i•RED

Institute for Rights Equality & Diversity

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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i-RED aims at providing sound basis of reliable information and scientific work through research, policy and trends' analysis. At the same time aims at promoting equal treatment, civic participation, full citizenship and respect of human rights, through intervention and participation in the public sphere, and dissemination of research findings and proposals.

i-RED is the result of the need for a research institute that will join forces of interdisciplinary scholars and will have a political impact through its scientific work in favour of migrants and minorities effective or potential racism & discrimination victims and of the protection and effective enjoyment of human rights in Greece and Europe.

The underlying concept of i-RED's approach to research and policy analysis is that academic production and the way it is projected to the public sphere are two interwoven processes.

On the other hand, much of what is being said and promulgated in the public domain clearly lacks the necessary knowledge and basic information. It is being discussed in the absence of the victims, of the representatives of particular populations and social groups involved, as well as of the experts and researchers.

This frequently leads to reproducing generalisations, stereotypes, and schematic representations of complex realities, under the logic of an elite discourse and management of social tensions.

This Annual Report is published in times of crisis of change, as well as of alarming trends for social solidarity, exclusion and inequality. May this be a chance for the commitment to a politically significant and fruitful engagement in research, understanding and transformation of modern society.

Miltos Pavlou

**i-RED Director**

Athens, March 2009

## Establishment of i-RED

The Institute for Rights Equality and Diversity was founded on July 2008 in Athens, Greece. The Greek title of i-RED is

**Ιδιετερο - Ινστιτούτο για τα Δικαιώματα, την Ισότητα και την Ετερότητα**

## Objectives

The Institute for Rights Equality and Diversity aims at:

research and political intervention through interdisciplinary, socioeconomic and legal analysis, public dissemination of research findings and policy recommendations regarding migrants and minorities and the phenomena of migration, racism, discrimination towards equality and participation in Greece and Europe.

I-RED includes among its scopes the study and promotion of equal treatment and defence of discrimination victims on all grounds of diversity and social identity.

*Στόχοι*

Το i-RED / Ιδιετερο - Ινστιτούτο για τα Δικαιώματα την Ισότητα και την Ετερότηταστοχεύει στην έρευνα και στην πολιτική παρέμβαση μέσα από διεπιστημονική, κοινωνικο-οικονομική και νομική έρευνα και ανάλυση, στη δημόσια διάδοση των ερευνητικών ευρημάτων και των προτάσεων διαμόρφωσης πολιτικής για τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες και για τα φαινόμενα της μετανάστευσης, του ρατσισμού και των διακρίσεων.

- Το i-RED αναλαμβάνει κοινωνικές και επιστημονικές δράσεις και πρωτοβουλίες για τα θεμελιώδη ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα, την ισότητα και την ετερότητα, την ίση μεταχείριση, τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες και τα φαινόμενα ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων, στην Ελλάδα και στην Ευρώπη. Ειδικότερα αντικείμενα είναι η μελέτη και η προώθηση της αρχής της ίσης μεταχείρισης και η αρωγή και υπεράσπιση θυμάτων ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων μέσα από την έρευνα και τη συλλογή δεδομένων, καθώς και τη δημόσια και την πολιτική παρέμβαση, η μελέτη των φαινομένων και η καταπολέμηση του ρατσισμού και των διακρίσεων για κάθε λόγο/βάση διάκρισης, η μελέτη και η προώθηση της κοινωνικής ένταξης και ισότιμης συμμετοχής μεταναστών και μειονοτήτων, η συλλογή και καταγραφή στοιχείων σχετικά με το ρατσισμό και τις διακρίσεις και η προώθηση της επίσημης καταγραφής και αποτελεσματικής καταπολέμησης των φαινομένων αυτών από δημόσιες αρχές

## Structure

i-RED is headed by Miltos Pavlou, socioeconomic & legal researcher and political analyst, director of the Greek National Focal point on Racism & Xenophobia leaded by the Hellenic League for Human Rights. i-RED is partner of the RAXEN NFP, contributing in the RAXEN project management and implementation.

The i-RED Director is assisted by a Secretariat and a public communication unit in coordinating i-RED pool of experts and promoting i-RED research work and public intervention.

i-RED is currently building up an international research and public intervention network.

i-RED gathers a multi- and interdisciplinary team of members and cooperating experts who are acclaimed scholars in social sciences (sociology, economy, law, anthropology, social psychology, pedagogy) and political activists on anti-discrimination, migration, social equality and political participation.

## Activities 2008

### Participation in research

- In 2008 i-RED assisted the Hellenic League for Human Rights in the implementation of the RAXEN project. HLHR is the leader of the HLHR-KEMO RAXEN National Focal Point, contracted by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency of Vienna.
- i-RED experts participated in RAXEN deliverables and in other research projects.

