



Planeta de
TODOS

www.planetadetodos.com.br

“More than ever, I feel that the human race is one. There are differences of color, language, culture and opportunities, but people’s feelings and reactions are alike. People flee wars to escape death, they migrate to improve their fortunes, they build new lives in foreign lands, they adapt to extreme hardship”.

Sebastião Salgado



Tales Vilar

President of
Planeta de TODOS

Let's do this thought experiment: your political or religious position, or any other reason, prevents you from living in peace in your homeland. Your life is at risk. Most likely your family's lives are too. What would your reaction be? There is no food on the table and you may be the only "possibility of a dignified future" for your loved ones. But what would you do? Let's suppose that you took a risk, crossed borders, got on an overcrowded boat, were stopped by the police, taken to a detention center for a period of time to be dumped on the streets, with an asylum application that you have no idea how to manage. If you're lucky, someone puts you in a tent with other strangers and there will be hours of waiting in line for cold food from the refugee camps. What would your expectations for the future be?

We have learned over these nearly five years of Planeta de TODOS that we should not pass judgment on immigrants and refugees. And, above all, that the immigration and asylum system in practically all parts of the world is quite flawed. Compassion for humanity is not the focus. The act of crossing a border (without authorization) turns people into numbers, or mere statistics.

The European Union spends millions of euros on various programs, which unfortunately do not aim to integrate those who just need a chance.

I remember that when I was in Rome and Athens, the capitals of the two main ports of entry for refugees in Europe, via Italy and Greece, I observed dirty, malnourished boys with incredible survival instincts and wondered if, in the same situation, I might also be involved in drug mafias, human trafficking or prostitution in order to have something to eat and a place to sleep at the end of the day.

Again, how can one judge someone in this situation when no other resources are provided to assist in their stability and survival?

It cannot be denied that unaccompanied men have become the most vulnerable group in this humanitarian crisis, perhaps the most important flaw in an already saturated system that could have achieved better results if other EU countries had opened their borders and balanced the absorption of asylum requests. We decided to focus on this group because we understood that it was the most vulnerable at that moment, between 2017 and 2022. Thousands of young people arrived during this period to a completely unknown continent, without speaking the language and becoming a "political scapegoat" of the far right party, who always blame immigrants for any situation related to crime, homelessness, drug use, etc.

We decided to rent apartments in Athens and Rome to provide a basic system of education, health and legal assistance to these young people of different nationalities and, in general, between 18 and 30 years old. A safe place? Yes. A hotel? Never. Everyone should assume responsibilities, on both sides, with three very clear objectives: emotional and professional empowerment; language, general knowledge and computer classes; financial emancipation and the search for housing.

Our purpose was not to be saviors, much less to create a social project to change anyone's life. We only provided tools that we believed were important for emotional stabilization and a dignified social and professional future for any human being, regardless of origin, creed, political opinion, sexual orientation. I usually say that we provide a springboard for life, but whoever has the courage to jump in and seek a better life are the beneficiaries of our program, which will be detailed in the next pages of this open-source document. Please copy and replicate if you feel that it aligns with your values and guidelines.

As President of Planeta de TODOS, and Global VicePresident of the Cartão de TODOS group, I am delighted to know that more than 100 young people have already achieved financial and social independence through their participation in our program. As a member of a pioneering Brazilian company that values solidarity and aims to bring health services, among others, to the poorest strata of South America, I conclude this letter satisfied to know that each franchise of the Cartão de TODOS believed in this joint dream and financially provided to reach this immense achievement. Our organization does not depend on governments or large organizations; instead, as my father, Altair Vilar, who conceived of and created Cartão de TODOS, would say, "dreams come true only when we dream together".

SUMMARY

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CINCO ANOS: os resultados do Planeta de TODOS

ATENAS





ROMA



01

APARTAMENTO



18

MESES

RESUMO TOTAL



134 JOVENS ATENDIDOS



23 DIFERENTES NACIONALIDADES



SÍRIA



AFEGANISTÃO



IRÃ



MYANMAR



PAQUISTÃO



GANÁ



PALESTINA



MARROCOS



ARGÉLIA



SUDÃO



SENEGAL



SERRA LEOA



GUINÉ-BISSAU



GUINÉ



CAMARÕES



NIGÉRIA



GÁMBIA



EGITO



CHADE



RUANDA



CONGO



BURKINA FASO



MALI





NECESSIDADES BÁSICAS

LISTA DE COMPRAS SEMANAL DE COMIDA E HIGIENE BÁSICA; ESTÍMULO ECONOMIA LOCAL. LUZ, ÁGUA E CONDOMÍNIO.



ASSISTÊNCIA LEGAL

PARCERIA COM ONGS LOCAIS PARA AUXÍLIO NO PROCESSO DE ASILO E DOCUMENTAÇÃO. PAGAMENTO DE TAXA DE 82 € PARA PASSAPORTE.



EDUCAÇÃO BÁSICA

AULAS DE GREGO, ITALIANO E INGLÊS DENTRO DAS CASAS: PROFESSORES GRADUADOS E COM EXPERIÊNCIA.



MERCADO DE TRABALHO

CASEWORKER: CURRÍCULOS E PREPARAÇÃO PARA ENTREVISTAS DE TRABALHO. FOCO NOS POSTOS DE INTÉRPRETE / MEDIADOR CULTURAL E SETOR DE TURISMO.



OFICINAS EXCLUSIVAS

AULAS DE PRIMEIROS SOCORROS, VACINAS, PREVENÇÃO A DOENÇAS VENÉREAS, ANTIESTRESSE E JORNALISMO.



LAZER E INTEGRAÇÃO

EXCURSÕES EM FERIADOS NACIONAIS. PASSEIOS À PRAIA, CHURRASCOS E JANTARES PARA INCENTIVAR O SENSO DE COMUNIDADE.

