



# volunteering cities+ roadmaps

Municipality of Agia

29 Oct 2021



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(to be done by each Partner city with exception of what was done by the LE)

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## SECTION 1: Introduction and policy context

### 1.1: Introduction and city profile

The Municipality of Agia is located in the region of Thessaly in Central Greece. The total area of the municipality is 668.26 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 11.470 inhabitants. The current form of the municipality arose with the “Kallikratis” Programme from the extension of the original municipality of Agia by the merger of pre-existing municipalities of Lakeria, Evrimenes and Melivia. The Municipality of Agia consists of 22 villages and the administrative center is the town of Agia.

The area offers a wide variety of flora and fauna as there are the mountains Ossa and Mavrovouni, the Pinios River Delta and Lake Karla which belong to the NATURA 2000 Network. There is a 36 km long coastline and especially the 13 km long beach that expands from Velika to Agiokampos that, with the important archaeological and byzantine sights offer a touristic attraction.

The area is rural and 51% of the labour force is occupied in the agricultural sector. Most important agricultural products of the region are apples, cherries, chestnuts, olives and kiwis. At the same time the sector of services plays a significant role as well, as there are more than 500 private businesses most of them related to tourism.

The Municipality of Agia belongs to the Greek municipalities that host families of immigrants and children after they have already sought asylum. The municipality has been supporting and protecting vulnerable social groups and for this reason exists a network of services like e.g. the Independent Department of Social Protection, which is a very important part of the administration.



### 1.2: Needs analysis in the territorial context

The financial crisis that started 2010 has been dominating the economic life in Greece for at least 10 years affecting both public bodies like e.g. municipalities and almost every citizen of the country. The significant decrease of income combined with the increase of unemployment forced a lot of our community members to deal in their everyday life with poverty and social exclusion. Especially elderly people need help as the fact that the municipality consists of 22 villages do not allow them to have access to important services.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected both the economic life and the social life in ways that were unknown to our citizens before. As people were obliged not to leave their houses for nearly a year the private sector almost paralysed and only the public sector was able to work and to provide its employees with a stable income. While at the same time social life disappeared from the local communities and the relations among our citizens reached an unprecedented minimum level. The main challenge that our community faces is to fight against poverty and exclusion combining both social policy and voluntary actions in very difficult circumstances.

The involvement of young people and vulnerable groups of citizens in several activities will let them gain new skills, teach them to cooperate, to share and joint reach common goals. It is of great importance to focus on challenges like social integration and search for best practices to achieve them. These best practices shall combine both the facilities in our area as the potential that our citizens have. Volunteering and participation play an important role.

## SECTION 2: The URBACT Good Practice

### 2.1: The Good Practice in summary

#### Background information



The Municipality is located at 149 m a.s.l and it has a population of 5017 inhabitants (Census 2011). Although it has increased 11 inhabitants /Km<sup>2</sup>, Athienou is still a low density territory with a population density of 77,9 inhabitants /Km<sup>2</sup>.

The composition of the population by age group is rather reasonable when comparing with many other European Municipalities. However, Athienou is not an exception in what regards the ageing population trend when comparing the data of both Census 2001 and 2011, respectively 1013 people versus 853 in the group 0 – 14 and 687 people versus 491 in the group 65+.

**Table 1: distribution of the population by age group**

Ages	0 – 14	15 – 64	65+
Census 2011	17%	69%	13,7%

The main economic activity of the territory is related with the intensive livestock farming and the cereals production. Although the economic activity is distributed by 60% of premises in the tertiary sector, 23% in the Secondary and 17% in the Primary Sector, the activities in the Secondary and the Tertiary sectors are often related with the livestock farming and the cereals production. Only 8% of the premises belong to the tourism and catering sector and to other service activities.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High social cohesion retaining the population and can help to attract new residents and visitors</li> <li>• Major production and processing of livestock and agricultural products</li> <li>• Rich archaeological and historical/religious heritage a potential to be exploited</li> <li>• Wealthy business community (especially the associations of cattle breeders and of cereals producers)</li> <li>• Structured, participated and coordinated social Municipal Programmes (MCV)</li> <li>• Intergenerational activities fostering the sustainability of the volunteering model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 65% of the territory is under Turkish Occupation</li> <li>• High degree of isolation due to the location in the “Dead Zone”</li> <li>• Insufficient accessibility due to the occupation</li> <li>• Lack of a link between research/education and the production processes to foster more entrepreneurship in agriculture</li> <li>• Insufficient Tourism coordinated Initiatives</li> <li>• Lack of economic diversification to allow young people to have employment</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilisation of cultural heritage to increase the recreation possibilities and increase the tourism attractiveness of the territory</li> <li>• New schemes to attract new families (entrepreneurship, housing, recreation, sports)</li> <li>• More active development of NGOs generating social innovation entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Research around the livestock and farming to activities</li> <li>• Emotional attachment of young people to the territory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in attracting new residents, namely young couples</li> <li>• Migration of the young active population to work</li> <li>• Increasing elderly population</li> <li>• Eventual health problems due the intensive livestock farming</li> <li>• Lack of opportunity of using the primary production and processing as a tourism factor</li> </ul>