Among most recent research:

- 2008, *Homophobia in Greece: Love for equality*, Country Report by Miltos Pavlou (i-RED) – (planned April 2009)

- 2008, ***Athens, City of Migrants*** Migration Report – British Council – Living Together 2008 – Migrant Cities – Co-authors - Miltos Pavlou (i-RED)- Nadina Christopoulou (anthropologist – independent consultant)

The Athens Migrant Cities Report has been presented in Athens and in Glasgow on December 2008 in public events which attracted the interest of general and stakeholders' public and media.

## Athens: City of Migrants, 2008 – Findings' Excerpts

**How to respond to the main issues raised by migrants, communities and stakeholders**

Below is a list of the feasible answers to the main issues raised by migrants and natives in order to confront the migration challenges and shortcomings of policies in Athens and Greece:

- establish Municipal Consultative Councils of Migrants
- fund and promote political participation by migrant associations and communities.
- include migrants in the municipal registries as/permanent inhabitants
- establish voting rights at local elections for all migrants residing permanently in the municipalities of Athens area and throughout Greece.
- provide a priority path to citizenship for migrant children born in Greece and those who grew up in Greece through a major citizenship law reform.
- establish regular and widely available Greek language learning and training programmes for migrants, irrespective of age and/or legal residence status.
- establish a wide-scale permanent (open) regularisation system for those who are employed illegally or informally and preserve their workers' rights, instead of expelling them and granting amnesties to their employers.
- this system should also include a one-off regularisation and long-term residence status provision to migrants living in the country for more than ten years, irrespective of the legality of status and its continuity.
- give opportunities to migrant-driven and migrant-initiated media and information programmes and activities. Integrate the various migrants' views and speech into the mainstream media, starting with state-owned television and radio, broadcasting on a regular basis.

*From the protest march of 2nd generation migrants in Athens – December 2005 (Photo by Miltos Pavlou)*

**Likely future trends in the city**

There are two probable future trends:

- The first concerns the second generation immigrants who have still not been granted long-term or permanent residence status and have no preferential path to citizenship. Thousands of them have already reshaped the Greek education system and social networks in an ongoing vigorous, yet unplanned and uncoordinated intercultural dialogue. It is unlikely however, that they will tolerate the situation of an insecure status and low wages in the same way as their parents. They will claim full participation and citizenship, bringing groundbreaking reforms and the metamorphosis of modern Athens and Greece.

- The second is the growing numbers of newcomers and refugees from Asian and African countries, among them many minors. The overwhelming majority of asylum applications are submitted in Athens. Less than 2.5 per cent of them are granted asylum status. They are employed illegally, smuggled dangerously and many of them settle unsafely in Athens in a perennial temporary status. They form ethnic markets, quasi-ghettos and slums in central Athens's old neighbourhoods and districts, such as Kypseli, Omonia and Metaxourgio. In some ways their Athens is the old Athens, repopulated and revisited, through stories of exclusion and exploitation, and through the cultural inflows and the rebirth of a multicultural metropolis.

Facing these trends and the transformation of Athens, intercultural dialogue is dependent on migrants' participation and rights:

- Interaction and participation cannot be realised ad infinitum in a vacuum of policies providing and protecting migrants' rights. An extensive and continuous regularisation programme based on the effective employment and/or social and personal bonds with the host society is the minimum first step for such a process.

- Moreover, legal migrants still need to be effectively protected and respected in a wider spectrum of their social and economic life, and this is the minimum precondition for an egalitarian intercultural dialogue.

- The real challenge and urgency of major policy reform lies in the issues of the second generation and long-term resident immigrants. They are the ones who may rightfully claim either citizenship or full political participation at the local level, yet they are still excluded from them. The objective is equality of rights irrespective of status and not at the expense of denying cultural and ethnic identities.

*"Greece we are your children!"*
*From the protest march of 2nd generation migrants in Athens – December 2005*
*Photo by Miltos Pavlou*

In the absence of the above, an integration process among unequal parties may go on endlessly through contrasts and conflicts. Its outcomes may oscillate between exploitation and abusive social relations to oases of mutual respect and understanding in the different socio-political and economic contexts of modern multi-faceted and complex Athens. In no case, however, can they lead to a society that will be rich and open to change.

Equality in employment and access to full enjoyment of social rights side-by-side with the right to participate in the local and/or national political community is a key element of intercultural dialogue if it is going to be more than EU rhetoric linked with the European Year 2008 and a celebration of good intentions.

This makes the migrants' claims for rights not only legitimate, but fundamental and indispensable for the peaceful formation of an intercultural and multiethnic Athens of diversity and equal participation.

**Athens is a city which may be ready to rethink itself through dialogue among people and cultures and around political values. After all, this is one of the most exciting and groundbreaking promises of migration and this is what so many people in Athens, migrants and natives, feel and long for**.