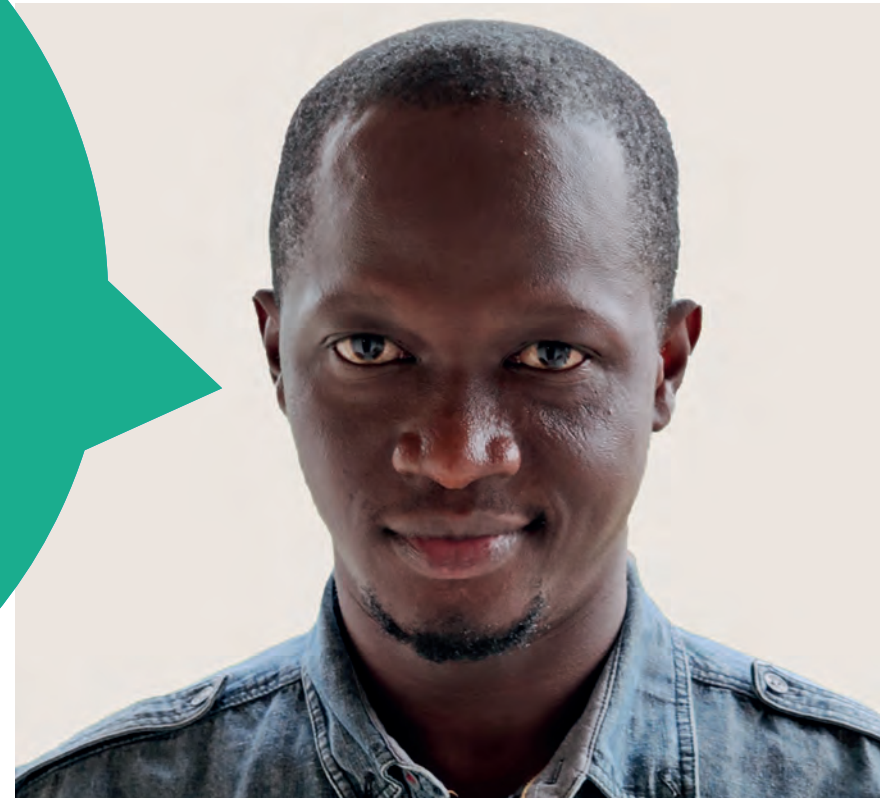
COMO FUNCIONA ?

Entrevista seletiva dos perfis para residentes do projeto, que são derivados por ONGs locais e/ou voluntários com larga estância e experiência na crise dos refugiados. Pregamos e exigimos respeito a diferentes opções políticas, religiosas, de gênero, etc, entre os moradores. Contrato de seis meses, com opção de prorrogação. Premissa básica da gestão e limpeza dos apartamentos por parte dos beneficiários do programa, bem como planilha de gastos.

Abdulai Jalloh, 24, Sierra Leone

Abdulai participated for seven months in the program. He left the program and is now working at the Athens location of Four Seasons, an international hotel chain.

"The Planeta de TODOS program believed in me and made me believe in my own potential. I feel blessed because this help came at the time I needed it most in life. It was fundamental in my development."



Amin Khairul, 26, Myanmar

Amin was at PDT for a year and seven months, when he got a job as cultural mediator at Velos Youth, a project in Athens that serves young refugees between ages 16 and 21.

“What I liked the most about this project is that there are responsibilities. You can’t stay indoors, waiting for life to pass. I hope other organizations get inspired by Planeta de TODOS so other refugees can have the same opportunity I had.”



Kazem Ahmadi, 27, Afghanistan

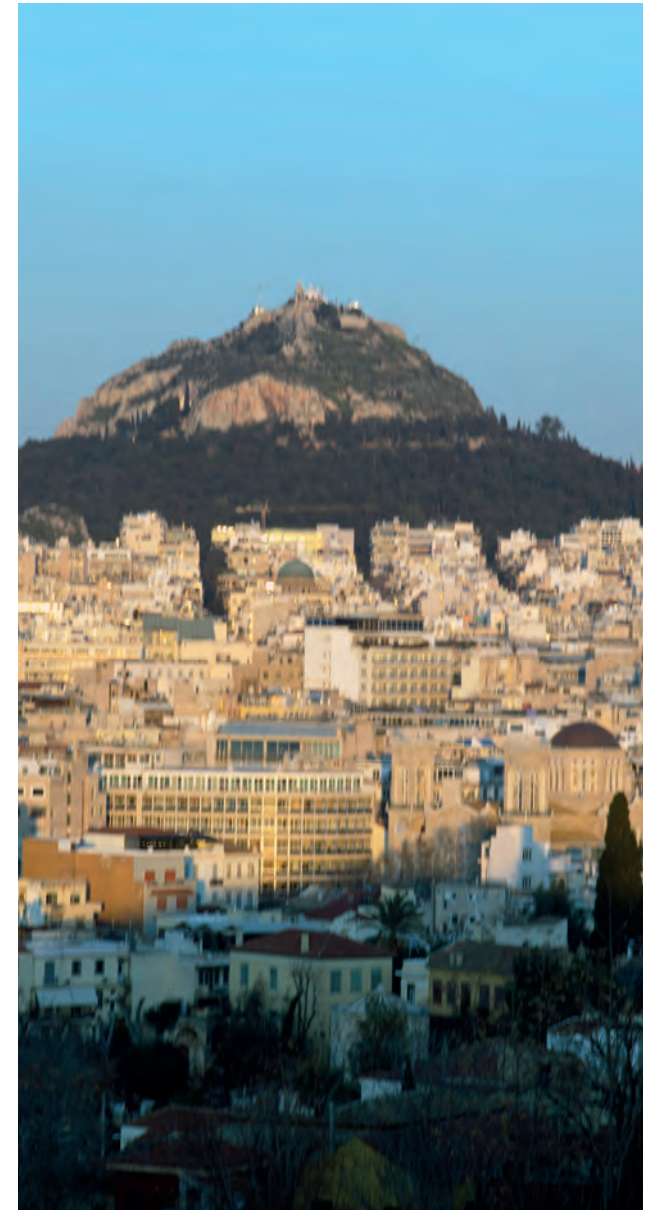
Kazem was part of the PDT for nine months, when he left the project after he got a job as an interpreter at the Greek Council of Refugees. Today he is a cultural mediator at Diotima, another Greek NGO that assists victims of gender-based violence.

“The project is a kind of springboard for life. It gave me strength and courage to believe in my potential. There are several NGOs that help refugees in Europe, but inside this house I found people who really believed in my talent”.



It's not a hotel: it's everyone's responsibility

- Residents are totally forbidden to engage in drug consumption and dealing, regardless of whether it happens inside or outside the programme's house.
- The drinking or storing of alcohol is totally forbidden inside the house.
- Any contact or belonging to any gangs, mafia, smuggling, or scamming network is expressly forbidden.
- Residents and staff are expressly forbidden to bring anyone (friends, family, romantic or sexual partners etc.) from outside the programme into the house (visits, sleeping, etc.).
- No violence (verbal or physical), racism, or any other form of discrimination is allowed in the house. Any instance of violent or discriminatory behavior can justify immediate expulsion of the program.
- Attendance at all classes, tests, activities and general meetings is compulsory for all residents.
- Timely completion of all tests and homework is compulsory for all residents.