The Municipal Council of Volunteerism (MCV) in Athienou, the core element of the Good Practice, was established in 1970 in the context of a national Programme. With the exacerbation of the social problems that followed the Turkish occupation of a northern part of Cyprus it was necessary to rethink the model and to give it a more comprehensive role.

The MCV is institutionally integrated under the Regional Council of Volunteerism, which in turn is integrated under the National Coordinating Committee for Volunteerism. The entire institutional structure is supported by Welfare Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurances. Despite the institutional structure, the MCV has a very high degree of autonomy in deciding and implementing actions. The integration with national authorities provides support, standards, monitoring and auditing services, and additional resources.

Private stakeholders are companies and individuals with a high degree of social responsibility and citizenship that provide funding and volunteering resources. Some of these stakeholders are not represented in the General Assembly of the MCV but they are in constant collaboration with its members.

### **Description of the Athienou Good Practice**

Athienou has, since 1974, a special status with its urban area within the buffer zone controlled by the United Nations and with 80% of its rural area under Turkish occupation. This situation creates a difficult accessibility and, consequently, isolation. Many people were in need to restart their lives and volunteerism was one of the main tools used to forge and sustain social integration and as a result to achieve social development and growth.

Athienou today has a highly functioning society because its particular situation reinforced the territory social cohesion that was already a tradition. The established MCV was a great opportunity to develop further the solidarity through an intensive volunteerism practice, giving Athienou a real self-organised citizenship scheme aiming social inclusion and reduction of poverty.

The total number of MCV General Assembly members is 48, all elected and each one paying a fee of 10Euro/year to be a member, and this Assembly elects an executive Committee with 10 members chaired by the mayor, the 11th member. All the 48 members, including the 10 of the Executive Committee members are volunteers.

The members of the MCV understand the aim of the Council mainly based on three big objectives:

- a) To identify the people's social problems by collecting information from various sources
- b) To find solutions for the problems
- c) To raise the necessary funds to implement the solutions

Due to the composition of the MCV there is a wide range of possibilities of mapping the social problems namely through the teachers and the social workers. Athienou is a small city with a big tradition in solidarity among its members since everybody knows each other. Already in the old days the families joined together to help each other building their houses. There is a high engagement of people in the MCV activities and the fact that the Committee is elected reinforces the legitimacy and acceptance of its members.

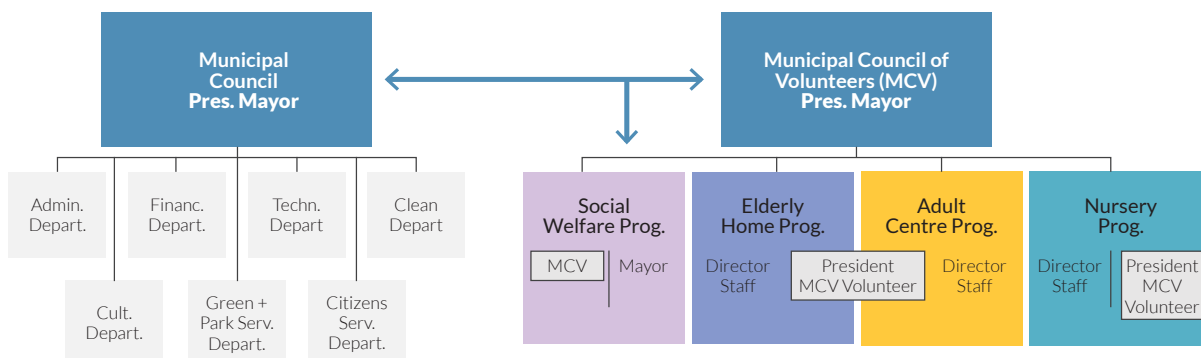
The MCV operates four programs, all of them in the Municipal sphere:

- i) the "Kleanthios Elder Hous" (established in 1983),
- ii) the "Konstanileneion Center for Adults" (established in 2001);
- iii) the "Municipal Nursery Center" (established in 1991); and
- iv) the Social Welfare Committee (established in 2012).

