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## Press Release

Project progress: Informative sessions of the awareness and information project "RAISE EU" for the rights of recognised refugees and the promotion of EU values project -

**Athens, 25 October 2024** - Twelve (12) legal information sessions were successfully completed during the first period of the project in Athens, Ioannina and Thessaloniki, with the participation of Arabic, French and English-speaking beneficiaries of international protection, focusing on the social and individual rights of recognized refugees



The comments we received from the 54 participants confirmed the need and usefulness of these sessions, with 85% stating an increased understanding of the legal framework in Greece relating to their status and 88% indicating an increased understanding of the EU values and context.

### **C.F., a refugee from Guinea, reported:**

"I am really happy that I have received the legal information that helped me a lot in my integration process and also other people from my community ... who I also help by sharing this information so that they have the same information about their rights as I do."

### **B.Y., a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, said:**

"I am very lucky and happy to have participated in this program and it is very helpful for my full integration, so from the first session I gained more knowledge about some benefits that I was not aware of and the possibility to get a residence permit afterwards. I want to learn more from you to improve my life here in Greece, thank you very much."

At the same time, the participants expressed the need to participate in additional informative sessions, with topics such as labor rights, the existing family law, the rights of women and children, the judicial protection in Greece, and the process for acquiring the long-term residence permit and/or the Greek citizenship. In other words, they are seeking legal pathways for more comprehensive access to economic and social rights in the Greek and EU landscape, as illustrated in the following graph:

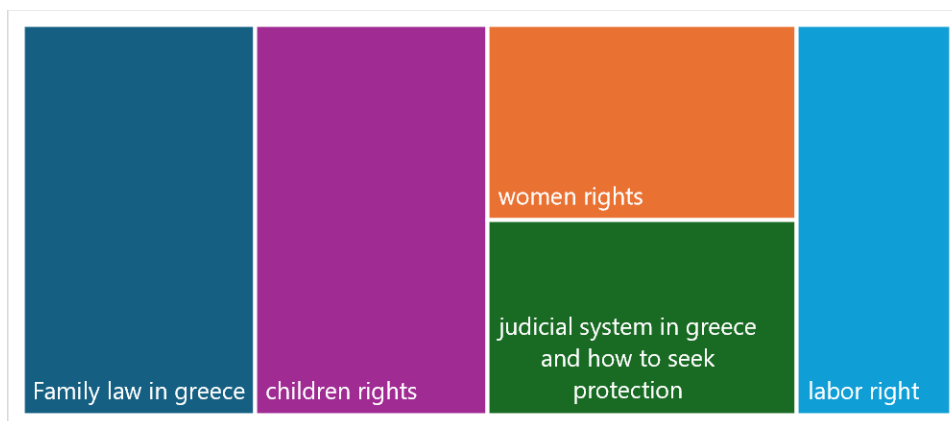
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Therefore, in the next phase of the project, informative sessions with specialized content will be held to address the needs of the target population. Additionally, targeted advocacy actions are underway with representatives from Migrant Integration Centers in various parts of Greece, local authorities, and relevant Ministries, aiming to inform them and explore constructive ways of cooperation.

*“The RAISE EU project is implemented in the framework of the BUILD Programme, by IRC Hellas and A.S.P.I.D.A. BUILD is cofunded by the European Union, through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, the Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre.*

*The programme "Building a robust and democratic civic space" (BUILD) aims to protect, promote and raise awareness of EU fundamental rights and values by supporting civil society organisations (CSOs) in Greece and Cyprus and strengthening their capacities and sustainability. BUILD is co-funded by the European Union, through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, and by the Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre Cyprus with a total grant amounting to €2.9 million. BUILD is coordinated by the Bodossaki Foundation (Greece) in partnership with the NGO Support Centre (Cyprus)”.*

*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), or the Bodossaki Foundation. Neither the European Union nor the EACEA can be held responsible for them.*

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