- Residents can request permission from a staff member to miss an activity because of an important commitment, such as a medical appointment, an appointment with Greek authorities, a job interview, or to attend school or work. Residents can only leave a scheduled class or activity after receiving permission from a staff member.

- Residents must respect fellow housemates, staff members, volunteers and the program's rules. Instances of disrespect to the members of this program or the program's rules will be taken into consideration in your evaluation. Serious instances of disrespect can cause a resident's immediate termination from the program.

- Residents may not make any loud noise after 10pm and before 7am. They may not turn on the lights, generate noise, or pick up phone calls in the bedroom at night, when other roommates are sleeping. Residents must respect the neighbors' and housemates' sleeping times.

- Residents must carry out a deep cleaning once a week. The rest of the week, every resident and staff member must clean up immediately after themselves. Promptness in cleaning is particularly important after using the common kitchen or bathrooms. It is everyone's job to keep all parts of the house fully clean.

- The food should be well administered. When cooking for a group, be sure of how many people are eating, and of any dietary restrictions. Do not waste food.

- Residents are required to contribute with chores such as cleaning, tidying up the house, going to the market, and cooking.



- All residents will clean up after themselves when using common spaces, Residents will keep their beds and personal space in their bedrooms clean and tidy, for the benefit of their fellow housemates.
- All residents must make a good, conscious use of heating, air conditioning, washing machine, water, electricity and other resources. They agree to the following: Turn off the water heater after showering; Only run the washing machine with a full load of laundry; Do not leave lights or heaters on in empty rooms.
- Residents may not move any furniture out of the house without permission from the program staff. They must keep the house in order and not damage anything.
- Whenever there is a community expense bill on or under the door, residents must let us know immediately.
- Residents will receive one copy of the key to the house that they need to return to the organization when they leave the program. In case they lose them or break them, they will need to make a new copy for personal use and return it to the organization at the end of their stay. Residents may not share their key with anyone outside the program.
- Residents must attend a weekly group meeting. The date will always be confirmed in advance.

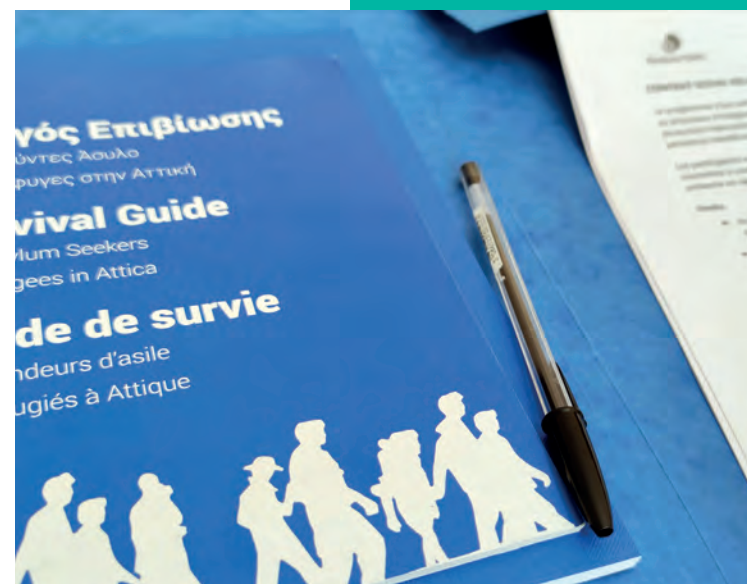
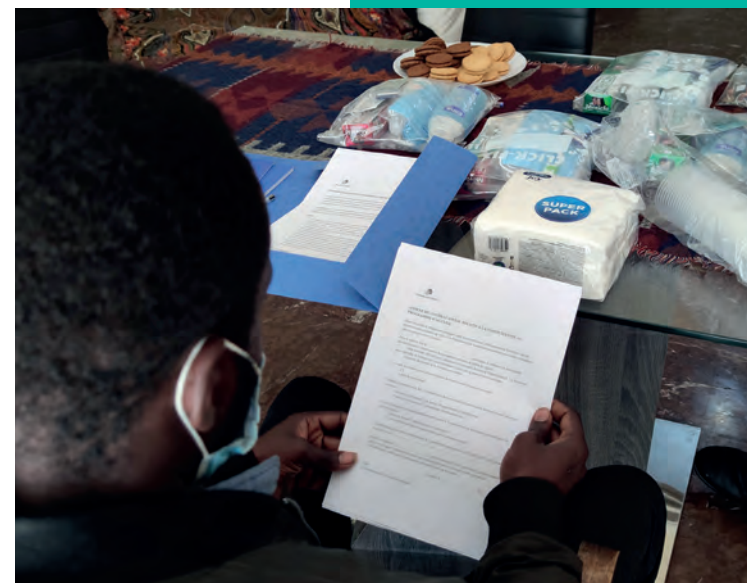


Participation contract in mother tongue

Candidates accepted into the program are officially invited to meet the team and move into their designated apartment. The check-in process is simple and new participants first receive their contracts with an initial duration of six months.

Participants must review their contract carefully, with the assistance of a coordinator, who is available to address any questions or concerns. Although most communication of Planeta de TODOS is in English, we also offer contract translations in Arabic, Farsi, and French. Each beneficiary and the coordinator must sign and retain a copy.

After signing up, we provide a welcome kit that consists of toothpaste and toothbrush, mouthwash, nail clippers, shampoo, pillow, sheet and duvet. In addition to copies of keys, new residents also receive a handbook for humanitarian contacts across the country. Finally, a small tour is taken to orient residents to the house routines and rules.



Renting apartments and deconstructing xenophobia

Renting a property on European soil for housing purposes for immigrants is one of the most challenging tasks in the entire scope of the project. There is still great resistance from the local community, due to racism and/or xenophobia, which is based on the lack of information. In Rome, for example, more than three months passed without any acceptance of our proposal, despite bank and contractual guarantees. It took a campaign on social media to finally find someone who was willing to accept African boys.

Gradually, the Planeta de TODOS team gained experience and trained the residents on the importance of taking care of the living spaces and respecting neighbors. In Greece, for instance, there is a siesta time, usually between 3 pm and 5 pm, a cultural practice that must be respected. That means no loud music or phone conversations on the balcony during the siesta.

We also value the prompt payment of any bill related to the apartment, and we always invite owners to visit the residence and meet our residents. In Rome, on several occasions, the owner had dinner with our residents and even brought her children. This transparent and respectful relationship brought important results: three apartments previously rented by Planeta de TODOS are now under the responsibility of former residents. Now living independently and with their own employment, they assumed responsibility and until today enjoy co-living.