Besides the General Assembly, each member of the community can be a volunteer and take part in the Volunteering actions approved by the MCV. Volunteers declare their participation interest either towards the programs or the MCV itself. The MCV and its programs maintain a network of citizens/volunteers that informs the community about the various decisions and actions.

The MCV uses a bottom up approach promoting vertical and horizontal integration allowing volunteers to take decisions but within structures closely related to the Municipality itself (vide diag.1).

**Diag. 1:** Relationship between the Municipal structure and the Municipal Council for Volunteers



The participating teachers have a big role in launching activities to foster and keep the spirit since they can involve the children to ensure reproductive cycles and to reach the families through the children and young people. Likewise, the church due to the high involvement of the families is also an important player. Initially, the MCV had a strong political orientation but later it was decided that social problems should be considered by itself without political interference.

Key achievements of the Volunteering Initiative in Athienou

- It has increased the resilience of the territory by promoting common goals and activities that reinforce the social cohesion
- It increased the number of services being provided to the population, especially those that are in need, without increasing the financing burden of the social protection policies
- It brings together individuals of different generations that can learn and share with each other allowing the sustainability of the initiative through the young people and a better quality of life to elderly people.
- It has given a high visibility to Athienou at national and European levels with indirect social and economic impacts
- It has raised the social balance among all the citizens of Athienou since it brings support to those that, by themselves, could not reach an acceptable quality of life (home care, meals, transportation to health care needs, etc)

Key success factors

- High social cohesion among the population from the territory (even emigrated)
- Geographical location between Nicosia and Larnaka (airports)

- Wealthy business community due to the major production and processing of livestock and agricultural products (60% of the national production)
- High sense of social responsibility from the side of the business sector
- Rich archaeological and historical/religious heritage that has been exploited
- (especially the associations of cattle breeders and of cereals producers)
- Structured, participated and coordinated social Municipal Programmes under the Municipal Council for Volunteers including elderly care (residential and home based, nursery for children and welfare support)
- Intergenerational activities fostering the sustainability of the volunteering model of Athienou

### **Development of the Good Practice since the first Transfer Network**






Below the table of lessons learned by Module and the consequent improvements introduced in the GP (Guide Transfer produced in the first wave)

<b>M</b>	<b>Lessons Learned with Transfer</b>	<b>Improvement Introduced</b>
1	Structure of CLAS - Arcos De Valdevez Operation of Stellwerk - Altena	Creation of Municipal Office of Active Citizenship and Volunteerism
1	URBACT secretariat for Transfer Networks	Update communication material and communication strategy
2		Develop new policies/programs: program for the engagement of people with disabilities
2	Volunteering activities involving schools in Pregrada	Collaboration with schools
2.	Overall Transfer Process	Document intergenerational and other volunteering activities
3	All partners discussion in Altena transnational meeting	Volunteering Certification to increase number of Volunteers
4	Social responsibility and SDGs	Branding of the Good Practice of Volunteerism

### **Good Practice's potential for transfer**

In the first wave network there were 5 transfer elements that constitute the Good Practice and allow the partial or global transfer of it. The set of Thematic Modules that can facilitate the transfer are:



Thematic Modules	Name/Transfer Element	Objectives
 M1	Participative Governance	Achieve coordination of volunteering actions and increase participative mechanisms
 M2	Increase Intergenerationality	Increase the activities with young and elderly people
 M3	Mobilize Young volunteers	Attract young people to volunteerism and increase their community participation
 M4	Corporate Citizenship	Increase involvement of companies in volunteering through citizenship
 O1	Social Entrepreneurship	Tackle unemployment

The Modules 1 to 4 were considered essential for reaching a wide participative Governance Model of Social Policy based on Volunteering. However, each Partner can also opt by transferring only part of the Modules. The O Module is an additional one that can emerge from the interventions in the other Modules as happened in two cities in the first wave. But it is not essential to the fully transfer of the GP.

**MODULE 1** is the final Goal: to change the Municipal Social Policy Model of Governance. Modules 2,3,4 and O are the necessary intermediary objectives to reach the final Goal as illustrated in the Sun Flower diagram.

The first wave network has proved that all elements of the GP can be successfully transferred and the key success factors by each Module can be seen in the “ **Transfer Guide Social Participative Model using Volunteerism**” produced by all partners. **(to add the link)**



## SECTION 3: Our starting Point

### 3.1: The local challenge and how we have addressed it

The Agrifood sector has suffered from the economic crisis due to high costs and low demand. The fact that most of the economic active citizens are not young and at the same time do not have any higher education degrees shows the lack of flexibility and the need for support in this “time of crisis” that we are going through. For the Municipality of Agia there are two main challenges at the same time:

1. The challenge to address the need for consulting, mentoring and involvement of young people through cooperation, networking and exchange of methods and ideas building step by step a plan for sustainable local development.
2. The challenge to support the working population providing them with social services and to support the people in need that suffer from social exclusion and poverty enabling them to integrate again.

