

SHORT ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

Throughout the year 2014, “ANTIGONE - Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Ecology, Peace and Non Violence” :

1. participated and coordinated European and National projects
2. prepared research reports in the framework of its responsibilities as National Focal Point of Fundamental Rights Agency (FRANET)
3. organised, participated and carried out voluntary activities.

1.1 Projects implemented by ANTIGONE during 2014 (completed)

Sustainable development along the newest EuroVelo route, the Iron Curtain Trail: Iron Curtain Trail project involved intercultural heritage as well as sustainable development to what it concerns tourism and transportation. The project, funded by South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE), aimed to connect SEE regions by the Iron Curtain Trail long distance cycling route, to improve accessibility of the SEE regions by bicycle, to connect cycling and public transport opportunities and to promote cycling and combined sustainable transportation as a mean of sustainable mobility. It also provided opportunities to exchange experiences and transfer know how among partners involved. At regional level, the project contributed to future improvement of cycling, sustainable transport and tourism. Participating countries were Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece. The project has also been implemented with the support of the European Parliament as well as the European Cyclists Federation as an initiative that contributes to the development and the promotion of EuroVelo network. The activities of the project that run from October 2012 until December 2014.

We Are Able to Work 2020 - Able '20: ANTIGONE has been the lead partner of Able '20, an international project funded by the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission (EACEA - Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency). The project supported the promotion of the employment of people with disabilities in the EU, focusing on the enhancement of the participants' skills and competence, that are often unknown or not properly appreciated by the other people. People with disabilities are considered as individuals who are not able to work and be included in the job market. The project promoted young people's active citizenship and their preparation for their introduction to the job market. In the framework of the project, several activities have been implemented with the participation of people with disabilities, such as info sessions on the Europe 2020 strategy, psychometric tests, workshops on personal branding and self-promotion, workshops on job seeking, interview simulations, creation of curriculum vitae and video curricula, etc. Every activity was implemented in order for the participants to get equipped with an innovative tool in their effort to enter the job market and the employers to understand that disability does not deprive people of their functionality and ability to work. The partner countries of the project were Greece, Italy, Spain, and Lithuania. The duration of Able '20 has been from February 2013 to April 2014.

Youth say no to hate speech - Thessaloniki - European Youth Capital 2014 : In December 2013 young people of Thessaloniki participated in the thematic week “Youth say no to hate speech” organised by ANTIGONE in collaboration with “Thessaloniki - European Youth Capital 2014” with the aim to exchange experience and knowledge on hate speech as well as to implement a sensitisation campaign in the city towards the combat of the phenomenon. The action primarily aimed to empower and motivate youth towards combating racism and all forms of social violence and exclusion expressed through all means of hate speech. In the framework of this action, young people had the opportunity to participate in educational workshops of learning and to carry out a campaign to inform public opinion of Thessaloniki against hate speech, under the title “No barbification”.

Youth cultivating for their rights “Thessaloniki European Youth Capital 2014” : In May 2014 young men and women of Thessaloniki participated in the action week under the title “Youth cultivating for their rights” that was organised by ANTIGONE in cooperation with “Thessaloniki –European Youth Capital 2014” in order to discuss the environmental problems that are related with human rights and to establish the basement for a truly democratic, solidary and fair society. After their participation in workshops of duration of 20 hours, during the two last days of the action, the young persons took part in workshops of home gardening with the aim to raise the awareness of the citizens of the city and strengthen their environmental conscience. The group cultivated fruits and vegetables in a public space provided by the Municipality of Thessaloniki at the corner of the streets Riadi and Gkyzi and along with the residents it took care of this small garden so that a public and free bank of seeds could be created.

Campaign with #NoHateEP2014 : In cooperation with the Homosexual and Lesbian Community of Greece (OLKE), ANTIGONE organised and realised a various activities in the framework of the pan-european campaign “No hatred during the electoral campaign for European Elections 2014” (NoHateEP2014). On 23/05/14 a public meeting took place in Athens with the title “The impacts of hate speech on the image and on the rights of vulnerable groups”, whereas another public meeting with the title “Hate speech of mass media against vulnerable groups” had already taken place on 13/05/14 in Thessaloniki. The main campaign of ILGA-Europe and European Network against Racism initiated an electronic form for registration of incidents of hate speech in the framework of the electoral campaign of the elections of members of the European Parliament and addressed appeals to political parties to run a campaign free from discrimination and intolerance.