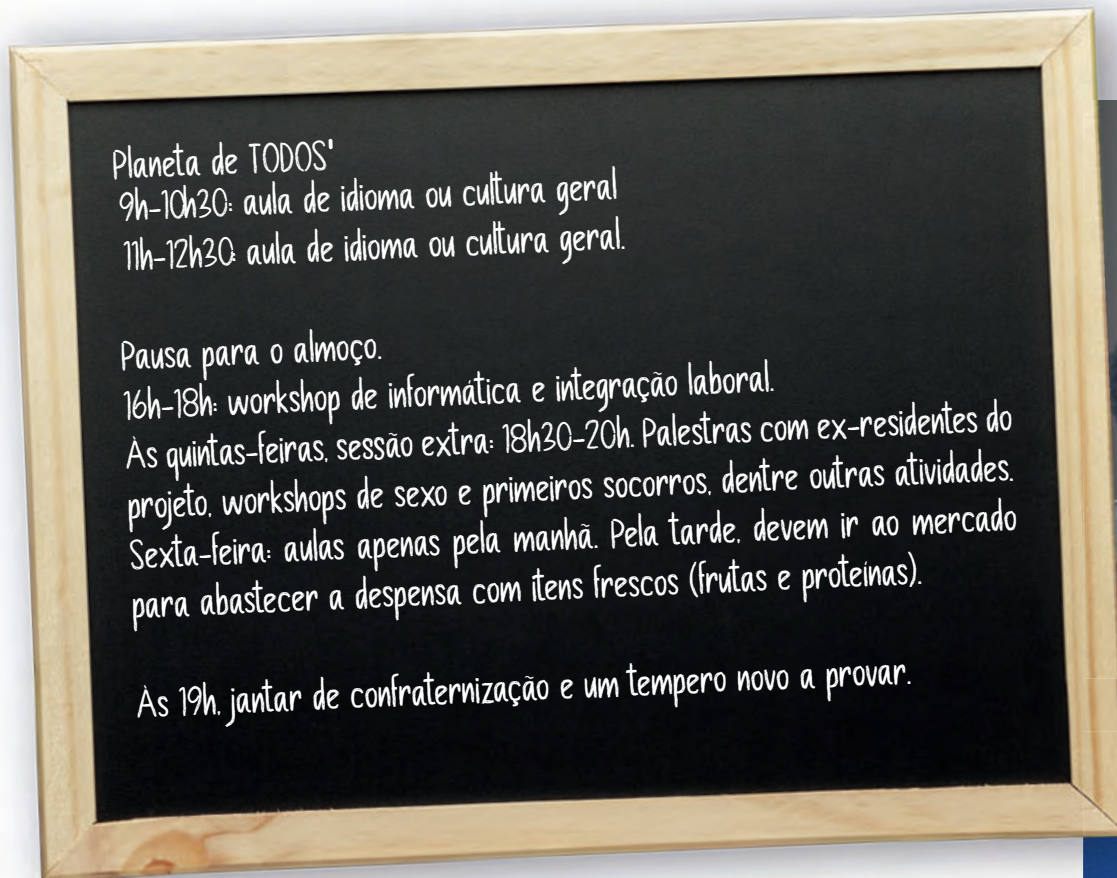


Omar Sall, 36, Senegal

Omar now works at an electricity company in Rome, Italy. He participated in the PDT for a year and a half, and stayed with the project apartment along with two other former residents, after building a great relationship with the owner.

Here in Italy, when you start your asylum process, the first thing authorities ask for is an address. But how can an immigrant have an address if you live on the street, so nobody wants to rent you one home? I was lucky to meet this project and today I am happy to have a lease in my name.





2. Mandatory

By signing participation contracts in the social project, Planeta de TODOS' residents confirm and accept that participation in all classes is mandatory. The only exceptions: medical appointments, meeting with lawyers and/or the asylum system, interviewing work or any type of illness.

3. Languages open doors

Language lessons are the main focus of the educational package promoted by PDT. Learning the local language is the first step towards social integration. In other words, Italian and Greek were the “flagships” of the promoted activities. Furthermore, English is also a universal tool and widely used in the job market or at universities. Basically, mornings are filled with three hours of language instruction, from Monday to Friday.

Over the years, we have also identified several “educational gaps” and implemented general knowledge classes, especially history and geography. In addition, the curriculum includes everyday news, especially in the context of the European Union, so that residents understand what happens where they currently live. We use various multimedia tools, such as podcasts and documentaries.

We also have streaming services so they can access movies - both for education and for leisure. Finally, in the last year, we implemented an educational quiz that implemented the themes as a way to stimulate learning and also create community. The activity is fun and generates a lot of discussion among the residents.



Evangelia Salapata, Greek teacher.

She is also responsible for Greek culture classes, philosophy and art, as in this visit to the Museum of Acropolis in Athens (photo). It is essential to understand their country's historical side as a window to everyday reality.

"Planeta de TODOS is a window to a world at the same time a reality adjustment. It's a process of continuous growth. It's about creating relationships and breaking boundaries".



Demystifying the Labor Market

Financial independence is essential during the emancipation process. There are many cultural obstacles to overcome, so that the resident feels capable and motivated to perform new functions or to take on positions they once held in their countries of origin.



1. Resume for what?



In some countries in the Middle East, Africa and Southeast Asia, it is important to have friends in high places when entering the labor market.

There are several reports among our residents that, in order to get a job in their countries of origin, "you need to know someone who can put in a word for you, who will recommend you to a position, and everything is OK, you don't need a CV."

Creating an effective network in the contemporary labor market, without a doubt, brings a series of benefits when searching for new opportunities, in any country in the world. So, introducing the curriculum vitae is the first cornerstone in this cultural change. The CV template varies between Italy and Greece, for example, but the important thing we emphasize is that one page is enough. It is also important to make clear that a candidate should not change their phone number or email.

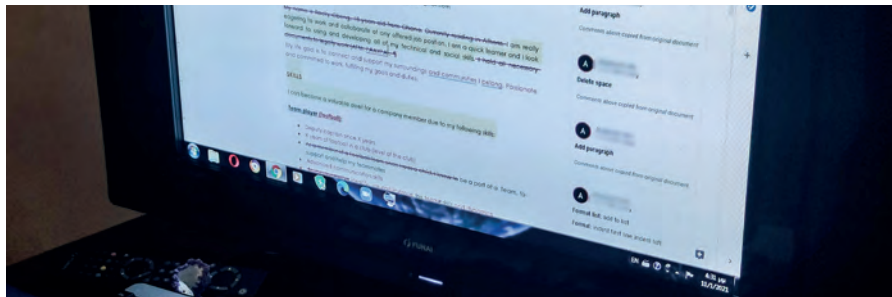
Another important detail: there is no learning if a resident only receives a new CV as a gift.. We teach participants how to write a CV so that they can update their own information without needing help.