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority*

Population by age group:

Age group	(%)
0-24	22
25-44	23
45-64	29
65-84	25
85+	1

Educational level of the population:

Level	(%)
University Degree	5
High school Degree	17
Junior high school Degree	15
Primary school	47

*Source: Hellenic Statistical Authority*

As part of the plan for Sustainable Development and in terms of social policy the municipality has organized social services accessible to every citizen. It implements projects funded by the Greek government and the EU to support people and families in need to improve their living conditions and prevent other kind of social problems occur. The services provided by the municipality are:

#### **PUBLIC CORPORATION “IRAKLIDIS”**

- Day Nursery
- Community Open Protection Center for Elderly People

#### **INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION**

- Social Grocery Store
- Community Center

#### **MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT COMPANY “CALYPSO”**

- HELP AT HOME Project

At the same time local associations organize voluntary actions in cooperation with the municipality in order to build groups of volunteers in every village that are always alert and ready to provide assistance.

### 3.2: Our motivation

The Municipality of Agia has been a member of several national and European networks in the recent years as the main philosophy of the Local Council is to gain the best results for the community through collaboration, best practice exchange, solidarity actions, discussion with experts and access to innovative ideas and new technologies.

As this is the first time to participate in an URBACT network this is a very important opportunity to learn from the Good Practice of the Municipality of Athienou and include it to the local social policy using the expertise and the tools provided by URBACT.

Athienou's good practice is going to support the involvement of local stakeholders and community members in the social inclusion activities and the intergenerational cohesion as usually in Greece both matters depend on the official national social policy. It will show a different way of thinking and acting and give the opportunity to improve collaboration among community members because it includes authorities, local stakeholders, associations and community members that all have common goals to achieve.

The transfer of the good practice of Athienou will be an effort that derives from our will to offer equal treatment, opportunities and inclusion to every person in need that lives in our municipality and will be included in the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2021-2023 of the Municipality of Agia to support the fulfilment of the UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS regarding the fight against poverty, hunger and exclusion and lead to the achievement of a sustainable city and community (Goal 11).

### 3.3: Our Assets and barriers

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A very active social structure network:</li> <li><b>PUBLIC CORPORATION "IRAKLIDIS"</b></li> <li>Day Nursery</li> <li>Community Open Protection Center for Elderly People</li> <li><b>INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION</b></li> <li>Social Grocery Store - Community Center</li> <li><b>MUNICIPAL NON-PROFIT ENTERPRISE "CALYPSO"</b></li> <li>HELP AT HOME Project</li> <li>- 5 Agricultural Cooperatives</li> <li>- Great variety and amount of agricultural products (apples, chestnuts, kiwis, olives, cherries, olive oil)</li> <li>- Archeological finds and byzantine monuments</li> <li>- Cultural events and activities all year round</li> <li>- High quality facilities</li> <li>- Easy access and infrastructure in good condition</li> <li>- 75km long coastline, Pinios River Delta, Natura 2000 network sites</li> <li>- Implementation of 18 European projects (Europe for Citizens, Life+, Lifelong learning, Erasmus+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unemployment of young people,</li> <li>- Lack of investments in the agrifood sector,</li> <li>- Lack of connection between local agricultural products and tourism sector,</li> <li>- Lack of skills and competences of the farmers,</li> <li>- Lack of products quality certifications,</li> <li>- Lack of long-term planning,</li> <li>- Lack of consulting,</li> <li>- Lack of access to new technologies,</li> <li>- Lack of motivation of the youngsters,</li> <li>- Young people moving away,</li> <li>- Lack of financing</li> </ul>

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2021-2023</li> <li>- Establishment of the region as rural tourism destination</li> <li>- New skills and innovative ideas gained through networking, brainstorming, best-practice exchange and the contact to European communities and organizations</li> <li>- Local development based on the respect for nature, history and human relations.</li> <li>- Social inclusion- integration of immigrants,</li> <li>- Preservation of cultural heritage</li> <li>- Support of young farmers</li> <li>- Potential to increase the added value of the agricultural products because of the High Quality Certificates</li> <li>- Higher income &amp; lower production costs because of sustainable farming</li> <li>- Increase of the economic growth associated with the creation of jobs</li> <li>- Combination of local agricultural products and tourism sector</li> <li>- Renewable Energy Sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Unemployment increase due to the current pandemic</li> <li>-Poverty increase due to the current pandemic</li> <li>-Income decrease due to the current pandemic</li> <li>-Decrease of births</li> <li>-Increase of the number of elderly people</li> <li>-Unsustainable and expensive farming methods</li> <li>-Poor quality agricultural products</li> <li>-Climate change</li> </ul>