Co-organisation of the seminar towards awareness raising and sensitization titled “ACIL - Active Citizens Laboratory” with the support of Anna Lindh Foundation : ANTIGONE, in cooperation with other local organisations –members of the network Anna Lindh Foundation, participated in the organisation and implementation of various workshops aiming to the sensitization of citizens on the notion of active citizen so that human rights and improvement of life quality of people could be guaranteed. The workshops took place from 15 until 19 September in Thessaloniki with the participation of young citizens of Thessaloniki.

1.2. Projects being implemented by ANTIGONE in 2014 (ongoing)

Youth Is Tolerance: “Youth is Tolerance” is a project aiming to combat racism, xenophobia and antisemitism, with a particular attention on Roma discrimination, among young people. The project is being carried on in Bulgaria and Romania, where Roma are a numerous minority, and in Greece and Hungary, where Roma represent a small but significant percentage of the population. The main objective of “Youth is Tolerance” is to change the attitudes and stereotypes of young people towards Roma, to change the stereotypes and attitudes between young Roma and non-Roma and decrease the number of discriminatory practices towards differences. Moreover, the project aims to help school authorities to better deal with the anti-social behaviour of youth. The project is implemented by a consortium formed by AMALIPE (Bulgaria), lead partner who is active for the empowerment of the Roma community in Bulgaria and its participation and equal access in all spheres of life, ROMANI CRISS (Romania), DARTKE (Hungary) and ANTIGONE (Greece), all of them with a wide experience in organizing and managing projects targeted on human rights.

DARE-Net: The Desegregation and Action for Roma in Education Network (DARE-Net) will develop a network of Roma and non-Roma NGOs experienced on desegregation that will share and transfer good practices in the field of combating school segregation of Roma children. The project will train and transfer skills on desegregation to 100 school mediators and other stakeholders at grassroots level in order to achieve the Roma children’s integration through preventing school segregation and promote equal access to education. DARE-Net will raise awareness among the relevant stakeholders concerning the need to assure equal access to education of Roma children, and disseminate relevant good practices related to school desegregation and qualitative education. The findings of the network will be shared with the competent public authorities of the countries where the project is implemented in order to encourage their stronger commitment and provide them with alternative solutions that will support full and successful integration of the Roma. This innovative project is being implemented in Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and Greece.

ARTABILITY: ANTIGONE is the coordinator of the project “Artability”, which aims to promote best practices for the empowerment of people with disabilities through artistic lifelong learning activities. The programme will develop the skills and the competences of people with disabilities and disseminate information to overturn stereotypes often propagated in public. In line with the objectives set out in the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, the project includes actions for the active implementation of the rights of people with disabilities, which is a prerequisite for the full social inclusion, empowerment and self- awareness. To achieve the above objectives, Artability aims to hold weekly art workshops with 15 participants with disabilities for 18 months in each partner country, an interactive workshop on art techniques, an interactive workshop on how to organize an exhibition, and a final art exhibition. The topics of the art workshops will be chosen by the participants and reflect their knowledge and preferences. The program is being implemented from January 2014 until December 2015 in the partner countries Greece, Italy, Spain, and Lithuania and is funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Schools for Change: Under the framework of Schools for Change project, implemented in collaboration with Heinrich Boell Foundation, ANTIGONE carries out non formal educational workshops with the participation of students in primary schools, secondary schools and high schools. The workshops are set according to the educational needs of every class. The thematic sections of the workshops vary and so activities could be related to project lessons of every class, as well as to issues that are in accordance to class curricula. Some indicative thematics of the workshops are the following: stereotypes/discrimination/racism, bullying/school violence, human rights, rights of the child, gender equality, disability/social isolation etc. During the workshops, students participate in experiential activities such as creative learning activities, storytelling, creative drama, role play, simulation games etc. Furthermore, during 2014, under the framework of the project, ANTIGONE coordinated full educational programmes on the combat of bullying and the rights of the child with the participation of students as well as workshops addressed to parents and teachers. All workshop activities are based on active participation, collaboration, creativity and free self expression. The project will be running for the school year 2014-15. Schools for Change has been a project of 2012-2013 that has been extended for the following school years due to its successful implementation.

