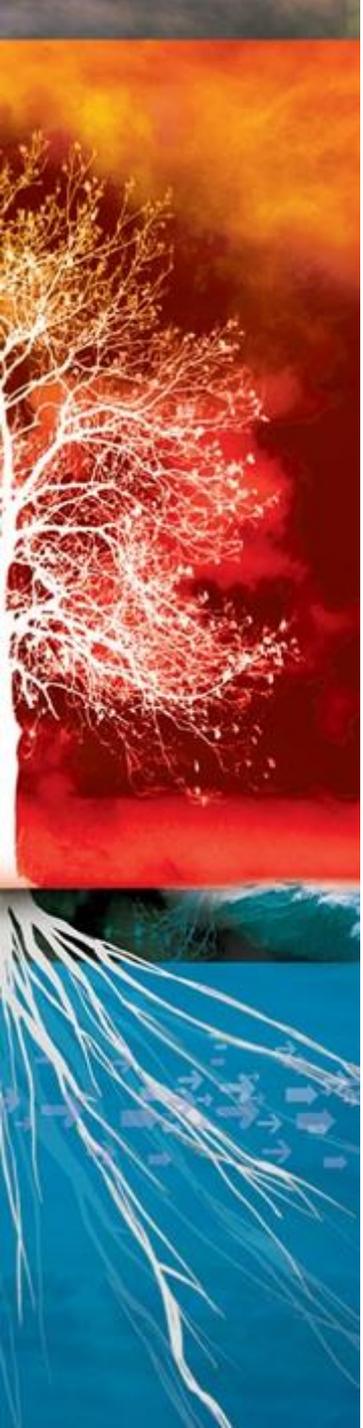


Science for Refugee Scientists in Aegean Archipelago (SCIREA)— Horizon project

Emphasis on :

- ✓ the importance of avoiding friction with the local host community
- ✓ recruiting female refugee scientists to give basic courses on English and German to women living in the camps as an outreach measure.

<http://scirea.aegean.gr/index.php>)

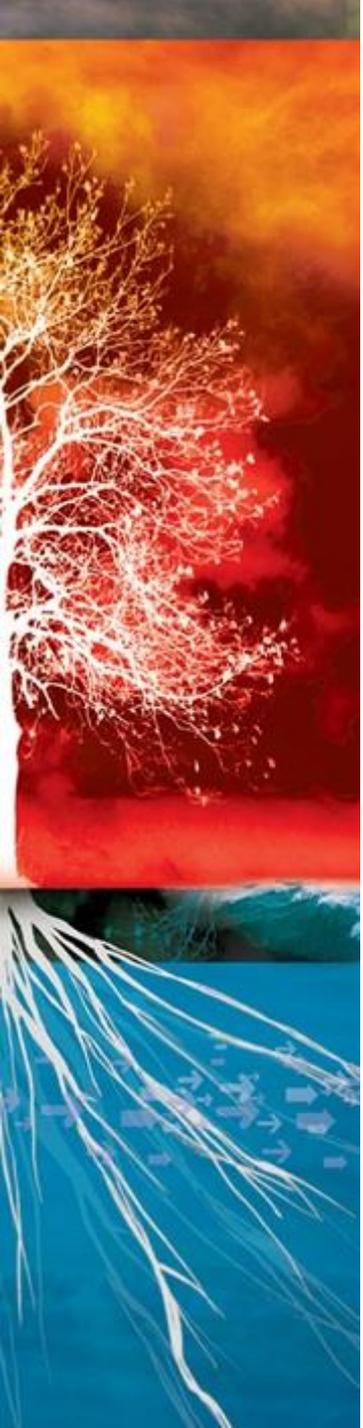


Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe, Part II (BRiDGE II)—Horizon project:

UoA Status : Partner

Aim :