### Organizations willing to participate in the ULG

	Name	Type of Organisation	Role
1	Public Corporation of Agia "IRAKLIDIS"	Public body	Day Nursery and Open Protection Center for Elderly People
2	Municipal non-profit Enterprise of Agia "Calypso"	Private – Central Government	Help at home Project
3	Agricultural Cooperative of Melivia "I ATHANATI"	Cooperative	Volunteers, Support Activities, Donator
4	Cultural Association of Agia "Miltiadis Dallas"	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities
5	Cultural Association of Melivia "o Omiros"	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities
7	Health Runners Association of Agia	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities
8	"Melivoias Demas"	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities
9	Cultural Association of Metaxohori	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities
10	Women Association of Anavra	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities

11	Primary School of Melivia Parents Association	Non-profit	Volunteers, Support Activities
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### Experience in transnational working

The Municipality of Agia thinks that the participation in the European Programmes is of high importance and also very high priority. These projects shall lead to the economic and social development of the region through the opportunity to gain new skills and innovative ideas. As part of this orientation of the municipal policy a lot of projects have been implemented over the last few years.



#### Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

### Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation, Action 2.2: Network of Towns

«EU-FIN\_European Union Fishing Network», 2015, Lead partner: Istituto Sperimentale Zooprofilattico della Sicilia

«AEN \_ Authentic Europe Network», 2015, Lead partner: Municipality of Strumyani

«FOCUS\_Stimulating new forms of active civic participation through focus on Social and Solidarity Economy» 2015-2016, Lead Partner: Municipality of Agia

«2WILL\_2 Work in Integration of Local Life», 2017-2018, Lead Partner: Gmina Wieliszew

«Solidarity4Heritage», 2018-2019, Lead partner: Municipality of Strumyani

«WIVAS – Working for Innovative Volunteering and Solidarity», 2018-ongoing, Lead Partner: Municipality of Deryneia

«YOUROPE:Joining paths to build a better perception of Europe», 2019-2020, Lead partner: Municipality of Altea



#### Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020

### Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation, Action 2.1: Town Twinning

«EYES\_Evolving Youth in European Society», 2017, Lead Partner: Municipality of Jablonna

«SOLIDE-Solidarietà tra Donne in Europa», 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Lead Partner: Municipality of Gazzo

«STOW\_Solidarity the Only Way», 2017, Lead partner: Municipality of Soriano nel Cimino

«YIEPS –Youths in Europe Promote Solidarity», April 2018, Lead partner: Municipality of Birgu

«INTEREU – INTERcultural EUrope», July 2018, Lead partner: Municipality of Riccia

«STRinGS-Solidarity Towes Respect in Global Societies», October 2018, Lead partner: Municipality of Vallerano

«FABRIC4S - Facilitate And Broaden Resources In Common for Solidarity», 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Lead partner: Municipality of Gradoli

«MYEEU - Multicultural Youth Educate the European Union», June 2019, Municipality of Onga

«BRICS - Broaden Resources In Common for Solidarity», 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Lead Partner: Municipality of Kelme

«CREATE – Cooperation Raises Each Activities Through Europe», 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Lead partner: Municipality of Gradoli

## EXISTING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

### ➤ INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

The **SOCIAL Grocery Store** was founded within the strategy of the Municipality on developing community social policy on a local level, aiming at implementing projects and actions for the promotion of social cohesion, the elimination of poverty and social marginalization. It fulfills essential needs of socially and financially vulnerable persons and families, through providing free products and primary necessities like food and clothing

The **Community Center** is an authority that supports people and families who deal with unemployment, low income, disabilities, homelessness, mental illnesses and violence between family members by informing them about income support, welfare payments and allowances and contacting public authorities that are in charge for such issues like social services, hospitals or even judicial authorities or the police when needed.

### ➤ Public Corporation IRAKLIDIS

The **Day Nursery** accommodates including feeding each year 40 infants and toddlers and implements within its upgraded facilities the project: Harmonization of Family and Working Life through the Greek Company of Local Government and Development (G.C.L.G.D) S.A.

The **Community Open Protection Center for Elderly People** offers its 500 members social services, physiotherapy, guidelines to medical care, further education, summer sea bathing, a recreation room with beverages sold at cost and visits at museums and archaeological sites .

### ➤ Municipal non-profit enterprise “Calypso”

**Help-at-Home Project** aims at protecting elderly people and disabled persons, with a view to providing organized and regular care. Thus it ensures a decent and self-sufficient living, that elderly people remain in their natural, family and social environment and the improvement of their quality of life. The Help-at-Home staff consists of Social workers, Nurses and Family assistants.

