

**MAJOR
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY
THESSALONIKI S.A.**
ORGANIZATION FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

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SOCIAL RESILIENCE & INCLUSION DEPARTMENT

PROFILE

Major Development Agency Thessaloniki S.A.

ORGANIZATION FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL RESILIENCE & INCLUSION DEPARTMENT

**Vas. Georgiou A' 1, Office 106A,
546 40 Thessaloniki
T: +30 2313 31 74 33
info@mdat.gr**

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March 2021

**A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
THESSALONIKI S.A. -ORGANIZATION FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
(MDAT S.A.)**

Major Development Agency Thessaloniki works as the design & implementation arm of the local authorities and its main scope is to provide technical support to these institutions in the fields of sustainable development, tourism, transportation and social inclusion, protection and technical assistance to local authorities for strategy development and implementation in these fields. MDAT S.A. also coordinates inter municipal projects in those fields and acts as an implementing arm in managing EU and other funds (E.I.B. - E.D.R.B.) as well as financing from other international development organizations. Furthermore, it provides insight to future policymaking initiatives within each of the abovementioned areas

Shareholders:

Municipalities: **Thessaloniki, Kalamaria, Pavlos Melas, Neapolis-Sykies, Kordelio-Evosmos, Pilea-Chortiatis, Ampelokipon-Menemeni, Delta, Oreokastro, Themi, Chalkidona** including the following city organizations:

 **NOESIS Thessaloniki Science Park & Technology Museum**

 **CERTH (Centre for Research & Technology Hellas)**

Activities include:

- The scientific, technical and administrative support of the Local Authorities and their associations, shareholders
- The promotion of business, economic and sustainable development of the Municipalities and institutions

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- The development of environmental protection actions
- Participation in the management & implementation of programmes and/or the implementation of relevant policies covering an intermunicipal or wider geographical area

Objectives:

- Technical and management support of the shareholders for the development planning and the fast-track preparation for works and scale projects with significant local inter-municipal and greater municipal impact for funding possibilities, in cooperation with other developmental authorities of the public & social sectors.
- Strategic business planning and development work, for the production and dissemination of design and methodological tools, on the local and supra-regional planning level in the greater urban scale.
- To promote development planning for accessing national, European and other international funding and donation organizations
- To provide technical assistance to Municipalities of the Greater Urban Area of Thessaloniki and to support the operationalisation of the Municipal Strategy for Integration of Migrants and Refugees focusing on non-formal education, access to formal education, access to the labour market, community engagement and access to housing and combating housing exclusion.

Managerial Competency:

- ✓ MDAT S.A. is registered in the Registry of Contracting Authorities (Registration No 730)
- ✓ MDAT S.A. is registered with the Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Registration No 58080704000)
- ✓ Managerial Competency Certification Type A, B and C (ELOT 1429: 2008)

Membership of networks

MDAT S.A. supports the Municipality of Thessaloniki in its participation to the following networks:

- *ROOF* network on ending homelessness

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- *EUROCITIES*
- *FEANTSA*
- *Cities for Integration Network (Greece)*

MDAT S.A. is also a member of the ***Municipal Task Force on Integration of Migrants and Refugees*** of the Municipality of Thessaloniki and is currently underway in finalising its membership to ***Housing Europe***

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE SOCIAL RESILIENCE & INCLUSION DEPARTMENT

General Strategy 2018-2021

In 2020, the general strategic guidelines were derived mainly from two sources: the identification of gaps was undertaken through coordinated actions for vulnerable groups, such as the URBAN working group and the Integrated Action Plan for the integration of immigrants and refugees of the Municipality of Thessaloniki covering the greater urban area. In this context, the Social Resilience & Inclusion Department manages 11 projects with a total budget of approximately 2,000,000 EURO.

The Department has been cooperating closely with the Municipality of Thessaloniki since 2019 in the implementation of the action plan. It also actively participates in the process of strategic planning of the Municipality for the fight against homelessness, housing exclusion and generating affordable housing.

The strategic priorities for 2021, are the further operation of the aforementioned strategies and the additional support to all municipalities involved in the provision of social services. The main target groups will be those who are outside the safety net of services or may not have full access to services and those at greatest risk, such as homeless people, people at high risk of homelessness, people in shelters, unaccompanied minors, persons in unemployment or having a housing precarity etc. All preparatory programs carried out in 2020 e.g. the creation of a housing stock and the creation of social inclusion campaigns will move into the implementation phase.

Operations

The Social Inclusion and Social Services Dept. provides technical assistance to the Municipalities of the Greater Urban Area of Thessaloniki and the other shareholders of the Agency within the framework of Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy, developed by MDAT. Furthermore, the Dept. strives towards the implementation of the Strategy of the Municipality of Thessaloniki for the Integration of Immigrants and Refugees focusing on non-formal education, access to formal

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education, access to the labor market, vocational training, community participation and access to housing and combating housing exclusion and other areas.

The programs implemented by the Dept. have received funding from the Municipality of Thessaloniki, the European Union (AMIF, URBACT), EEA Grants, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Open Society Foundation, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, National AMIF funds as well as with in-kind resources of MDAT among others.

The Department of Social Resilience & Inclusion consists of the Support for Vulnerable Social Groups Unit and the Employment Support & Lifelong Learning Unit.

