

مؤسسة عامل الدولية
amelassociationInternational



Dignity, Solidarity and Humanity with persons in exile
Innovative Practices

*Seminar organized by Amel International, Samusocial International,
and Amel France after a first seminar held in Paris, in October 2017*

December 5th-6th 2017
Athens, Greece

samusocial
International



Introduction

In an ever-more globalized world, where conflict and disaster continue to ravage numerous regions, the number of people 'on-the-move', having to flee their homes in search of safety, protection and dignity, is on the rise. Nevertheless, access to safe, legal pathways is seen to be decreasing, whilst the criminalization of persons in exile increasingly becomes the norm, within 'Fortress Europe'. This in turn leads to increased vulnerabilities of persons in seek of refuge, and pushes them to risk their lives and those of their families, in perilous journeys across the Mediterranean Sea. Migration policies need to acknowledge such perils and to consider processes which facilitate safe migration.

The 'migration crisis' that Europe is currently experiencing should not be considered a crisis, given the fact that it is not temporary. Tightening border policies will not bring an end to the attempts of persons in exile to reach Europe. Institutional frameworks therefore need to be adapted to take into consideration this reality, and to implement social and legal measures to tackle current and different migration flows.

Up until now, a distinct lack of action from European governments has had dramatic consequences, as seen in numerous media outlets across the globe. Furthermore, this has left a heavy burden on host countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region including Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. These host countries are often facing economic and political difficulties, and are able to provide sufficiently neither for the host community, nor for migrant communities.

Nevertheless, these countries which are currently home to millions of refugees, are scarcely recognized for their efforts, and until now Europe has not yet assumed a shared responsibility with these countries to respond to the global migration crisis. Furthermore, even within Europe, Greece and Italy have not been supported in managing the migrant influx they are experiencing.

Despite the European Union's deeply rooted culture of promoting human rights, its response to the current migration flow is in total denial of the most basic rights and freedoms of a vast number of individuals.

In this context, Amel Association International (Amel – www.amel.org) and Samusocial International (SSI – www.samu-social-international.com), respectively founded by Dr Kamel Mohanna and by Dr Xavier Emmanuelli, consider it is urgent to organize collective reflection on migration issues, to discuss innovative practices and policies, ensuring dignity, solidarity and humanity with persons in exile.

As a first step, Amel and SSI organized a seminar in Paris, in October 2017. This event gathered more than 150 officials, civil society organisations and academics, to discuss migration issues, in order to identify common challenges and areas for improvement between different, regional actors on specific issues.

The main conclusions and recommendations, resulting from the Paris seminar, include:

- The need to thoroughly rethink the definitions and categories of persons in exile in order to avoid generalized responses and stereotypes;
- The urgent need to unconditionally respect unaccompanied minors' rights and prioritize the interest of the child;
- The need to develop legal migration pathways to Europe in order to decrease migrants' exposure to exploitation, discrimination and in many cases, death;
- The need for multi-actor, multi-sector interventions that ensure the safe, legal arrival and consequent sustainable integration of migrants in host communities.

Amel and SSI believe that solidarity must be materialized into actions which ensure dignity and humanity for all. This vision has been supported by the different stakeholders who were present at the seminar that took place in Paris, in October 2017.

Moreover and particularly in 2017, Amel and SSI met with a wide range of civil society initiatives, from the Euro-Mediterranean region, established to meet the needs of the persons in exile.

In order to capitalize on the Paris' recommendations, which will be officially published at the end of 2017, and to discuss them with civil society organizations, at the European and international levels, Amel Association International and Samusocial International, in close collaboration with Amel France, will organize, on December 5th and 6th, a second seminar in Athens, with the local support of CAMFIRE Innovation.



Objectives

The second seminar, in Athens, will aim at:

- Reviewing the recommendations of the Paris' seminar with participants, at the European, regional and international levels, to include additional perspectives, including civil society initiatives;
- Sharing innovative practices and lessons learned from civil society initiatives in relation to persons in exile, and capitalizing on them at the European, regional and international levels;
- Increasing understanding and knowledge sharing between field initiatives, researchers and institutions;
- Advocating for the implementation of a new immigration model for persons in exile, based on innovative practices and reflections of researchers and practitioners, to promote their dignity and their humanity.