600 Beneficiaries are being taken care of. Their care consists of health tests, medical care, house cleaning, food supply and access to social and administrative services.

## SECTION 4: Our Network transfer model

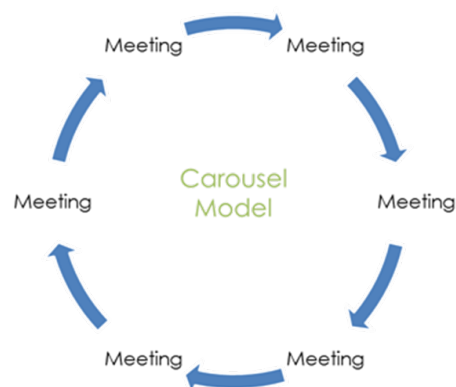
### 4.1: The Network methodology

The “Volunteering Cities+ Network” will follow a Carousel Transfer Model that has resulted extremely well in the first wave. It will cover transnational meetings in each one of the partner cities. This does not exclude bilateral exchanges between partners according to their interests and needs. In each one of the transnational meetings partners of the first wave will be invited, in presence or online, to give their contribution and reinforce the exchange and learning process.

In each one of the transnational meetings the members of the ULG of the host city will be invited to participate with active roles, aiming the reinforcement of their commitment and ownership.

The intensive contact and collective work of the partners has advantages such as:

- To enable wider enrichment and mutual learning and transfer
- To foster more cohesion in the group of City partners



The transfer will be always modules based with the necessary adaptations to the context (i.e. Legal framework, existing actions and initiatives). Therefore, there was a first identification of the modules and priorities in each partner city. However, the modules will be fully adapted and re-used in the each city context.

After each transnational meeting each partner city will meet again with the ULG to do the “Post-Mortem” and agree the further steps on the ligh of the meeting conclusions and recommendations.

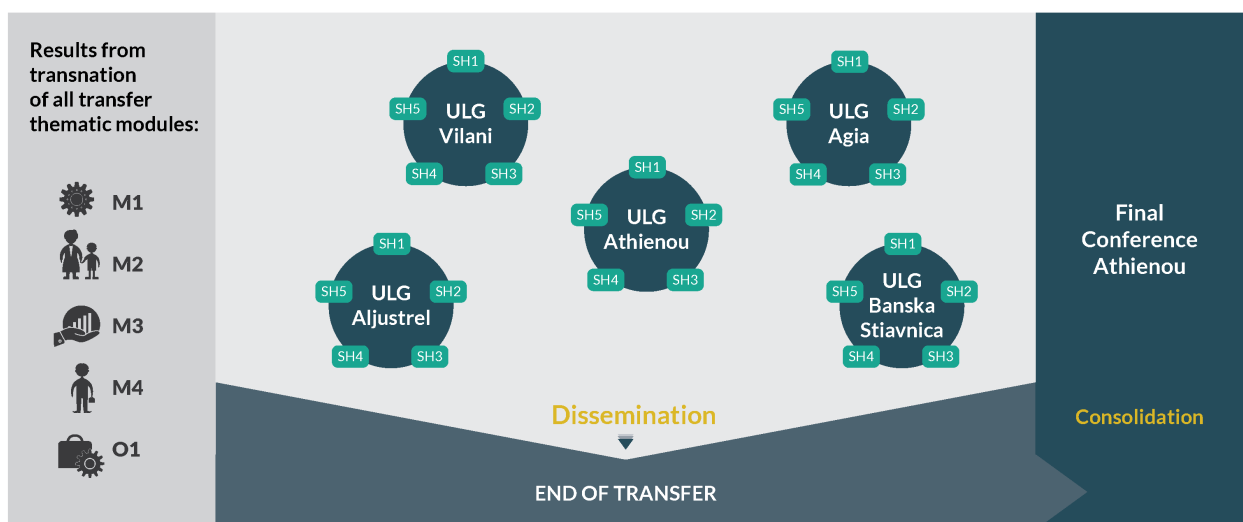
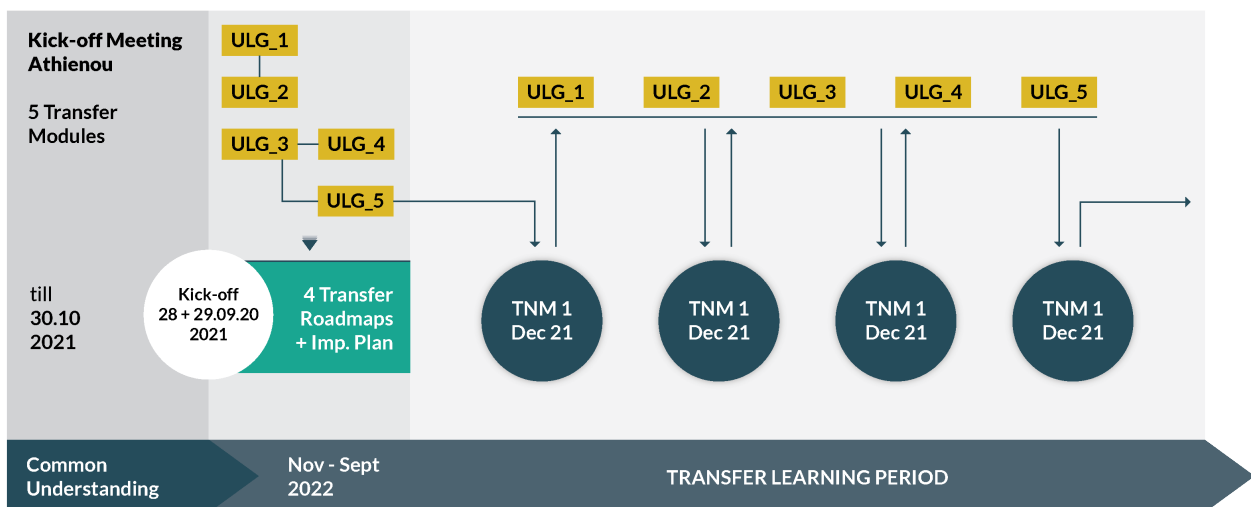
In parallel, Athienou ULG works out a further improvement of the own Model based on the experience and learning process with the partner cities.