2. But wasn't it just the CV?



In Europe, as in other so-called “first world” countries, the cover letter is often more important than having a well-written CV. Recruiters want and need to understand the candidate's motivation level. A company's human resources will not waste time on a job interview if the cover letter is not clear and to the point. Along with having a good resume, the cover letter also requires a specific workshop for future emancipation.



3. Attention to inbox!



o Again, it may seem obvious, but almost all residents did not take into account the concept that professionalism = speed and efficiency. They would lose opportunities simply by not paying attention to their respective inboxes. They would take a long time to check the email inbox and would not realize they had been contacted by companies. To solve this problem, four specific goals were established:

o

A-) We create new email accounts, using first and last name as login, and we prioritize its maintenance. Connection with a smartphone is essential.

B-) Residents must check their inbox and Whatsapp: it must be part of a routine.

C-) Residents must never take more than an hour to respond to an invitation for a job interview or official offer.

A set of formal words was also put into practice in the email sent in order to approach companies. The labor market requires a professional language, at least during the first contact.

4. Phone rings and...huh?



In desperation for financial independence, we found out that refugees and asylum seekers, in general, look for work using their desperate situation rather than the efficiency that the labor market demands. In other words, they apply for so many positions that, at the end of the day, they don't even remember what job or company they applied for.

In one case, Mamadou, a resident from Guinea Conakry, applied for a job as a telemarketing attendant. When his phone rang, he had no idea what the company's name and vacancy were. He was later dismissed, by email, for not having shown "sufficient interest" in the company.

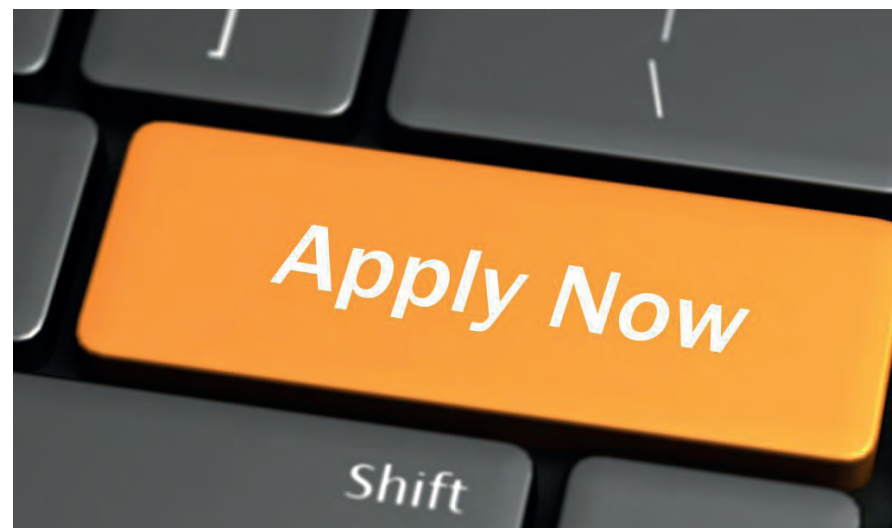
After this episode, the following protocol was established for our residents:

A-) Creation of a spreadsheet with all applicable vacancies and deadlines.

B-) Understanding the idea that when the phone rings your job interview has already started.

C-) It is important to seek a place without noise or ask them to call in a couple of minutes, so you can find a more suitable place for conversation.

D -) Do the homework: investigate the company's website, missions, as well as its relevant values and social media. Understand what the applied vacancy is about.



5. Less is more



The dress code for an interview also proved to be important, especially among Africans, who are used to wearing brightly colored clothes, earrings, and chains. Indutimi, a Nigerian resident, had an interview with a hotel chain in Athens, and the night before he asked if he should go with a “yellow Carnival color” shirt. In fact, many Syrians and Arabs, for example, love ripped jeans, leaving the ankle exposed. They also don't understand that trimming their beards helps.

In short, some important details are unknown to them within the process of social integration. Under our supervision, Indutimi went to his job interview in jeans (no rips), a black shirt and dress shoes. Two days later, he was notified by email that he was selected for the job.

6. Body language



How can you look into the recruiter's eyes, with confidence and motivation, when the society you are trying to insert yourself into treats you with so much distrust? The tendency to “look down”, with shame, in our practice job interviews was common.

How to cross your legs, not spread them on chairs, or stop nervous hands are important details when you face human resources psychologists “scanning” each interviewed personality. That's why it is one of the most important workshops of our project: the practice job interviews. Questions and answers should be trained on the eve of the job interview to reduce the number of errors on “The Big Day” as much as possible.

7. Vale a pena tentar

There is still a lot of opposition within companies when it comes to recruiting refugees and asylum seekers. However, a partnership established between Planeta de TODOS in Athens and its main supporter, NGO Human Rights 360, and the Four Seasons hotel chain was a big step in this arduous process of demystification.

Basically, HR360 formally submitted a partnership proposal in which it would present a list of qualified candidates for possible interviews. In return, the Four Seasons chain committed to carrying out the selection process without prejudice and open to any nationality. Only fluent English was required.

Other alternative housing projects were also activated. Five Planeta de TODOS candidates were interviewed and three got different positions within the chain. Formal employment contracts and full rights made them see a light at the end of the tunnel.

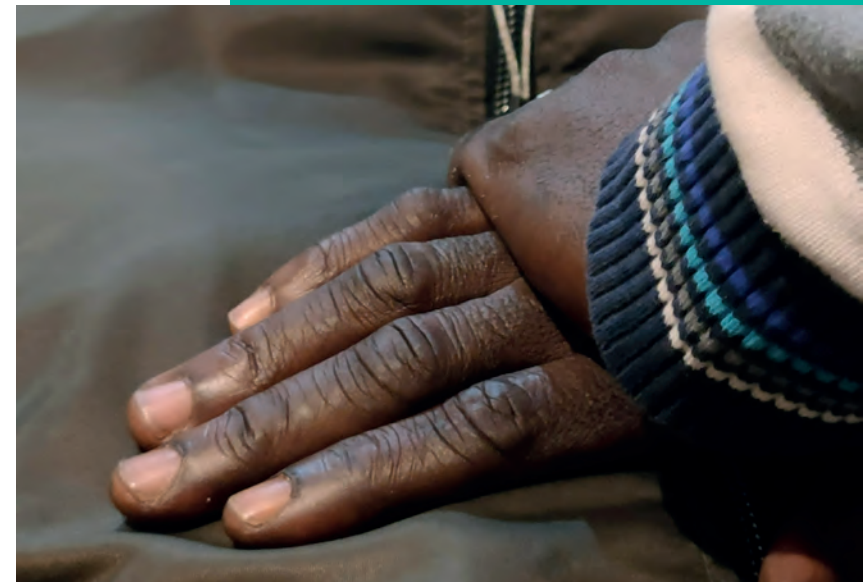


Our health care protocol

The socio-labor integration project cannot assume any type of responsibility regarding the program's beneficiaries physical and mental health. However, partnerships with other non-governmental organizations have proved to be very effective in shortening the long wait for medical appointments within the public health system.