Program

Tuesday 5th of December 2017

*Location: Melina Merkouri Cultural Center,
66 Iraklian St, Thissio, Athens*

▶ **17:00 - 17:30**

Welcoming Coffee and Registration

▶ **17:30 - 19:30**

Opening Panel

- **Mr Lefteris Papagiannakis**
Vice Mayor for Migrants, Refugees and Municipal Decentralization, City of Athens
- **Mrs Ioanna Theodorou**
Founder, CAMPFIRE Innovation
- **Mr Gilles Henri Tardy-Aygalenq**
Representative, Amel France
- **Dr Xavier Emmanuelli**
Founding President, Samusocial International
- **Dr Kamel Mohanna**
Founding President, Amel Association International

▶ **19:30 - 21:00**

*Welcoming Reception prepared by Options FoodLab,
with documentation on innovative practices available*

Wednesday 6th of December 2017

Location: Institut français de Grèce,
31 Sina St, Athens

- ▶ **9:30 - 10:00**
Welcoming Coffee
- ▶ **10:00 - 10:15**
Summary of the opening panel
Presentation of the sessions
- ▶ **10:15 - 11:45**
Round-tables 1 & 2

RT # 1 – Restricting, opening: formal policies, informal mitigation strategies

Description and questions: Paris' recommendations; What are the applicable frameworks? How to increase legal pathways to Europe? What does the right to mobility mean? What are current and desired definitions of migrants? How to address marginalization, racism, xenophobia?

Speakers:

- Rola Saleh, Project Manager, Lebanon Support
- Jérôme Elie, Senior Policy Officer Forced Displacement, ICVA
- Eleni Koutsouraki, Lawyer, Greek Council for Refugees

Interventions:

- Outreach Service Athens
- Mattia Ciampicacigli, President, Ass. cult. "Laura Lombardo Radice"

Moderator: Géraldine Pinauld, Samusocial International

RT # 2 – Ensuring protection for persons in exile with specific needs

Description and questions: Paris recommendations; How to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable populations, particularly those who have specific needs? How to ensure that those persons with specific needs can access tailored and dignified services? What are the lessons learned from previous interventions targeting women, unaccompanied minors, persons with restricted mobility? Which models should be replicated?

Speakers:

- Rabia Ben Ali, Legal Advisor, MSF
- Lou-Salomé Sorlin, Representative in Lebanon, SSI

Interventions:

- Atlas
- STEPS
- Melissa Network
- Maged El Samny, Cofounder and Vice President of Egypt Foundation for Youth and Development

Moderator: John Psaropoulos, Independent journalist

► **11:45 - 12:15**
Coffee Break

▶ **12:15 - 13:45**
Round-tables 3 & 4

RT # 3 – Hotspots, camps and informal solidarity networks

Description and Questions: Paris recommendations; What are the different hosting situations in the Euro-Med region? How can we foster synergies between the initiatives in Lebanon, Lesbos, Lampedusa ("3 L")? What are our perspectives on hotspots? What is the role of solidarity networks and volunteering?

Speakers:

- Hafsa Afailal, Instituto de Ciências Sociais- Universidade de Lisboa
- Ioanna Theodorou, Founder, CAMPFIRE Innovation

Interventions:

- I AM YOU
- No Border School
- Anna Michalakeli, Projects Coordinator, Domestic Missions Unit, MDM Greece

Moderator: Daniel Howden, Senior Editor, Refugees Deeply

RT # 4 – Inclusion & Integration

Descriptions and Questions: Paris recommendations; What are the current and proposed processes for inclusion and integration of refugees? How these processes are taking into consideration the persons' legal status? What are the existing community led and grass roots initiatives promoting and ensuring inclusion and integration? What are the impacts of the integrations on the person's right to mobility?

Speakers:

- Lucy Alice Thomas, Executive Director, Give something back to Berlin
- Lydia Bassaly, Head of Recruitment and Translation / Interpretation Services, NaTakallam

Interventions:

- The Koosh Project
- Solomon
- Social Hackers Academy
- Kiron France
- Hestia Hellas

Moderator: Aya Burweila, Senior Researcher and Public Policy Officer, Solidarity Now

► **13:45 - 14:45**
Lunch Break

▶ **14:45 - 16:00**
Breakout Sessions

Small grassroots organisations are often overlooked. Yet, they increasingly work hand in hand with established humanitarian actors to bring about dignity and relief for refugees. This means: all actors should talk and learn from each other. The breakout sessions put best practices, collaboration and action at their heart. Campfire Innovation's trusted partners will each come prepared and present one challenge at one of the 16 tables (4 respectively related to health, education, livelihood and cultural mediation) as starting points for a meaningful design thinking session to generate tangible ideas and solutions to these challenges.