The designed methodology is covering all the above mentioned requisites and has the flexibility to be adjusted along the process following a navigation at sight process.

The next diagrams show the methodology of transfer that will be implemented with the activities related to implementation and to share.

Along the whole process there will be a strong joint work with the Lead Expert and online meetings will take place between transnational meetings.

volunteering  
cities+  
methodology



#### 4.2: Our local level activity

The ULG of the Municipality of Agia is based on people who are involved in the community life either because of their position or because of their engagement and their participation. In both cases they



share common values like e.g. solidarity, collaboration, respect, tolerance, trust, altruism and of course the common vision of doing their best for the local community.

The ULG members represent the vast majority of the social partners and all four community unities: Agia, Melivia, Lakeria and Evrimenes. This is a key aspect for the success of the ULG as the distance between them and their differences in ground morphology and economy affect every local policy and every activity that takes place.

Beside their official role every ULG member is an active volunteer, who participates regularly in activities regarding social inclusion, environmental protection, solidarity for people in need and vulnerable groups and has experience and ideas to share.

The social partners participating in the ULG are:

- Municipality of Agia
- Public Corporation of Agia "IRAKLIDIS"
- Municipal non-profit enterprise of Agia "Calypso"
- Cultural Association of Agia "Miltiadis Dallas"
- Cultural Association of Melivia "O Omiros"
- Health Runners Association of Agia
- "Melivias Demas"
- Agricultural Cooperative of Melivia "I Athanati"

The presence of the Mayor, 3 vice mayors and the president of the Community of Dimitra in the ULG shows the high political commitment on the project.

The main goal of the ULG is to establish the Municipal Council of Volunteerism in the Municipality of Agia in the framework of the Transfer Network Volunteering Cities+ and according to the Good Practice of the Municipality of Athienou.

The ULG is going to discuss and decide about the structure and the role of the MCV and its policies and also discuss and organize in cooperation with the social partners voluntary actions proposed by its members and the social partners they represent in order achieve the network's objectives in compliance with the national legislation.

The involvement of local stakeholders and community members, their engagement and their active participation are significant parts of the best practice as it enables the easier inclusion of the vulnerable groups and this is what makes the ULG so important.

The members and the social partners of the ULG might change depending on the current situation.

The ULG Coordinator is the main contact person between the social partners of the ULG and the citizens/local stakeholders as well as the other project partners. She is also responsible for the delivery of the city activities and outputs and the contact point for the National URBACT Points

(NUPs), throughout the duration of the project. The ULG/Local Project Coordinator will also act as the point of contact between the partner city and the URBACT Secretariat.

The ULG will meet at least once before a TNM and once after a TNM.

The successful collaboration among authorities, participants, volunteers and beneficiaries is also the reason why the best practice improves the quality of life in the community.

#### 4.3: Our role in the transnational level activity

The Municipality of Agia is planned to host TNM in August 2022.

A visit and Deep Dive is going to take place. The meeting agenda will include a review of achievements, the sharing Learning Lessons and the planning of the big final event. During the meeting in Agia the ULG is going to present its activities and the progress on the achievement of the objectives and the goals of the Transfer Network.

