

# Xenophobia and its impact on refugee integration

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PROMOTING INCLUSION AND PREVENTING XENOPHOBIA THROUGH  
EDUCATION



# Promoting inclusion and preventing xenophobia through education

Refugee and migrant students —————> referred to as students with migrant background

Their status —————> citizens, residents, asylum seekers, refugees, etc

Refugees from Syria and African countries

# Promoting inclusion and preventing xenophobia through education

Priority of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth



Free and accessible education to all children at all educational levels, without any discrimination based on gender, abilities, language, colour, religion, political beliefs, ethnic origin, or any other ground.

- In May 2016 MOESCY adopted a policy document for the integration of children with a migrant background in the educational system of Cyprus.

# Promoting inclusion and preventing xenophobia through education

- MOESCY has developed an anti-discrimination policy to combat all forms of racism and promoted a culture of understanding and respect between all people living of Cyprus (actions during the school year 2015-16 and 2016-17).  
[https://www.pi.ac.cy/pi/files/epimorfosi/antiratsistiki/kodikas\\_oct16.pdf](https://www.pi.ac.cy/pi/files/epimorfosi/antiratsistiki/kodikas_oct16.pdf)



Any discriminatory attitudes against refugee and migrant children is strictly forbidden

- MOESCY has developed an upgraded educational policy pertaining to Multicultural Education. The policy focuses on five priority areas:
  1. Learning the Greek language
  2. Reception of newly arrived children with migrant background
  3. Education and teachers; in service training
  4. Data collection and analysis of the needs of the students
  5. Intercultural approach in the new curricula

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**Current state of affairs regarding the integration of children with migrant background in the Department of Secondary Education of MoESCY**

- ❖ **a placement test examining the level of knowledge in the Greek language**
- ❖ **a program of study/syllabus with success indicators and a specific textbook are used based on the CEFR of Languages**

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## Programs for the teaching of Greek as a second language

1. The intensive program in transitional classes
2. The program for the teaching of Greek as a second language
3. The Educational Program for unaccompanied Minors/Applicants of International Protection in lyceums and technical schools
4. The program at the State Institutes for further Education for unaccompanied Minors/Applicants of International Protection
5. The program for the intensive teaching of Greek as a second language in lyceums

# Promoting inclusion and preventing xenophobia through education

Teacher training occurs:

- During programmed school visits by supportive educational staff
- During afternoon and/or morning seminars
- During conferences
- During distance learning seminars

# Communication between parents and teachers – Teaching Materials

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- ❑ Translation (for example Student individual record, student absence sheet)
- ❑ Reception Guide for children with a migrant background: first days at school  
<http://www.pi.ac.cy/pi/files/epimorfosi/entaxi/OdigosYpodoxis.p>
- ❑ Guide for Parents - Mediators  
<https://mefesi.pi.ac.cy/files/docs/users/kyprianou.d2/ODIGOSDIAMESOLAVITONNEW.pdf>



# Teaching materials

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- CPI website; «Educational Inclusion of Children with a Migrant Background”: Educational Material, Presentations from Seminars, Trainings and Conferences:  
[http://www.pi.ac.cy/pi/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1712&Itemid=463&lang=el](http://www.pi.ac.cy/pi/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1712&Itemid=463&lang=el)

# Conclusion

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Its three-year strategic plan for the period 2020-2022, the MOECSY is aiming to ensure the provision of learning opportunities to all learners, through the implementation of an educational policy which embodies the values of equality, inclusiveness, creativity and innovation.

**We must focus to the students, cognitive background, but also to their socio-cultural background**