SUPPORT OF VULNERABLE SOCIAL GROUPS UNIT

- **Objective:** This Unit aims to support and facilitate integration, and social inclusion of vulnerable social groups without discrimination through actions and programmes supported by national, international and European funds. As an inter municipal development agency, the unit acts as an operational arm for Municipalities in supporting their strategic priorities. This includes institution building and support to Municipal structures, such as the Advisory Council on Integration of Migrants and Refugees (SEM) and bolstering services, such as through providing cultural mediation for municipal services. Community engagement, public awareness and social cohesion are among the range of priorities of the Unit. The main target groups will be those outside the welfare safety net and/or face barriers of access to services. Beneficiaries include individuals, families and households who are below the poverty line, who are at risk of exclusion and poverty, regardless of origin and nationality.

- **Actions:**
 - Community engagement activities- two-way communication between migrants, refugees and the host community, inter alia through cooperation with SEMP
 - Innovative social cohesion activities - promoted through sports, artistic, culinary, theatrical, dance, etc. events - volunteer groups (students, families & individuals & organized local neighborhoods).
 - Support for access to public services -facilitation of administrative procedures such as acquisition of AMKA, bank account, tax office, etc. as well as access to basic services such as formal education, health services, mental health and psychosocial support services.

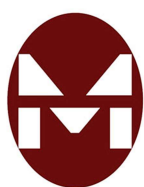
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- (Support in gaining access to advocacy) Enhancing access to advocacy - governance of social / human rights within the framework of the Advisory Council for the Integration of Migrants (SEM).
- Non-Formal Education, early childhood education, including language acquisition, skill-building, bi-lingual ECE support for refugees and migrants
- Protection & support for unaccompanied minors
- Generation of data for evidence-based policy making at local level - including city wide research activities on profiling of vulnerable groups (refugees), monitoring housing exclusion and generating better understanding of the housing market for development of housing policies
- Provide technical assistance to the municipality in developing a Strategy for Social and Affordable Housing and Combating Housing Exclusion in Thessaloniki

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT & LIFELONG LEARNING UNIT

- Objective: Empowerment of the abovementioned vulnerable groups with special focus on the unemployed and those with employment precarity.
- Organization of educational and training programs
- Continuing Vocational Training
- Reskilling
- Skills upgrade
- General Adult Education
- Establishment of Employment & Entrepreneurship Support Center
- Counseling and Vocational Guidance
- Networking with employers, Employment Agencies
- Support for Entrepreneurship and Social Economy



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C. CURRENT PROJECTS & PROGRAMMES

Name of programme	Reference number and title of the action/project	Name of Applicant/ Co-applicant	Role	Amount awarded (Euro) (*)	Action/project webpage
HORIZON 2020	REBUILD 822215 REBUILD: Addressing the Challenge of Migrant Integration through ICT-enabled Solutions	MDAT S.A.	PARTNER	160.000 €	https://www.rebuild-europe.eu/en/default.aspx
URBACT 2020-2022	ROOF Action Planning Network: development of Local Action Plan on Ending Homelessness, Data Collection and Affordable Housing	MDAT S.A.	PARTNER	120.000€	https://urbact.eu/roof
DG Home – International Organisation of Migration	HELIOS - "Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection-HELIOS", Running an Integration Learning Center providing support in non-formal education, skill building, employability and self-reliance	MDAT S.A.	LEAD PARTNER	600,000 €	https://greece.iom.int/en/hellenic-integration-support-beneficiaries-international-protection-helios



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Open Society Foundation (OSF)	Technical Assistance to support the implementation of the Integration Strategy of the Municipality of Thessaloniki (community engagement, awareness raising, employability services, access to housing, affordable housing solutions, support to Municipal structures for mainstreaming protection)	MDAT S.A.	LEAD	350,000 €	https://www.mdat.gr/2019/07/03/technical-assistance-program-to-the-municipality-of-thessaloniki-in-support-of-the-implementation-of-the-integrated-action-plan-for-the-integration-of-refugees-and-immigrants/?lang=en
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Open Society Foundation (OSF)	School Plus Neighbourhood	MDAT S.A.	LEAD PARTNER	150,00.00 USD	https://www.mdat.gr/2020/02/07/school-plus-neighbourhood/?lang=en
Open Society Foundation (OSF)	TECH-IT	MDAT S.A.	LEAD PARTNER	60,000.00 USD	https://www.mdat.gr/2021/02/12/the-tech-it-project/?lang=en
EU AMIF 2020-2022	EMBRACIN' - piloting in Thessaloniki the 6+6x6 scheme for family based integration support to refugees	MDAT S.A.	PARTNER	242,830.00 €	https://embracin.eu/
National AMIF 2021-2023	UAM Protection - Setting up and running a shelter for unaccompanied minors in the urban area on behalf of the Municipality of Thessaloniki	MDAT S.A.	LEAD PARTNER	500,00.00 €	upcoming



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EEA Grants- Bodossaki Foundation ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND 2021- 2023	"Children's Rights for children in Institutional Care/The Invisible Children	MDAT S.A.	PARTNER	53,417.27 €	upcoming
ERASMUS + Sports 2021- 2023	IncluPLUS - Integration of TCN through sports and engagement in athletic communities at local level	MDAT S.A.	PARTNER	398,000 €	upcoming
Heinrich Böll Stiftung	Affordable Housing 4 All	MDAT S.A.	Direct contract	15.600 €	upcoming