

Building linguistic and translinguistic bridges to help refugees integrate into Greek education system.

Hélène Vasilopoulou, PhD Candidate in Applied Linguistics, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens - University of Angers

Could you imagine a school without students? No, would be the most probable answer. However, there is a factor that could prevent students from accessing education. War.. Yes, wars can happen even in the most progressive societies and most evolutionary centuries. Consequently, a huge number of people leave their homes hoping to find new ones where their children could live in peace, progress and prosperity.

This is obviously the case of Syrian refugees who have left Syria and arrived in Greece seven months ago. Most of them would probably like to move to another European country. Difficulties, such as closed borders do not allow them to leave from Greece so easily. As a result, Syrian children stay in Greece and will be considered as citizens of this country. A modern citizenship should provide them full access in education even if there are many obstacles.

To overcome these difficulties, a school system such as the Greek education system – facing already a superdiverse environment – should first of all permit refugee students full involvement in school. More specifically, it should try to construct connecting routes between the plurality of linguistic stimuli they already have and also of the new ones that they receive. As a consequence, a new structure will be built and which will lead to a possible integration of refugee students to Greek education system.