GROWL : “GROWL” project concerns the development of proposals and innovative solutions through the implementation of educational activities targeted to adults, with the aim to address the ecological and economic crisis with the participation of activists that work in the field of agro-ecology, as well as theorists of the concept of degrowth and civil society organisations (CSOs). The project is a partnership of ten non governmental organisations (NGOs) and academic and educational institutions from France, Germany, Poland, Belgium, Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Austria. GROWL calls upon to fill a knowledge gap through the development of training materials and the implementation of training seminars on various issues related to the radical transformation of the model of economic development, for the benefit of the economy, the society and the environment. In the framework of this cooperation, a lot of transfers of trainers and trainees took place among South, Central and Eastern Europe GROWL through innovative educational approaches as well as the use of an advanced information and communication platform attempts to promote an exchange between theory and practice. The proposed methodology will focus on train-the-trainer approaches that will enable learning and skill sharing via collaborative learning processes. Furthermore, it will integrate practical approaches into everyday lives and promote active, participatory citizenship in local, national and European (economic) politics. The training materials, the training seminars, and the social networking infrastructure that will be developed (webpage, social media, networking of stakeholders) will further promote the understanding of contemporary issues of sustainable degrowth and facilitate the strengthening of personal skills and competences for making a change in individual and collective level.

FRANET (ONGOING 2014)

During 2014, ANTIGONE, in collaboration with the Center for European Constitutional Law, the Hellenic League for Human Rights and the Minority Groups Research Center, kept on its

participation in the implementation of FRANET Programme as the National Focal Point of Fundamental Rights Agency that has unified the thematics of previous programmes (RAXEN and FRALEX). A significant quota of FRA research is based on data and information collected by the national focal points of the Agency in EU member states.

FRANET with its various and specialized research on human rights issues, contribute to the Agency's provision of independent and factual consultation on fundamental human rights to EU member states. The main target of FRANET is to safeguard full respect of fundamental rights around the EU. Specifically, based on data collected on human rights field by national focal points using appropriate research tools and expertise, the Agency issues opinions and recommendations on how EU institutions and member states can safeguard respect towards fundamental rights in practice during the implementation of common legislation and policies.

Towards the fulfillment of this target FRA accomplishes the following duties:

- information and data collection and analysis
- support and expertise provision
- dissemination of information and sensitisation on human rights field
- EU institutions propose and approve the thematic sections of the Agency for a 5 year period of time. Discrimination, access to justice, racism and xenophobia, data protection, rights of the victims of illegal acts as well as rights of the child are all included in the basic sectors of research and field work of FRA.

For the full monitor of the dominant situation, FRANET combines data of legal analysis with data that arise under real conditions from the everyday experiences of people. Documentation research is completed via social field research using opinion polls, surveys and interviews or through the analysis of the available data.

The reports and the questionnaires undertaken by ANTIGONE during the year 2014 concerned mostly the violations of fundamental rights of Roma, the situation of the rights of crime victims in Greece and the registration of the problems of the vulnerable group of children.

For projects that started in 2014 please check ANTIGONE's projects on our website:
www.antigone.gr

2. VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES OF ANTIGONE (implemented without funding)

Antiracist and other Festivals in Athens and Thessaloniki

In June and July 2014 "ANTIGONE" participated in the popular Antiracist Festivals of Athens and Thessaloniki, which constitute a major cultural event in both cities. In June 2014 members of ANTIGONE participated in the Athens and Thessaloniki LGBT Pride, as well as in awareness raising activities and other relevant events. During these crowded festivals and events, ANTIGONE discussed with people and distributed at its informative stand hundreds of pamphlets with its positions on crucial discrimination issues along with all recent FRA publications. ANTIGONE's team actively participated in the discussions that took place within

the Festival regarding problems faced by refugees and migrants, discrimination against LGBT, etc. Very important was the presence of ANTIGONE in the GreenWave Festival, the alternative green celebration, which is organized every September by the Thessaloniki Ecological Movement, with the participation of organisations from city.

