Lefteris Papagiannakis, former Vice Mayor for Migrants and Refugees, Municipality of Athens

Working Together, Better: Engagement between Local Authorities & Humanitarian Actors in Athens
Athens – a capital under pressure
City of Athens: The main pillars of the City’s strategic plan for integration

Recording of current situation & identification of stakeholders for the development of synergies

*Establishing a collaboration framework*

Needs assessment and planning of interventions (institutional and service provision)

*Vice Mayorship for migrant & refugee affairs, Integration Directorate, Centres for Migrant Integration*

Evidence-based development of new tools, processes and services

*(AORI, language courses, vocational support, contingency planning)*

Development of a collaboration framework (with IOs, NGOs, other municipalities)

*ACCMR, European Cities Networks, Cities Integration Network, co-funding partnerships*
Final thoughts on local authorities - humanitarian actors engagement

- IOs and NGOs have complemented the work of many Greek municipalities, in a range of arrangements and partnerships. This is increasingly reflected in several donor-funded initiatives that encourage IO/NGO and local government collaboration.

- Local governments and NGOs are most likely to work together in the area of social services – but there are more areas for collaboration & capacity building.
Some of the challenges ahead

- Project-based approach to integration
  - Significant risks linked with short-term solutions which jeopardise the viability of effective, low-cost initiatives (especially following possible changes in political priorities)

- Building trust and understanding between all stakeholders involved
  - Involve middle-management in meetings and decision making processes

- Understand the important role that local authorities can play and support accordingly
  - Consider municipalities in the design of funding flows. Advocate for international funds or loans to flow directly to cities.

- Migrant-led NGOs need further empowerment in order to be in a position to complement effectively local government initiatives