

Migration: Challenges for the Civil Society in Greece

URGENT FINAL CONFERENCE



31 MAY, 2018

AGHIA VARVARA, GREECE

Snapshot of the existing situation

Recent migration flows go beyond 1 mil. third country nationals having entered Greece (UNCHR data)

2014	41.038
2015	856.723
2016	173.450
2017	29.718
2018	10.929

The total number of third country nationals living now in Greece is not easy to assess. Based on estimations, it is about 1 mil. people:

- ~550.000 have obtained legal permit (the official number was 525.519 on 31/12/2017)
- ~400.000 are staying illegally in Greece

Actors involved in supporting migrants

Central level

- Ministry for Migration Policy

Local level

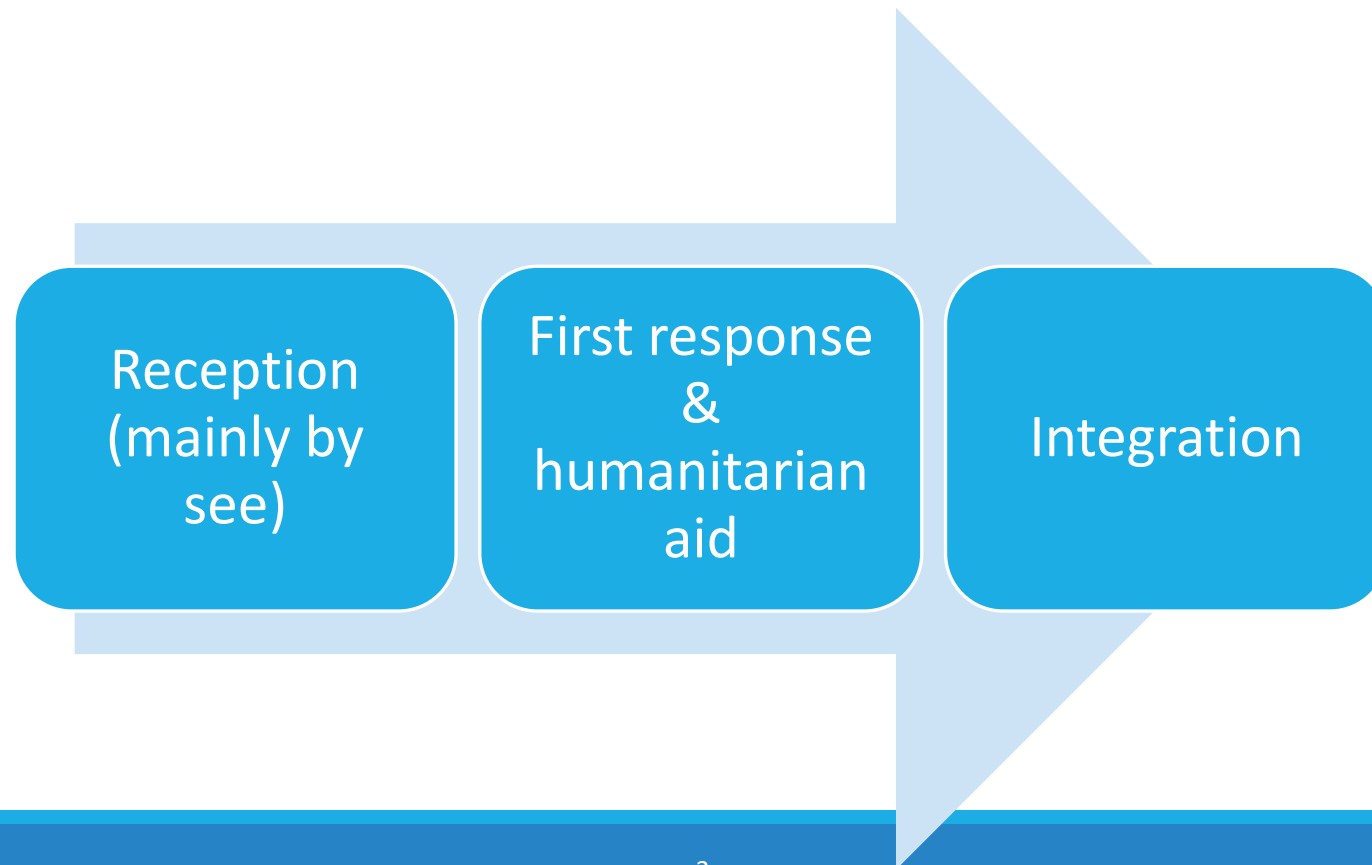
- Municipal Authorities and Organisations

Grass-root level

- International Organisations
- Civil Society Organisations

The role & contribution of civil society

Civil Society was involved at all stages of the support process towards migrants:



The particular characteristics of CS' involvement

Recent migration influx was one of the biggest humanitarian crises in history

Greece was undergoing a major economic recession

The central government was unable to fulfil their role

No clear strategy and long term objectives were set

Financing streams bypassed the central Authorities

Support had to be provided to specific sites, most of them in islands

The needs of the target group covered a very wide range

Challenges to overcome

Institutional

- CSOs cannot replace the central government
- Central coordination and monitoring of the work of CSOs is necessary
- CSOs' involvement should follow an organized plan and their services should be evaluated

Operational

- Financial resources should be allocated and planned based on the work and the role of the CSOs
- Access to specialized human resources is impossible without planning of activities

Community

- Lift the “temporary” perception, both from the community and migrants' side
- Shift of the focus from first response to integration initiatives

Key success factors

The involvement of CSOs should follow a long term strategy, centrally coordinated

Financial resources should be secured and based on performance assessment

Clear roles of all actors involved (incl. international organisations) should be defined

Integration should follow an EU-wide approach, not only national requirements

Shift from interim to permanent solutions

Collaboration among CSOs and with other actors (e.g. Municipalities) should be promoted