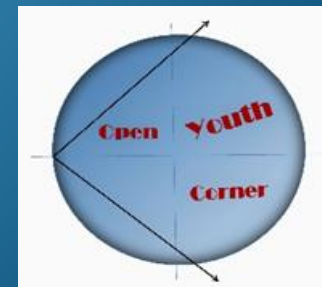


*Youth Exchange : I don't see any borders, do you?*

04. 11. - 13. 11. 2016; RAKIČAN, SLOVENIA

# Refugees in Patras



Patras is the third largest city of Greece. Dubbed as Greece's “Gate to the West”, while its busy port is a nodal point for trade and communication with Italy and the rest of Western Europe.



# Refugees in Patras

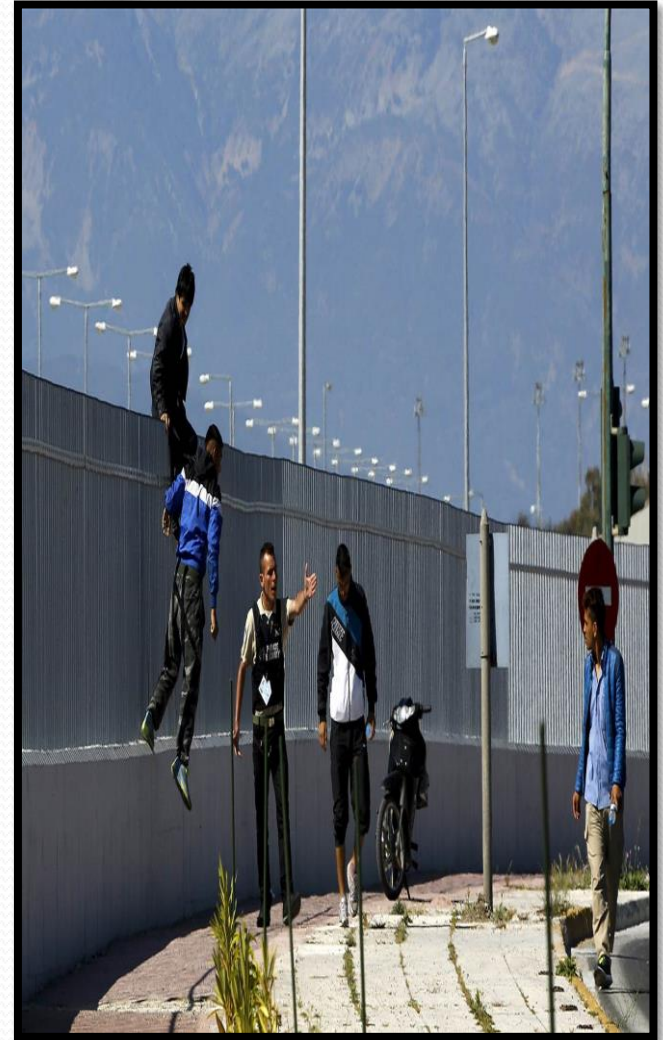
- Since Patras is the “Gate to the West” many people from belligerent and developing countries utilize it as a transit area in order to reach Italy and other European countries.
- Especially ,the last 15 years due to the increase of the war conflicts ,many immigrants and refugees arrived and stayed in Patras and Western Greece .

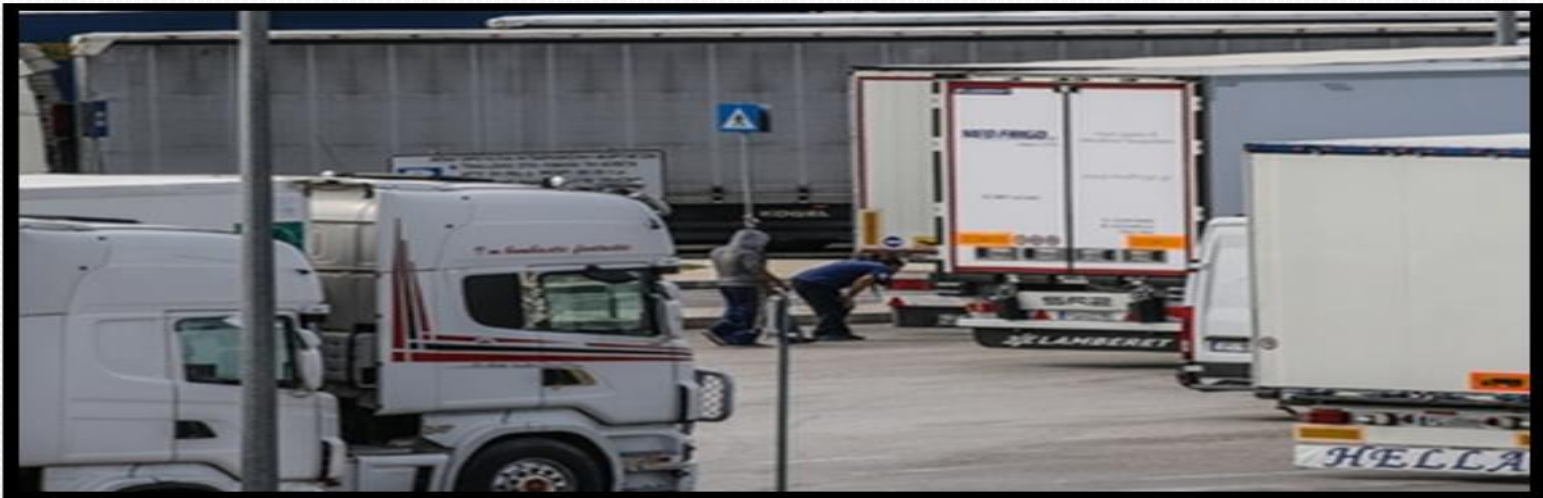
# Previous years

- Refugees' living conditions were miserable and there were efforts in some cases to force them to leave from the local area by repressive methods.
- They used to live in abandoned old factories and makeshift camps at the coastal area of Patras

# Previous years











## • Support to refugees

- Movement for the defense of refugees' and immigrants
- Movement “Deport Rasicm”
- Associations of immigrants
- Hellenic Red Cross
- Municipality
- NGOs
- Patras’ residents (neighborhoods)
- Local voluntary groups
- Social Center of Patras

# Current situation

- New routes through Northern border of Greece , Aegean and Mediterranean sea has opened to reach the European countries ,so less undocumented refugees arrive in Patras .
- There are still people that live in the abandoned old factories at the coastal area of Patras (& surrounding area ).
- However , many refugees has been relocated in Patras since 2014 according to the relocation program for refugees.

# Current situation

- Main accommodation and support structures in Patras
- Accommodation center for unaccompanied minors asylum seekers and vulnerable group (single parented families , children) (mainly transit center-temporary)
- Center for daily activities(no accommodation)
- Hotel turned to accommodation center (179 refugees) by UNHCR

## *Educational program “Mobile School”*

- Old summer touristic houses were offered from the mayor in Myrsini village(near to Patras)

# Current situation

- Refugees attend in language courses, leisure activities, public schools





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAupcgopI38>