The most important events in the Municipality of Agia are:






- **Apple Feast in Agia from the 31<sup>st</sup> of August to the 5<sup>th</sup> of September**
- **Cherry Feast in Metaxohori at the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of June**
- **Charity Concert in Velika in July**
- **Chestnut Feast in Melivia and Karitsa in October**
- **Kissavos Marathon Race in April/May**
- **Voluntary Cleaning on 18<sup>th</sup> September – Coastal Cleanup Day**

Their organization and implementation is based on volunteers, associations and the local authorities like e.g. the municipal non-profit enterprise “Calypso”.

The ULG is going to focus on each one of the events and their activities according to the Modules 2,3 and 4 so as to involve private companies, increase the number of volunteers and attract both youngsters and elderly people in order to improve intergenerationality.

In the ULG Meetings a specific plan for activities and tasks is decided according to the current circumstances and the goals that have been set.

The members of the ULG shall be introduced to each partner’s transfer process of the good practice in order to be able to see the different aspects of it and in which ways every partner supports the achievement of the Modules. After every TNM they will be in detail informed about the TNM activities.

TRANSFER THEMATIC MODULES		AGIA
<p><b>M1</b></p> 	<p><b>Governance:</b> achieve volunteering actions coordination and policy design volunteers participation</p>	<p>Through the implementation of the goals that have been set in the previous modules and the establishment of the MCV the main goal of the transfer will be achieved as the policy design process and the coordination of the actions will change and become more participative</p>
<p><b>M2</b></p> 	<p><b>Intergenerationality:</b> increase joint activities with young and elderly people</p>	<p>The implementation of common activities for young and elderly people and the collaboration among the social partners will lead to intergenerational activities (This has never happened before)</p>
<p><b>M3</b></p> 	<p><b>Increase volunteerism:</b> Attract citizens, especially young people, to volunteerism</p>	<p>The intention in this Module is to achieve the increase of the total number of volunteers focusing on young people and their preferences</p>
<p><b>M4</b></p> 	<p><b>Corporate Citizenship:</b> increase involvement of companies in volunteering</p>	<p>The agricultural cooperatives and local companies will participate in volunteering (They have not participated so far)</p>
<p><b>O1</b></p> 	<p><b>Social Entrepreneurship</b></p>	<p>The social enterprises will be involved in the voluntary actions. (They have not participated so far)</p>

As the final goal is the MCV and the **social participative governance**, the collaboration that derives from the ULG activities and the transfer of the good practice in each one of the events will establish a new way of thinking and acting in the local community.

## SECTION 5: The scale of our ambition

### 5.1: Our aspiration

- O Social Entrepreneurship:** The goal we intend to achieve is the active involvement of the Social Enterprises in the activities planned and organized by the ULG. Either as volunteers or as donators their participation improves both the Modules 4 and 3.



- M4 Corporate Citizenship:** The active participation of the private sector is a very important achievement since only very small steps have been done so far. The Agricultural Cooperatives and the SMEs especially the local ones will cooperate with the ULG in order to offer for every event or every initiative a donation or voluntary work that is discussed and decided by the ULG and the representatives of the companies.



- M3 Increase volunteerism:** It is very important to register all of the volunteers that participate in the events, the activities and the initiatives so as to be aware of their number and the associations and the groups they represent. The ULG in collaboration with the associations and the social partners define the motives that make volunteerism attractive to young people paying special attention to values like solidarity, altruism, trust, collaboration etc. Every person that participates for the first time is an integral part of the transfer process and its success.



- M2 Intergenerationality:** The involvement of the Public Corporation “IRAKLIDES” in the ULG is the key factor for the participation of elderly people in the events and activities. The ULG in cooperation with all of the social partners organizes the events and activities in a way that elderly people are fully capable of participating in the social life and the transfer process hand in hand with the youngsters and the local community.



- M1 Governance:** Finally, the achievement of the main goal to establish an MCV that coordinates volunteering actions and participates in the design of the local policy is the combination of all the Modules. The successful implementation of our Modules specific goals through the transfer of the good practice lays the foundation for a successful and innovative change in the Municipal Social Policy.



### 5.2: Risk assessment

The main risk that could be identified for the next 18 months is the fact that the restrictions regarding COVID-19 in Greece and in Europe are unfortunately unpredictable. The decisions by the local, national and European authorities are taken after controlling the recent data, which means in a week time. This fact affects any kind of planning either short-term or long-term. In any case new methods have been checked and implemented in order to minimize the result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Online activities and online services have been evolved so as to allow the best possible communication and collaboration.