



A successful study-visit of the «ARRIVAL CITIES» Lead Expert, in Patras (GR)

The study-visit of Lead Expert of “ARRIVAL CITIES” project Mrs Liz Mackie, was completed with very positive impressions and achieved the objectives set.

The two-day proceedings (21 & 22 January 2016) were coordinated by Patras Municipal Enterprise for Planning & Development-ADEP SA and included presentations from local organizations with experience in implementing actions in education, culture, employment and local economy for the benefit of vulnerable groups where immigrants are included, which contribute to their inclusion into local society.

Specific session was held at the offices of Managing Authority (MA) of Region of Western Greece, where the current design of the Operational Plan of 2014-2020. Emphasis was put to the activation of the MA at transnational level, especially in the geographical area of Adriatic & Ionian sea, linked with the operation of the respective macro-region and EUSAIR. Emphasis was given to the possibility of interconnection of the respective MA of the regions of project partner-cities as an additional result of transnational scope. It is true, that incorporating a meeting with the MA of Region Western Greece within the study-visit of the LE was regarded as an innovative action of ADEP SA and possibly unique within the ARRIVAL CITIES partnership.

The Mayor of Patras and the President of ADEP SA met Ms. Liz Mackie at a special session in the City Hall where she referred to the successful fulfillment of her expectations. The meeting reflected the willingness for targeted action in favor of diversity, anti-discrimination, respect for human rights with emphasis on young people. The Mayor referred to a newly founded municipal structure, the Educational Park of Patras, which operate as a core of educational activities, open to society and local organizations (including migrant communities), an innovative initiative at municipal level in Greece.

The work highlighted the potential of Patras and the local networking as a key advantage for every future planning in common.

The organization of the working visit of Ms. Liz Mackie is part of the transnational work of “ARRIVAL CITIES” project, coordinated by the Municipality of Amadora (Portugal) and funded by the European URBACT III program (2014-2020), in line with 1.1.2 "Improving sustainable design development strategies of cities. ADEP SA is the partner organisation in Patras.

It is noteworthy that the «ARRIVAL CITIES» project perfectly relates to the activation of Patras in the "Intercultural Cities-ICC" network of the Council of Europe and «ALDA» as well as «Forum of Adriatic & Ionian Cities-FAIC» where the city is an active member for many years now, trying to exploit the diversity advantage and also apply democratic values in practice.

Patras will exploit local, regional, national and international on-going networking, so that to achieve a multiplier effect on the dissemination and exploitation of «ARRIVAL CITIES» results.

(For more info: Chrissa GERAGA / «ARRIVAL CITIES» Patras co-ordinator / email: geraga@adep.gr / tel: +30-2610-361743, 746)