In Athens, the most effective joint venture was with the German NGO Medical Volunteers International (MVI). With a medical staff from different specialties, our residents received quick treatment of various illnesses, including free medication.

MVI is also responsible for the medical check-up process for each of the successful candidates that enter the program. From this process, a "medical passport" is created for each beneficiary, which is constantly monitored. The team also has dermatologists, essential in the process of identifying skin diseases, which unfortunately are common in refugees and asylum seekers who have lived on the streets of the Greek capital.



1. Covid-19 protocol

The partnership also proved successful in creating a covid-19 protocol. Self-tests were provided free of charge for a first step control, as well as alcohol gel and masks (N95). Planeta de TODOS also committed to bear the costs of molecular examinations in suspected cases among coordinators, volunteers and residents. We had no cases of beneficiaries who tested positive, but the protocol is to rent an Airbnb apartment in case of quarantine. Variant updates / new precautions to be taken were always promptly passed on to our team.

2. Customized workshops

The opportunity to have a medical team practically at their disposal also allowed Planeta de TODOS to provide its residents with exclusive and personalized workshops on: first aid (with certificate), sex and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), lectures and demystification regarding the vaccines against covid-19, specific technical sessions of relaxation against post-traumatic stress, among other activities, from which we received extremely positive feedback.



3. Glasses to better study

The vast majority of our residents have never been to an ophthalmologist in their lives. We noticed it because many reported headaches and difficulties in following classes inside our apartments. So we established a partnership with local opticians to obtain discount packages that include: ophthalmologist appointment + diagnosis + glasses.



Julia Tankink, Dutch volunteer.

Psychiatrist and specialist in disorders caused by stress, she coordinated a five-week workshop with the residents in conversation circles where everyone shared their experience, difficulties and sought joint solutions.

"I realized how much they can be opened if they trust your job. How do they talk about the stress, ask questions between them and share stories of vulnerability and resilience".



Titan Panzul, 30, Congo.

Living on the streets and in an extreme degree of vulnerability, Titan was accepted into the program without knowing how to speak English. We created a specific educational program to meet the needs of Francophones in Athens.

"It was the organization that really protected me. Living on the streets is a lot more complicated. It's like we're invisible. Today I communicate well in English, I have all the support I need and now I even have glasses to better follow the classes".



1. Within the law

Planeta de TODOS does not accept beneficiaries who do not have their situation recognized by the local government. In Greece and Italy, they must have an official asylum seeker document or the official letter with the decision of the respective asylum office, with the application acceptance for identity and passport (Geneva Convention). Copies of each candidate's official documents are kept by the coordination with total confidentiality.

2. Information

Over the years, we understood that, because of the various changes in immigration laws, especially when there is a change of government, it is extremely important to create a network of legal consultants. This way, we can update the rights and duties of each of our residents, regarding the asylum system.

Together with organizations such as Human Rights 360 and Choose Love, in Athens, we managed to maintain a monthly lecture with experienced lawyers and specialized legal advisors. We make sure our residents feel relaxed and confident that they are absorbing all the information about changes, fulfilling their duties with the local government.

Before the meeting, we give each one the opportunity to formulate their questions and/or concerns for a questionnaire. Therefore, the consultant already has the necessary information before the presentation.

3. Asylum Interviews

The asylum interview is the most important moment following the arrival of an asylum seeker on European territory. Although it is painful to bring up moments of conflicts, wars, persecutions, among other human rights violations, the creation of a strategy based on a clear and factual timeline is essential to the asylum claim acceptance.

To this end, we have partnered with the Greek law firm P Lawyers. Lawyers who are specialized in the subject to train our residents to better tell their story and convince authorities about their basic rights under the Geneva Convention (1951). The same applies to appeals processes, when the asylum application is denied and a formal intervention with the Court of Appeal is necessary to try to reverse the decision.

4. Travel documents

When the applicant is granted asylum and has the status as a refugee who cannot return to his or her country of origin recognized, the applicant has the legal right to acquire a refugee's passport (Geneva Convention-1951, valid for five years), but the Greek government charges a 84 euros passport fee. It was decided by the coordination of Planeta de TODOS that each of our residents who were not yet integrated and emancipated, would be entitled to this amount after presenting the official fee payment form.



The importance of technology

Knowing basic computing techniques such as the Microsoft Office is essential in the attempt to enter virtually any job in the world.

However, immigrants from several countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa, arrive in Europe with little or no knowledge of computers. Even though they communicate relatively well with their smartphones, there is still a huge gap in terms of unassisted use of hardware and software. Therefore, we have established within Planeta de TODOS some basic training regarding specific technologies.



1. Connected apartments

Each of our apartments have two desktop computers for specific technology workshops, among other daily tasks. We chose to place PC computers on communal tables to further our community purposes.

All PCs are properly connected to wifi internet, giving access to a new world for many of our residents. We opted for the Windows 10 platform, as well as Microsoft Office, to meet basic requirements demanded by the job market. Also, we decided that each apartment would have a 30-inch flat screen monitor (via donations) in order to work with the audiovisual concept during other classes as well.

2. Hardware x Software

The starting point for teaching residents who do not have any computer skills is to make clear the difference between hardware and software. In general terms, we explain the physical elements that allow the full operation of a computer (motherboard, font, keyboard, etc.) to the basic programs that allow its full use.



3. Gmail and Drive

“Your email is for personal and unrestricted use.” We encourage the maintenance of the same account for professional purposes, as well as the use of first and last name as login - making it clear: for the job market, it is not advisable to use nicknames. We teach them step by step how to create an account as well as the security options involved - and how to activate a login from a different device via smartphone. Google Drive storage was also part of our workshops. There are 15GB of free space, in which residents can not only back up their personal files, but also understand the importance of getting organized in their professional lives. In other words, the creation of folders, documents, spreadsheets, etc., are now part of the professional market and must be put into practice in everyday life.