13th National Round Table 2014

Every December, "ANTIGONE" organises in Athens the Annual National Round Table Against Discrimination. There, academics, NGOs and representatives of migrant and minority organisations have the chance to hold public discussions with organisations, governmental representatives and public officials. Fervent preparations usually start every year in early autumn. The principal aim of ANTIGONE' s National Round Tables is to introduce new debates on issues related to racism & discrimination and open up the discussions to as many of society's stakeholders as possible. As every year, on 15th December 2014 ANTIGONE organised its 13th National Round Table against discrimination, with the topic "The institutional "adventures" of the antiracist legislation in Greece". The first session referred to the historical background of the antiracist legislation in Greece and to the initiatives, the deficiencies and the inactivity of legislator while several experiences were submitted as well. The second session focused on the investigation of the conflict between the antiracist legislation and the fundamental right to freedom of expression and information.

Annual National Report 2014 on issues of discrimination

On its own initiative, ANTIGONE carried out the Annual National Report 2014 on discrimination issues (http://www.antigone.gr/files/gr/library/research-and-studies-specifically-for-greece/2014/Annual_Report_2014.pdf), consisted of 165 pages, and based on analytical information provided by civil society organisations as well as media and governmental agencies. Such national reports have been carried out from ANTIGONE since 2002. The Report numbered systematic incidents of racism, racist discrimination, xenophobia and relevant intolerance that during the year took place in the crucial fields of Employment, Legislation, Education, Racist Violence, Housing and Health & Welfare Services. It also included official and unofficial statistical data that cover all the above thematic fields. In December 2014 the National Report 2013 attracted a significant attention on behalf of the media (<http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/meiosi-kroysmaton-ratsistikis-vias>).

Educational workshops at primary schools and secondary schools in Northern Greece:

As mentioned before, in periods where there was no funding, ANTIGONE organized on a voluntary basis and with own funding, a series of educational workshops with the participation of students at primary and secondary schools. The workshops activities were adapted in collaboration with the class teacher according to the needs and the interests of the class. Indicatively, the topics concerned activities relevant to the context of project lessons, as well as other lessons. Some of the topics worked with the students are: discriminations/racism, school bullying/school violence, gender equality/gender identity, disability/social exclusion, human rights, children's rights etc. During the workshops, students participated in experiential activities i.e. creative writing activities, storytelling, creative drama, role play, simulation games, etc. In February 2014, ANTIGONE received from the Ministry of

Education and Religion the approval for its educational material for the implementation of educational interventions under Health Education Programmes in school classes.

“Training the trainers” workshop on the use of non formal education methodology and tools : On October 2014 ANTIGONE implemented a participatory workshop addressed to its volunteers on the use of non formal education and experiential learning methodology and tools on human rights education. The aim was the volunteers interested to participate in “Schools for Change” project workshops to familiarize with the educational activities that ANTIGONE implements at schools, so as on a next phase to be able to participate in the implementation of educational activities in schools in Northern Greece.

ANTIGONE’s educational workshops presented as good practice on the European Web Site on the Integration

On April 2014, ANTIGONE’s educational workshops were included as a good practice on the web site and the newsletter of the European Web Site on Integration with the title: Non-formal Education Activities on Human Rights in Primary and Secondary Schools (Greece).

Implementation of educational workshop on human trafficking at Hellenic International University.

On March 2014, ANTIGONE implemented a 3-hour experiential workshop on trafficking with the participation of postgraduate students of the faculty “Cultural Studies of the Black Sea” of the School of Human and Social Sciences of the Greek International University in Thessaloniki. The aim was the briefing and the sensitisation of the students as well as their familiarization with alternative educational methods.