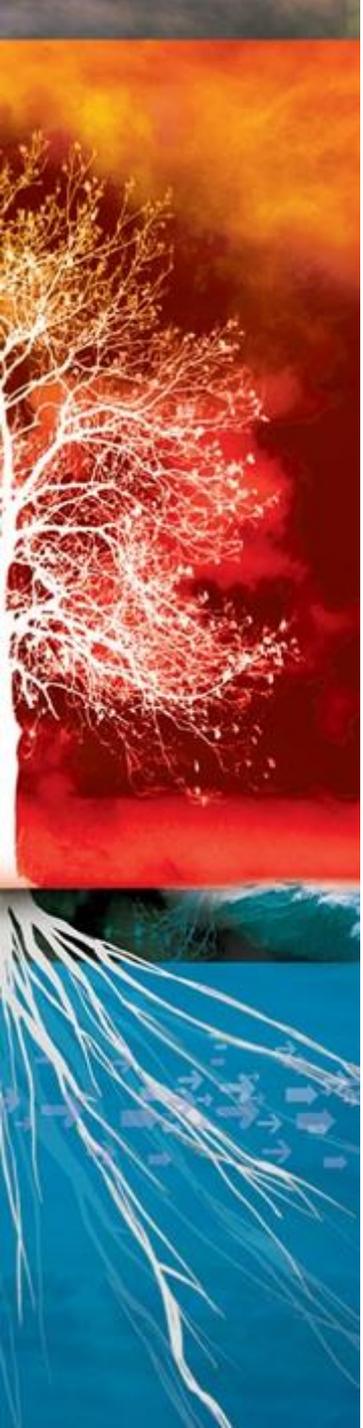
- ✓ To enhance the support given to 300 skilled refugee researchers (RRs) in 24 project months, especially early- and late-stage postdoctoral researchers and professors of all ages, who are affiliated with a research institution in the European Research Area or a Research & Development department of a company



Bridge for Researchers in Danger Going to Europe, Part II (BRiDGE II)—Horizon project:

Aim :

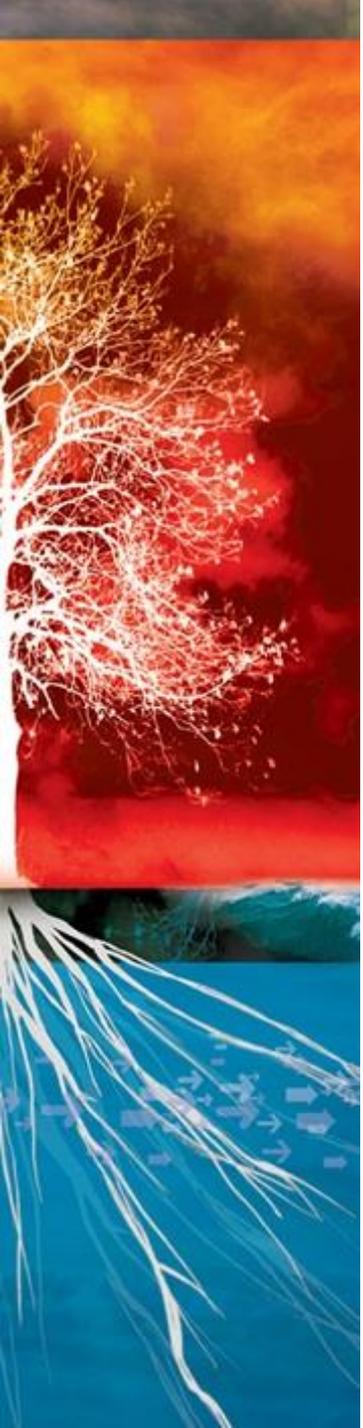
- ✓ Refers to persons displaced in the following countries: Germany (110 RRs), Sweden (40 RRs), Austria (60 RRs), Switzerland (10 RRs), Serbia (10 RRs), Bulgaria (10 RRs), and Greece (60 RRs).
- ✓ To transfer the given knowledge and experience to the EURAXESS network, the largest relevant network in Europe involving 500 higher education and research institutions and services for mobile researchers.



Observatory of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in the Aegean

Aim :

