

INSIGHTS INTO YOUTH-LED EXPERIENCES FOR LOCAL POLICY-MAKING IN MIGRATION ISSUES

This paper is part of a selection of good practices gathered from the E-LoCUM partner countries. These examples showcase successful models and mechanisms for fostering youth participation in migration-related initiatives. The initiatives described serve as practical references for youth workers, educators, and practitioners, offering real-world examples of how youth engagement can be effectively structured and implemented.

These practices are designed not only to inspire but also to encourage creative thinking about how similar models could be adapted to your own local contexts. Furthermore, the practical insights from these models will provide additional "food for thought" to deepen discussions on migration and democratic participation.

Building a Migrant Justice Community of Practice (Greece)

- **Location:** Greece (national scale)
- **Year of creation:** 2012
- **Status:** Informal (grassroots) initiative

Context and background: [Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice](#), [Greek Forum of Migrants](#) and [International Women* Space](#) launched a Migrant Justice Community of Practice, that is a coalition of migrant-led organisations working to shift European migration approaches away from punishment, violence and control toward community, care and social provision.

The Migrant Justice COP stems from an initial project between Equinox and the Greek Forum of Migrants, supported by the European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration, gathering organisations working at the intersection of structural racism and migration. That project conducted an initial scoping review of organisations and collectives working to build beyond punitive migration policy and toward other methods.

Since, Equinox, the Greek Forum of Migrants and International Women* Space Berlin came together to build the migrant justice community of practice, supported by the Allianz Foundation.

In a climate of growing far-right, anti-migrant political power across Europe, migrant and racialised communities are increasingly vilified, criminalised and scapegoated for a range of social problems.

The initiative was launched in response to the hardening of punitive, criminalising and discriminatory migration laws and policies, as well as an increase in legislation, resources and infrastructure that militarises borders and European migration policy.

It intended to see resources, legislation and policy used to protect people's lives rather than support systems of punishment, containment and control. It focussed on an alternative force that centres the needs, goals and approaches of grassroots migrant activism.

The Community of Practice represented a trans-local coalition of grassroots groups working collectively to shift power in European migration approaches. The coalition sought to bring together organisations working to redistribute resources and power away from punitive institutions and toward social provision and community care. The aim was on building power amongst migrant and racialised-led justice organisations who are commonly under-funded and excluded from decision-making processes.

Youth engagement strategies: The coalition includes:

- **Migrant Justice Community of Practice:** a space for migrant and racialised people-led organisations to meet, build power and discuss strategies for building beyond punitive migration control. The Migrant Justice COP will meet on a monthly basis.
- **Migration solidarity group:** a group of organisations working to open up strategic spaces and corridors of power to the Community of Practice, so that political agendas and strategies to combat criminalisation can be collectively shaped. The solidarity group will support and work in solidarity with migrant-led organisations, more effectively coordinating and using resources to achieve structural change.

Partnerships and collaboration: The Community of Practice is coordinated by Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice, the Greek Forum of Migrants, and International Women* Space.