Implementation of experiential workshop on the employment for migrants

On July 2014, ANTIGONE implemented a 3hour experiential laboratory on racism and discrimination in the employment section. The workshop took place in Michaniona (Municipality of Thermaikos) in the context of the Local Action for Social Consistency and Employment in Eastern Thessaloniki, titled “Fighting against stereotypes and discrimination in workplace”.

ANTIGONE participation in training session on hate crimes

In April 2014, representatives of ANTIGONE participated in a 2-day training on hate crimes, organised in Thessaloniki by the Network of Monitoring of Racist Violence. ANTIGONE is a member in this Network. The aim of the training was the exchange of practices that target the fighting of hate crimes in the EU member states and the establishment of a concomitant of practices between the states.

Participation in discussion – consultation on the subject of immigrant’s participation in collective representation institutions

In May 2014, a representative of ANTIGONE attended a meeting – consultation that was implemented in Athens by the DIOTIMA Centre of Women Studies and Research, with

subject the “Participation in institutions of collective representation”. The meeting was implemented in the context of inter-state work titled Patri-GE.MI. The aim was the promotion of the immigrants ‘participation in institutions of collective representation as well as the development of skills with racial dimension.

Participation in youth meeting under European Youth Dialogue 2014

In May 8-11 2014, the representatives of ANTIGONE attended the meeting of 120 young people from Europe, the “European Youth Dialogue 2014” organised in Thessaloniki by the Greek branch of Heinrich Boell Foundation in cooperation with the Foundations’ office in other European cities. The aim of the meeting was the political participation and the social inclusion of young people in one common and united Europe.

Participation at meetings on human rights organised with the participations of several CSOs

In April 2014 ANTIGONE attended a series of meetings organised by Bodosakis Foundation and held by the municipality of Thessaloniki. Representatives from various organisations and other institutions active in Thessaloniki in subjects such as combat against discrimination and racism, exchanged views and experiences on the following subjects: 1 Democracy and human rights, 2 Specific issues that concern Roma, 2 Specific issues which are related to immigrants.

ANTIGONE interview at the SCI Hellas

In June 2014, an ANTIGONE representative gave an interview to the Volunteer Movement SCI Hellas (Service Civil International Hellas) for a research organised under the context of the plan titled “Citizens Beyond Walls”. The main subject was the rise of far left parties in European countries and their relation with the phenomena of racist violence. The interviewers recorded the good practices of ANTIGONE for the fight against racism, such as the laboratories for information and sensitization, the educational interventions, the informative campaigns etc.

ANTIGONE’s participation at the Network Ariadne-European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights

In June 2014 ANTIGONE representatives met in Thessaloniki with representatives of the Network Ariadne-European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights. The subject of their discussions was the situation in Thessaloniki and Greece concerning the human rights in particular of groups that consist target of discrimination in the city, the relevant local actions by Civil Society organizations as well as the good practices of ANTIGONE. Also, the probability of implementation in Thessaloniki of an annual meeting of the network Ariadne on March 2015 has been discussed.

ANTIGONE participation at the children festival PARATHINOUPOLI 2014

ANTIGONE participated at the festival Parathinoupoli organised by the municipality of Kalamaria from 4-8 June 2014 in Thessaloniki at Aretsou beach. The subject of the festival in 2014 was peace and solidarity. Under the festival’s context, ANTIGONE organized activities

for pre-school and school children with the general title “We play for the peace, because war is not a game”.

Organisation of book presentation event by ANTIGONE

On June 2014 ANTIGONE organized a book presentation of the best seller “In the Shadow of Man” by Jane Goodall, which was translated in 50 languages and was published in Greek by ANTIGONE Publications. The speakers in the event were: Dionisios Gioulatos professor of Zoology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Chariton Chintiroglou professor of Zoology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Alexandros Georgopoulos, professor of environmental education at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Presentation of ANTIGONE during the education visit of young people from Skopia

On July 2014 ANTIGONE presented its main activities in an event organized by the municipality of Thessaloniki under the framework of an educational visit of 70 young people from Skopia titled “Local youth participation and local youth policies development”. The aim of the event was to fortify communication and links between young people through their participation in the actions of the civil society in Thessaloniki. The initiative took place under “Thessaloniki – European Capital of Youth 2014”.