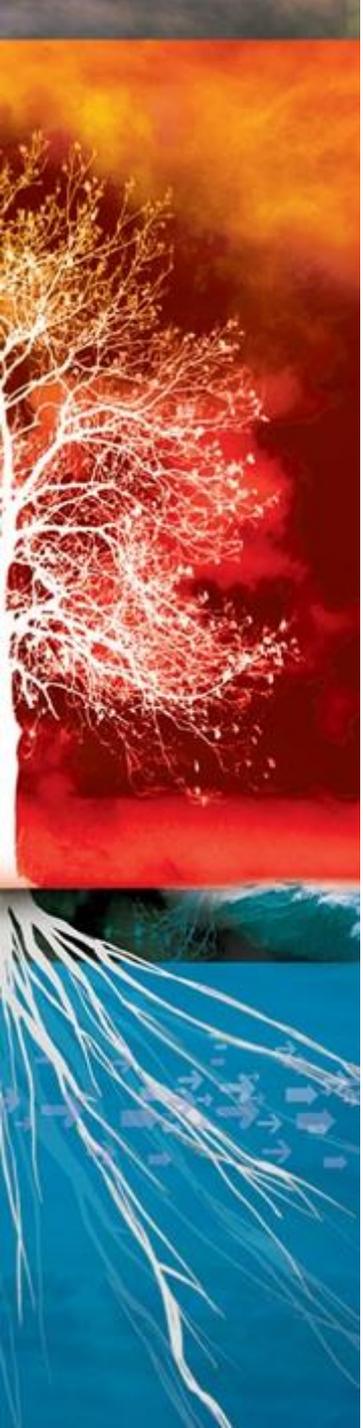
- To record the multiple dimensions of the refugee and migration ‘crisis’ in the Archipelagos both historically and on a daily basis through monitoring the running of the local humanitarian regime under the auspices of the UNHCR,
- and give particular emphasis to the perspectives of the agents involved on the ground -migrants and refugees, local communities and humanitarian actors.



Observatory of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in the Aegean

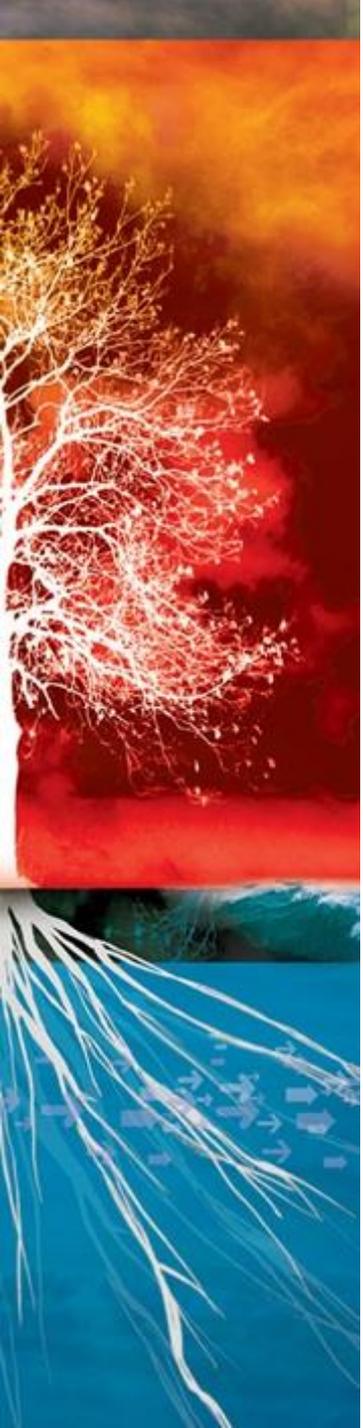
Tools :

- ✓ a web page (<https://refugeeobservatory.aegean.gr>), which disseminates information on the refugee 'crisis' on a regular basis and supports the relevant research, both within the University of the Aegean and in the wider academic community (through the presentation of academic articles and research projects, the compilation of bibliographies and other initiatives)
- ✓ a blog (<https://refugeeobservatory.aegean.gr/blog>) that serves public scientific dialogue on an international level.



Observatory of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in the Aegean

- ✓ a Repository (<http://repository-refugeeobservatory.ekt.gr/refugeeobservatory/?locale=en>) in which all primary and secondary data, produced by various agents and by the Observatory itself, are kept and which is enriched through the establishment of partnerships and the signing of memorandums of cooperation with humanitarian agencies