## Media

In the last months of 2008, the i-RED Director delivered a number of interviews to the national and international press, radio and internet media. Most of them concerned the Athens Migrant Cities' report findings and the developing social crisis and relevant rebellion and protests in Athens, Greece on December 2008.

Other important issues were the situation of Roma populations and the ghettoisation of refugees and asylum seekers, and the rapidly increasing racist violence against migrants and minorities.

- One of the main goals of i-RED and its commitments for the future is to develop an autonomous presence and news production regarding racism, discrimination and equal participation issues in the public sphere.

*Al Jazeera interview (Oct 2008)*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXIqpc4B6GQ&feature=related

## Fundamental Rights Platform

The i-RED and HLHR-KEMO Director, Miltos Pavlou as Rapporteur of the Interim Fundamental Rights Platform Panel reported the outcome of the Platform's October 2008 Consultation to the FRA Management Board on October 2008.

Fundamental Rights Platform - October 2008 Conclusions & Suggestions for the FRA Work Programme

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/material/pub/civil/FRP-MB23-10-2008.ppt

The FRA Platform webpage:

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/civil_society/fr_platform/fr_platform_en.htm

The Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) is a network for cooperation and information exchange, set to act as the main channel for FRA's cooperation with civil society and to ensure a close cooperation between the Agency and relevant stakeholders. The specific tasks of the Platform are:

- to make suggestions on the Annual Work Programme
- to give feedback and suggest follow-up on the Annual Report
- to communicate outcomes and recommendations of conferences, seminars and meetings relevant to the work of the Agency.

** i-RED is not a Platform member. The i-RED Director participates in the Platform as the HLHR-KEMO Director*

## PICUM

i-RED is affiliated member of PICUM (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants), a network supporting undocumented migrants in Europe.

PICUM aims at promoting respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe, and at promoting regularisation of undocumented migrants and respect for human rights and humane treatment during the process of involuntary return of undocumented migrants

## MIPEX

i-RED is the Greek national partner of the Migrant Integration Policy Index project coordinated and implemented by Migration Policy Group and the British Council.

www.integrationindex.eu

## The Statute - Scope

**Το Καταστατικό (απόσπασμα):**

***Άρθρο 3: ΣΚΟΠΟΣ***

*Σκοπός της εταιρείας είναι η ανάληψη κοινωνικών και επιστημονικών δράσεων και πρωτοβουλιών για τα θεμελιώδη ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα, την ισότητα και την ετερότητα, την ίση μεταχείριση, τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες και τα φαινόμενα ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων, στην Ελλάδα και στην Ευρώπη, ιδίως:*

*α) η μελέτη και η προώθηση της αρχής της ίσης μεταχείρισης και η αρωγή και υπεράσπιση θυμάτων ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων μέσα από την έρευνα και τη συλλογή δεδομένων, καθώς και τη δημόσια και την πολιτική παρέμβαση,*

*β) η μελέτη των φαινομένων και η καταπολέμηση του ρατσισμού και των διακρίσεων στη βάση φυλής ή εθνικής καταγωγής, φύλου, ηλικίας, αναπηρίας, σεξουαλικού προσανατολισμού ή άλλης μορφής ετερότητας,*

*γ) η μελέτη των φαινομένων και η προώθηση της κοινωνικής ένταξης και συμμετοχής μεταναστών και μειονοτήτων,*

*δ) η ακαδημαϊκή, κοινωνική και νομική έρευνα, η συγγραφή μελετών και η συμβουλευτική σχετικά με τα ανθρώπινα, θεμελιώδη, ατομικά και κοινωνικά δικαιώματα, την ισότητα, την ίση μεταχείριση, τους μετανάστες και τις μειονότητες, και τα φαινόμενα ρατσισμού και διακρίσεων,*

*ε) η συλλογή και καταγραφή στοιχείων σχετικά με το ρατσισμό και τις διακρίσεις και η προώθηση της επίσημης καταγραφής και αποτελεσματικής καταπολέμησης των φαινομένων αυτών από δημόσιες αρχές,*

*ζ) η ανάληψη ερευνητικών προγραμμάτων και λοιπών έργων συναφών με τους σκοπούς της εταιρείας,*

*η) η οργάνωση και συνδιοργάνωση ημερίδων, συνεδρίων, συνεντεύξεων τύπου, καθώς και κάθε συναφής εκδήλωση,*

*θ) η σύναψη συνεργασιών και συμπράξεων που εξυπηρετούν τους σκοπούς της εταιρείας,*

*ι) η προώθηση του εθελοντισμού και η οργάνωση εθελοντικών ομάδων για την επιδίωξη των σκοπών της εταιρείας.*

*κ) η υλοποίηση δράσεων και πρωτοβουλιών για την ανάπτυξη της προσωπικότητας, τη διαμεσολάβηση, την αποκατάσταση συγκρούσεων, σχέσεων και τραυμάτων και την ειρηνική συμβίωση.*

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