Participation of ANTIGONE at meetings on Social Economy

On July 2014, ANTIGONE participated at the meeting of non profit organisations, representatives of the local governance and commissions for the local development that was organized by the Mayor offices of Northern Greece and the Greek-German Assembly. At the meeting, that was attended by representation commissions of social collective businesses from Germany and civil society organisations from Thessaloniki, good practices and examples of social economy were presented, while the perspectives of promotion of the social economy in Greece through the cooperation with related commissions were discussed.

Participation of ANTIGONE at the Public University conference on degrowth and social/solidarity economy

On 24.02.14 the president of ANTIGONE, prof. Alexander Georgopoulos, participated to the conference/round table on degrowth and solidarity economy organised under the framework of the 3rd circle of the Public University of Social Solidarity Economy at Thessaloniki Labour Centre.

Participation of ANTIGONE in the research of the Duke University

ANTIGONE representative participated in a research that was conducted by the Duke University USA concerning human trafficking. In the research, in which participated 700 not for profit organisations from all over the globe, ANTIGONE shared its testimonies concerning issues of the last 10 years.

Participation of ANTIGONE at the meetings of RESILAND Programme

ANTIGONE participated in the focus group that was set under the European programme “Resiland: Participation, Capacities and Resilience of Children on the Move Against

Trafficking and Exploitation”. The aim of the program is the participation, strengthening and reinforcement of the ability of children who are in danger of trafficking and exploitation, as well as the indication of means for their effective protection.

Participation of ANTIGONE at the GREENWAVE Festival

ANTIGONE participated in the ecological festival GREENWAVE 2014 that is organised every year by the Ecological Movement of Thessaloniki – this year in cooperation with Thessaloniki European Youth Capital 2014. Except for the presentation of activities at a stand during the festival that lasted from 19-21 September 2014, ANTIGONE implemented laboratories for children aged 6-12 years old on issues related to human rights.

Presentation of ANTIGONE’s educational programmes at TECHNOTOPOS festival

The educational program that ANTIGONE implements in schools, as well as other educational initiatives and actions, were presented at the exhibition festival for arts and children TECHNOTOPOS that was held by the organisation “Sxedia stin Poli” in cooperation with the Thessaloniki-European Youth Capital 2014 on 27th and 28th of September 2014.

Participation of ANTIGONE in the research programme Thalís- Evaluation of Greek Not for Profit Organisations

ANTIGONE completed a questionnaire and the documents for the implementation of THALIS programme aimed to the evaluation of Greek not for profit , non governmental organisations. The programme was implemented under the Operational/Business Plan with “Education and Lifelong Learning” funding. The research was conducted by a group of scientists and research centres headed by the Peloponese University.

Participation of ANTIGONE at the annual meeting of Anna Lindh Network :

As a member of the Greek branch of Anna Lind Network, on September 2014 ANTIGONE participated at the annual meeting that took place at the Hotel Vergina in Thessaloniki. Organisations from all over Greece presented their actions as members of the Network. The previous days, with the funding of Anna Lind, organisations jointly run weekly projects addressed to youngsters of the organisations-members of Anna Lindh Network in Greece.

Participation of ANTIGONE in the International Meeting for Adult Learning: On October 2014 ANTIGONE participated at the Meeting of the international network “RENEWAL: Regional Networking for Adult Learning in Europe” that took place in Lisbon. ANTIGONE presented two of its projects that concern the adult learning, “Artability” and “Schools for Change”. The meeting was held with the participation of European and national institutes for education, organisations for adult learning and non profit organisations of the Society of Citizens.

Participation of ANTIGONE at the opening event of Naomi workshops: ANTIGONE undertook the creative occupation of children aged between 3-6 years old, at the opening of NAOMI Creative Hub that took place on October 2014 at the space of NAOMI at 29A Ptolemeon Street in Thessaloniki. Simultaneously with the entertainment activities that

ANTIGONE organised for the children, there was also an exhibition of handmade products made by women refugees, multicultural cuisine and live music.