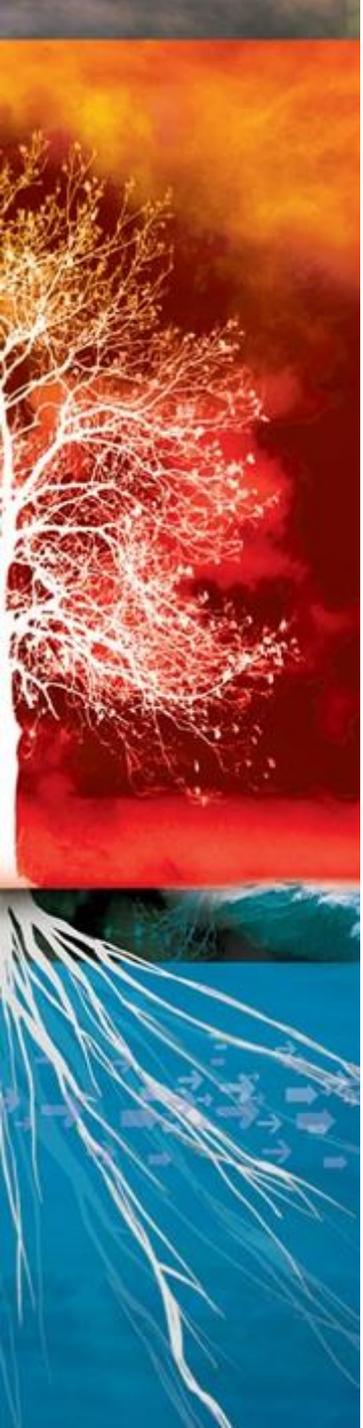


Observatory of the Refugee and Migration Crisis in the Aegean

Acts as a reference point and a context for dialogue for those studying the refugee and migratory 'crisis' in the wider Mediterranean region

Affiliations :

- ✓ Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research
- ✓ the National Documentation Centre (EKT)
- ✓ a wide range of first rank international academic institutions



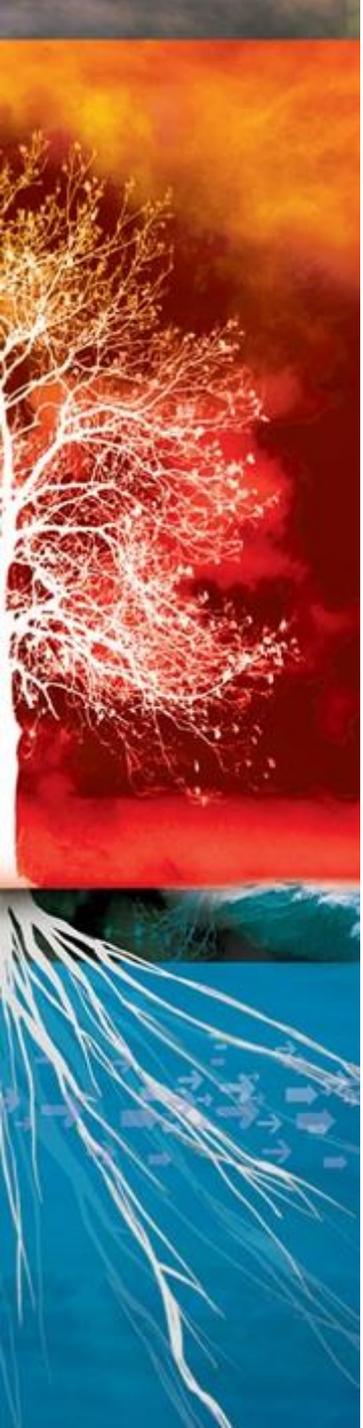
Educational interventions for refugees at the University of the Aegean, Faculty of Humanities

Established : 2016

Aim : To support refugees residing on the island Rhodes

Emphasis on :

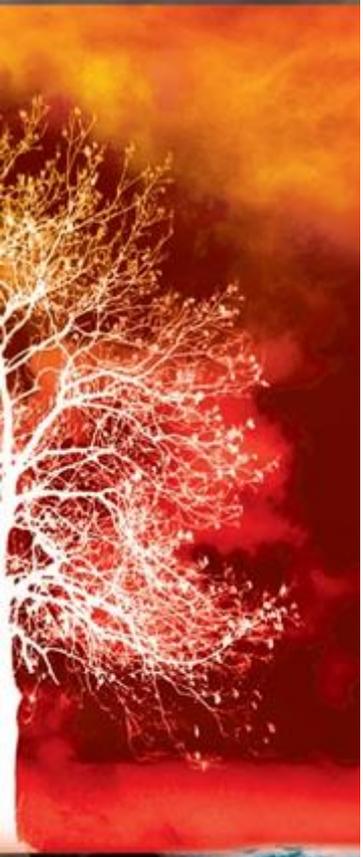
- ✓ activities for refugee children
- ✓ actions for adult refugees
- ✓ actions to support children of refugees attending schools on the island.



Educational interventions for refugees at the University of the Aegean, Faculty of Humanities

Activities :

- ✓ A team of university students conducted voluntarily literacy activities on a daily basis and set up an area in the (unofficial) camp, which served as an informal classroom
- ✓ Provision of support to refugee children who began attending school by university students
- ✓ Conduction of Greek-language lessons for adults at the Linguistics Laboratory.



***Thank you
for your attention !***