4. Discovering Drive

Among the various items that should be included in the curriculum nowadays is the mastery of the Microsoft Office package (Word, Excel and Powerpoint). Even more important than that is really mastering these tools, and not just having them on your résumé. As a way of avoiding expenses, we chose to use the resources available free of charge from Google: Docs, Spreadsheets and Slides.

We are always looking for capable volunteers to train our residents in these skills. Spreadsheets are a priority, since spreadsheets with schedules and responsibilities, among other items, are a commonplace in the job market. Docs is also used for motivation letters, for example. And we use Slides in specialized workshops on “how to make a formal presentation”, where not only the software is taught, but also techniques for conducting lectures and organizing ideas.



Responsible Administration

One of our cornerstones is to break the concept of “this is not mine, so I don't care.” Coming from refugee camps or other social projects that provide nothing more than a pseudo-home for survival, immigrants on European soil lack the idea of responsible administration. They really do not know the financial implications and responsibilities for a housing project. In short, following the idea that “you are not in a hotel,” they must learn the basic concepts of how to manage a home and how to make use of communal services, such as energy and water. After all, if the final idea is emancipation, why not learn how to manage a house from the beginning?



1. How Much does it Cost to Maintain a House?

One of our cornerstones is to break the concept of “this is not mine, so I don't care.” Coming from refugee camps or other social projects that provide nothing more than a pseudo-home for survival, immigrants on European soil lack the idea of responsible administration.

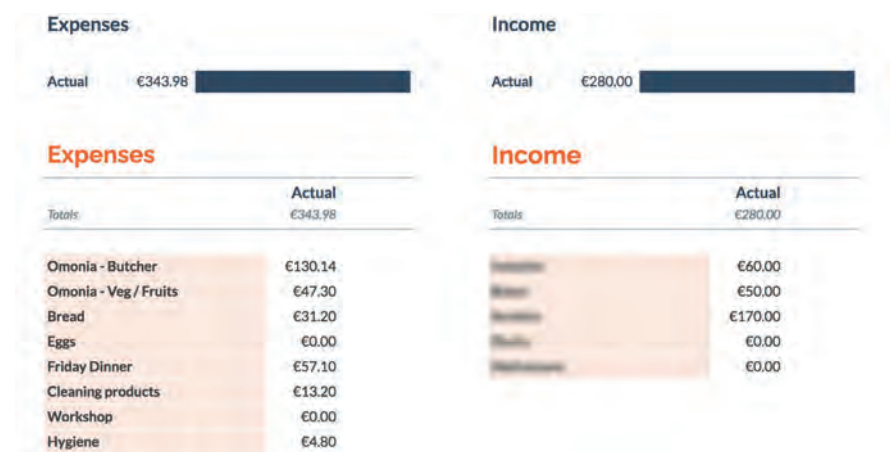
They really do not know the financial implications and responsibilities for a housing project. In short, following the idea that “you are not in a hotel,” they must learn the basic concepts of how to manage a home and how to make use of communal services, such as energy and water. After all, if the final idea is emancipation, why not learn how to manage a house from the beginning?

2. Participatory budget

For each apartment, the value of 500 euros (monthly) per 6 residents was established by the coordination to buy fresh food (fruit and meat, for example) in addition to cleaning supplies. Non-perishable items such as pasta and grains are not included in this list, as partner organizations such as SOS Refugees in Athens have always been there to provide us with the basics and help minimize expenses.

After learning about spreadsheets in the technology workshops, a resident is responsible for filling out a spreadsheet a week, which should be handed over to the coordinator at the end of each month. Another resident is responsible for receiving 100 euros weekly and organizing a binder with all the receipts. They must be scanned and linked to the expense spreadsheet, via Google Drive, for accountability within the organization.

We also encourage community saving. The budget is discussed among beneficiaries, according to each personal need/desire, but also taking into account possible emergencies. For example, they shouldn't wait for the organization to change a burned-out light bulb. Someone must buy a new one, keep the receipt and exchange the light bulb. Responsibility must be shared among all.



3. Organization and local economy

In order to empower our residents, they were given the task to create a shopping list with items that are in short supply and that must be purchased in the next weekly shopping trip. We did this in order to counter the idea that "I'm only here to receive." The responsibility for the purchase belongs to the residents, who must always arrange that regardless of class schedule.

Finally, we encourage them to buy food in central markets and not in large supermarket chains. As a social project on foreign soil, it is important for us to encourage the local economy, especially small and medium producers.

4. No waste

As we encourage independence in the management of apartments, waste—especially food waste—is absolutely prohibited. Planning must be done for the full use of each item purchased, whether fresh or non-perishable products received via donation.

5. Cleaning: joint responsibility

The community assembly among the residents must also define a cleaning schedule. During the Saturday meeting, they must collectively define individual responsibilities. We have noticed over the years that this topic generates many debates among residents, but these are normal challenges within a communal living situation, with people from very different cultures and personalities.



Indutimi Ogoun, 26, Nigeria.

Indutimi fulfilled all stages of the Planeta de TODOS program and with our help, rented a house after negotiating with landlord Iannis (right in the photo). Today, Indutimi lives in downtown Athens.

"I met incredible people who made us see life as it is. I learned a lot and today I can rent a house and the contract is in my name. Thank you very much for this opportunity, it was a primordial step in my life".



Salah Shigaf, 27, Sudan

Salah lived in his apartment in Rome for almost a year: he worked at the MAXX museum, one of the most prestigious in Europe (photo) and now lives in Paris, where he is an Economics major at a French public university.

"I found the stability I needed to pursue my goals: I found a job and pursued my studies. Life was difficult, but today I reap the fruits of the opportunity I was given".



Cooking and getting together

Ask anyone who has ever been to any outrageous refugee camp across Europe and waited in line for hours to get a plate of food. Poor lunchboxes with pasta, cold rice, pieces of chicken and skin, boiled potatoes with no salt... The meals lack dignity. Moreover, often they lack the basic attention to dietary taste and nutritional needs of those they serve.

We understand within our social project that we should listen to our residents, and not impose flavors that they don't want to or are not yet ready to try. We also understand that cooking is one of the few remaining ties to their country of origin, and this must be honored. More than that, it was also clear that gastronomy has strengthened ties between coordinators, volunteers and beneficiaries. New flavors promoted a weekly get-together after a long week.



1. Dinner

Our residents decided that one person would be responsible for each dinner menu, generally held on Fridays, at the end of every week. Whether a volunteer, coordinator or beneficiary, the person in charge would invite someone to be kitchen assistant.

These meals allow residents to socialize and strengthen relationships within the Planeta de TODOS team. It is also a special opportunity to taste and discover new flavors. An incredible gastronomic exchange: from African cuisine with fufu or manioc leaves, passing by Afghan palao kabuli and Brazilian moqueca. Due to the recent extensive migratory movement, Athens and Rome were also gateways for new spices, with numerous local businesses providing easy access to specific ingredients that are not easily found in other European capitals.



