

Face Forward ...into my home (www.faceforward.gr) is an interactive art project focused on the stories of people who have been forced to leave their homelands and are rebuilding their life in Greece. Its aim is to give refugees access to art and culture, to give them the opportunity to speak about themselves, their lives and culture as well as to make their voice heard, promoting inter-cultural dialogue, mutual respect and understanding.

Twenty seven refugees, aged 13 – 59, from nine different countries, different religious backgrounds and beliefs, family status, social standing, sexual orientation and gender identity, participated.

The project was designed and implemented by the Education Department of National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens, in collaboration with UNHCR. It consists of:

- Twelve Storytelling Workshops: participants were invited to share feelings, memories, hopes and aspirations, inspired by a selection of eleven contemporary artworks. Using artworks as a starting point and stimulus to explore contemporary social issues, including forced migration, social integration, cultural exchange and social interaction, participants created autobiographical stories that reveal moments from the past, present situation, dreams and aspirations.

- Photographic Portraits: based on the narratives that unfolded during the workshops, photographic portraits were created in locations of their choice, shedding light on each person's unique character.

- Exhibition: the portraits, personal stories, screening of the artworks that prompted the narratives and a short documentary video of the whole project were presented in a museum exhibition accompanied by an exhibition catalogue and booklets aiming to reveal the "human face" behind the numbers, feelings, fears and dreams that connect us all – our common humanity.

- Educational programs for students of all ages and guided tours led by participants were organized.

A website, postcards, social media posts were also created for the project's dissemination.

After its successful implementation and presentation in Athens, the project is, so far, implemented and presented in Heraklion and Thessaloniki. Part of the exhibition was presented at the Archaeological Museum in Olympia. The project also traveled and was presented in Kosice, Slovakia.

Idea – Implementation:

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