

Prof. Alexandra Androusou

Title

Education for children of refugees: a challenge for integration

Abstract

This presentation deals with the difficult challenge of the integration of refugee children, focusing on the difficulties these new circumstances entail for the Greek educational system.

Since the summer of 2015 until now Greece faces a reality never before experienced: refugees from war zones cross the Aegean Sea aspiring to a better life in Western Europe. As from January 2016, following the closure of the West European borders, 60,000 refugees have been "trapped" in Greece. According to the estimations of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 40% of them are underaged, between newly born and 18 years old. Since September 2016, the Greek Ministry for Education, with a scientific committee appointed for this purpose, established a programme for refugee children to be able to access formal education. This programme is being carried out for the 4th year, with difficulties but also many successes. We will present the way it has developed over these 4 years, as well as the challenge it represents for the Greek education and the broader Greek society. We will focus on early childhood education and the way it served as a main leverage for reinstating the relation to school.

**The lecture will be presented in French.*