2. Basic Nutrition Lessons

Dinner time also brought us important information: we discovered together that our beneficiaries had little information about basic nutrition. For example: what kind of food contains protein? How can you balance a diet that gives you enough muscle gain and energy for everyday tasks? Assisted by nutritionists, we set up a series of nutrition workshops in order to inform them on the subject so they could have a more nutritious menu.

3. Vegetarian vs. Vegan

We also realized that there was little or no information among our residents about the concepts of vegetarianism and veganism. Without forcing any kind of choice, we also held specific workshops to explain why meat consumption in the world is a matter far beyond diet and involves conflicts and economic interests, in addition to global warming. We understood that it was important to pass on the idea of responsible consumption.



Rediscovering Leisure

1. Making peace with the sea

Athens and Rome are coastal cities with beaches very close to the capitals. As the majority of immigrants arrive in Europe in small boats on quite traumatic trips, organizing excursions to the sea has become a light and relaxed way for our residents to “make peace with the sea.” Little by little, we organize picnics and small activities for those who want to learn how to swim and/or lose fear of the water. The idea has always been relaxation and leisure, always with appropriate security measures.



2. Discovering cultural wealth

Considered European capitals of art and open-air museums, Rome and Athens have lots of cultural wealth to offer not only for tourists, but also for its residents. That’s why we always promote excursions to places such as Acropolis, Parthenon and Colosseum. Through voluntary help of local guides and teachers, our tours were and continue to be an important tool for immigrants to understand a little bit more about both societies and their legacies.



3. Personal training

Through an agreement with local gyms and occasional donations, we were able to offer a personal training routine - especially before the pandemic period. Our residents have the opportunity to access a bodybuilding gym free of charge. Further, we offer on-site monitoring on how to use each device, how to obtain better performance and avoid injuries. Basic instruction along with nutrition workshops help them understand that there is no point in lifting kilos and more kilos if you are not giving your body the energy it needs for physical activity.

4. Anti-Stress football matches

Football is the favorite sport among all residents who have been with us; it has always worked as a way of relieving daily stress. Whether against other organizations in friendly matches, or even between those who are part of Planeta de TODOS, playing soccer was by far the most important physical activity practiced within our program, especially because Athens provides fields and courts for public use, with no need for payment.

5. Happy birthday to you!

When we buy a cake and celebrate, for the first time, a resident's birthday, we hear "this is the first time someone has ever sung happy birthday to me." Most of our residents have never celebrated their birthdays in a special way. To change that, we create a birthday calendar to make sure no birthday goes unacknowledged.



Following up

The coordinators of Planeta de TODOS remained in contact with former residents after their exit from the program in order to monitor their personal and work progress in European territory. What social integration challenges do they face that are still barriers? We prioritize advice on financial education and how to manage personal expenses, especially for those who help support family members still in their countries of origin. We are no longer responsible, but following up is important to understand where we got it right and where we went wrong in the growth and acculturation of each of our beneficiaries. Keeping up helps us improve the program.

1. Successful cases

Over the years, along with the increasing list of emancipated young people, we understood that bringing these successful cases to Planeta de TODOS newcomers is fundamental. That way, they can understand there is a light at the end of the tunnel even though the challenges are enormous. And former residents are the best proof of that. Therefore, we invite former beneficiaries to give monthly lectures as an example of how it is possible to overcome the barriers imposed by governments and local societies. Basically, they share their life stories, their early fears, and what they did to be successful and financially independent.



Volunteering and Training

Planeta de TODOS is a social project that emphasizes volunteering as it is a tool for joint transformation. Not only participants benefit from new paths, but everyone who is a part of this long process. We encourage candidates with an activist perspective and/or social science background.

1. Minimum bond

Our social project consists of an extensive coexistence with our beneficiaries, so volunteers must commit to a minimum of two months. The main reason is that trust is established little by little, so it takes time to establish a bond and actually put volunteer work to its maximum benefit.

2. Training and protocol

PDTs social program has an extreme emphasis on education. We prioritize volunteers capable of acting as teachers, whether in languages or any of the aforementioned workshops. Candidates must send a resume, with a cover letter and, if selected, undergo an interview with the coordination. If approved, before arriving at our homes, they receive an online training in which they can already understand, in advance, the challenges of the program, the local reality, etc.

Some basic requirements must be met by volunteers interested in our program. In addition to the resume and cover letter, if the candidate is approved, we also ask for a certificate of criminal history valid in their country of origin.

4. Accommodation

Unlike a large number of organizations on the ground, Planeta de TODOS does not charge any type of registration or accommodation fee for its volunteers. As we are always looking for candidates for a long period of contribution, we offer a rented apartment, in addition to expenses such as water, electricity and condominium paid by the organization. We do not cover travel and food costs. At the end of the volunteering period, we provide a certificate signed by the management.



Léo Douin, 33, French volunteer.

With experience in human resources, Léo was responsible for conducting several job interview workshops, in addition to helping our residents with resumes and computer classes. He was also the “handyman”, helping with the maintenance of the apartments.

“We shared good times together discovering each other's local cuisine during our weekly dinners. It's also exciting when you gain confidence and they start sharing their doubts, difficulties and gratitude.”



Emma Ní, 23, Irish volunteer.

With native English, Emma was an English teacher for our residents for more than six months, improving everyone's level in the most important language in the world. As a vegan, she also gave lectures about sustainable food and, of course, cooked delicious meals.

"My experience on the project was unforgettable. Even as a teacher, I also learned a lot. It was a privilege to be part of something that really works on the integration of people in the local society"



Yassine Ben Chaouat, 32, Moroccan volunteer.

Yassine participated for nine months and helped with almost everything: from assembling the beds to computer classes, especially concerning the house's accountability, since he is a management major. He was the volunteer with the longest participation in our project.

"It was a pleasure to have participated and brought my small contribution to such a beautiful project and with young people and volunteers from different parts of the world. I really enjoyed seeing how the boys, little by little, are building and starting their new lives".



Pedro Touso, 20, voluntário brasileiro.

Pedro flew from São Paulo to Athens to spend three months in our project as an English teacher and also as a financial educator, since he taught important financial health tools to the young people who had already found a job.

"I had the opportunity to volunteer in early 2020, when the repression against refugees was extremely strong, and the pandemic made the situation even more complicated. However, the performance of the project at that time was fundamental to helping young people to be included in society and job market in Europe, so they have the chance to build a life with dignity after struggles."







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