Moderation by CAMPFIRE Innovation

1) Health

Questions : Primary and Secondary Health Care, NGOs and failing states, Mobile set ups, Voluntary & National systems.

2) Education

Questions: Integration or Preparation for return, Resettlement, How to deal specifically with youth and adults, Inclusion in the national framework vs innovative models, Non-formal education / education in crisis.

3) Livelihood

Questions: Independence / Self-sufficiency and reliance on humanitarian aid, Dealing with the national legal framework, Solutions to cope with donor fatigue.

4) Cultural Mediation

Questions: How to ensure professional, culturally sensitive translation, confidentiality & understanding? How to ensure that programs are allocating enough resources to cultural mediation? How to promote a common framework and understanding of what is the cultural mediation? How to take into consideration the cultural backgrounds of persons in exile?

▶ **16:00 - 16:30**

Coffee Break

▶ **16:30 - 17:30**

Presentation of the round-table and breakout sessions' recommendations

▶ **17:30 - 18:00**

Call for Action / Roadmap

Including the constitution of a potential, regional Euro-Mediterranean movement of stakeholders working with vulnerable individuals in situations of exile

▶ **18:00 - 18:15**

Closure

The NGOs that initiated the seminar :

The seminar in Athens is organized by **Amel Association International** and **Samusocial International**, in cooperation with **Amel France** and with the local support of **CAMPFIRE Innovation**.

Amel Association International is a non-governmental and non-sectarian Lebanese organisation founded in 1979 by Dr Kamel Mohanna. It was recognized as a public utility by presidential decree in 1994. The interventions are implemented through 24 centres, 6 mobile medical units, 1 protection mobile unit and 2 mobile educational units, ensuring accessible and quality services for everyone in all domains such as medical, psychosocial, vocational training, rural development, child protection and promotion of human rights. In April 2012, Amel Association International launched its Syrian crisis response. Since then and thanks to the support of many local and international partners, Amel Association International has provided more than 1,800,000 services in the health, education, protection, livelihood and food security sectors. Amel works with all the populations affected by the Syrian crisis.

Samusocial International is a French organisation created in 1998 by Dr Xavier Emmanuelli, founder of Samusocial in Paris, co-founder of Doctors Without Borders and a former Minister. Samusocial International was created with the mission to implement Samusocial development services in some of the biggest cities of the world based on its values, principals, and methodology. Built on the values of dignity, solidarity, and citizenship, Samusocial International acts in 17 countries in the world fighting against all forms of social exclusion by providing services for the most vulnerable people. Samusocial International ensures medical and psychosocial care and follow up thanks to its mobile units and long lasting partnerships. They orientate beneficiaries to referral structures, help partners, and provide services coordination in order to create better global support, research, and education. Additionally, they alert public authorities and inform them about the problems encountered on the field and the main interventions that are put in place to respond accordingly.

In Lebanon, **Amel Association International** and **Samusocial International** work together with the help of a mobile team to offer medical and psychosocial support as well as legal guidance to children, youths, and families on the streets where many are in a situation of exile. Throughout 2017, both NGOs have lead joint interventions and organised various seminars together.

On Kos Island in Greece, **Amel France**, founded in 2015, has offered support to Kos Solidarity, a Greek organisation that helps and supports migrants that arrived on the island in 2015. The project includes advocacy for the rights of refugees both in Athens and France.

CAMPFIRE Innovation's goal is to increase the sustainability and efficiency of projects that put dignity at the core of refugee response. Their activities are designed to act as a support mechanism for the growth of grassroots teams and innovative solutions for humane migration, by increasing collaboration between them as well as other actors such as International NGOs and corporate partners.

Their role is to connect projects to work together to share resources. They research and highlight the full range of grassroots response and best practices they are developing. CAMPFIRE also builds partnerships with those that wish to support grassroots innovation and increase access to:

- Expertise in organisational development (recruitment, strategy, financial planning)
- Practical ready-to-use tools for volunteer management & fundraising
- Media exposure & visibility by giving them access to conferences or speaking opportunities
- In-kind resources such as equipment and laptops

The organisation is active in Greece, where there is currently a population of 50,000+ asylum seekers. Their network of 60+ organisations aids an estimate 8,000 refugees.



The seminar is organized with the contribution of:

Mediterranean Citizens Assembly Foundation (MCAF)



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مؤسسة مجلس مواطني و مواطنات المتوسط

Institut français de Grèce



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Municipality of Athens

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