ANTIGONE cooperation with the network “Me, you and altogether together”: After the invitation of the Prefecture of Eastern Thessaloniki, for the school year 2014-2015 ANTIGONE took on the organisation of educational workshops on human rights, children’s rights and equality addressed to teachers and pupils of primary schools that participate in the Network of Education and Human Rights “Me, you and altogether, together”. Some of the workshops took place in 2014 while the cooperation will be continued with workshops for pupils, teachers and parents in 2015.

Presentation of ANTIGONE at the Event “All the rights for all people”: On December 10th 2014, ANTIGONE presented the educational interventions in schools at an event organised by the Office for Secondary Education of Eastern Thessaloniki under the occasion of the World Day for the Human Rights at Vafopouleio. Teachers from secondary education of Eastern Thessaloniki participated in the event. Besides ANTIGONE, other non profit organisations, universities and Civil Society institutions participated in the event.

Participation of ANTIGONE at the event “Youth against extremism” : ANTIGONE participated at an event against extremism that took place at Thessaloniki townhall on December 2014. Namely, ANTIGONE was responsible for the coordination of the first part of the event related to violence targeted to conclude ways for social prosperity. The activities were also related to the role of Media and education in topics concerning extremism. The event was organized under the context of “Thessaloniki – European Youth Capital 2014”.

Participation of ANTIGONE at events under World Aids Day : On December 1st 2014, ANTIGONE and its volunteers participated in a series of events that took place in Thessaloniki under the organisation of “Positive Voice” association with the participation of other NGOs, networks and institutions of the city. All events took place at Aristotelous Square and lasted from the morning until late evening.

Leonardo da Vinci Programmes and European Voluntary Service : The last years ANTIGONE hosted many volunteers from Turkey, France and Italy, under the framework of Leonardo da Vinci and EVS programmes, giving the chance to young people from other countries to participate at the organisation’s actions as well as to prepare intercultural activities promoting the organisation of common actions between different social groups.

Ecotopia Bike Tour : Ecotopia Bike Tour is a network of people and organisations that are involved in activism, ecology, collective actions and exchange. On July 10th until September 30th 2014, the volunteers of the European Volunteer Service of ANTIGONE, participated Ecotopia Bike Tour 2014, that run along Sofia to Athens. During the trip, the participant group visited houses of alternative living, ecological farms, ecological and social places etc.

Other volunteer activities

One of the main axes of ANTIGONE is to organise social meetings with entertaining character for people who belong to different social, age and cultural groups (for example, music nights, cooking nights, screening of movies, etc). ANTIGONE stands for the combat of stereotypes through interaction, coexistence and exchange of ideas and experiences between different people. Following this approach, people are given the opportunity to take a step towards, understanding and accept the other without discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, gender, color, religious belief, sexual orientation etc.

For many years, ANTIGONE has been organising experiential workshops and non formal education activities with groups of children, teenagers, and adults, targeted to the sensitisation and the promotion of the development of empathy on topics such as racism, social exclusion, human rights, social ecology, peace, and non violence, interculturalism etc. In 2014 ANTIGONE made a big effort in organising on formal education workshops for volunteers, parents and teachers on voluntary basis

Another important activity of the organisation, supported primarily by its volunteers, is the teaching of Greek and other languages to migrants, refugees, Roma, etc. Today, in ANTIGONE, Greek language lessons are given to adult refugees, English language lessons to Roma adolescents while adult migrants are being taught Italian language as well.

ANTIGONE collaborates on a regular basis with the Refugee Shelter of Thessaloniki organising activities with the children on a weekly basis (educational visits, art workshops, non formal educational workshops etc).

The participation of ANTIGONE in European networks of non-governmental organisations such as ENAR, UNITED and Anna Lindh Foundation Network, contributes to the exchange of knowledge, ideas and best practices, and to the implementation of activities jointly with other NGOs. Through its participation to the Network of Voluntary Organisations of Thessaloniki as well as to the Observatory of Central Macedonia, several interesting collaborations with NGOs and stakeholders have been developed both at national and local level.