| Good Practice General information  |
| --- |
| Title  | **Wor(th)ship. Tassos Vrettos** |
| Country, (region and municipality of implementation) | Athens, Greece |
| Organisation  | Organization: Benaki Museum Golden Sponsor: Onassis Foundation  |
| Timeframe (start date, end date or ongoing) | 22/11/2015 – 31/01/2016Founded in 2012 with the collaboration of groups of Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Spiritualists and Christians of various denominations and multiple ethnic origins (and with the utmost respect for their identities). |
| Level of implementation (local/regional/national/transnational/other) | Athens. Benaki Museum |
| Webpage or other online info (link)  | <https://www.benaki.gr/index.php?option=com_events&view=event&type=0&id=4371&lang=en> |
| Contact Details | 138 Pireos & Andronikou St., 118 54 AthensTEL: 210 345 3111FAX: 210 345 3743 |
| Brief description (max 500 characters) | Over the years, immigrants from various religious backgrounds have founded places of worship in Athens, the vast majority of which were illegal, and thus secret, tucked away in dark basements, garages and unmarked shops with painted windows. There are dozens of these makeshift churches, mosques and temples all around Attica, from right in the heart of the city to the small satellite towns surrounding the capital, yet only a few have acquired the necessary permit from the state for their operation.The photographic ‘fieldwork’ of Tassos Vrettos among the makeshift places of worship of migrants and refugees in and around Athens is presented for the first time at the Pireos St Annex of the Benaki Museum (2015) and reflects the etymology of worship from the old English word worthship, i.e. the act of ascribing worth. |

| Good Practice Analytical description |
| --- |
| Summary: -main objectives-challenge and goals-activities(max 1000 characters)  | The English title of the show, "Wor(th)ship. Tassos Vrettos”, echoes the Greek title's untranslatable pun between “topoi [places] and tropoi [ways] of worship” and reflects the etymology of worship from the old English word worthship, i.e. the act of ascribing worth.The photographer records an invisible network within the city: basements and rented flats, apartment blocks and garages, playing fields and outdoor public spaces, squares and courtyards, structures made at hoc in temporary or permanent addresses for groups of Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Spiritualists and Christians of various denominations and multiple ethnic origins (Ethiopian, Afghan, Egyptian, Pakistani, Nigerian, Senegalese, etc.). Composer Mihalis Kalkanis responded to the invitation of Vrettos to record in sound an indicative sample of what was captured by the lens, and then musically process this material to be presented in the show in specially designed audio installations.The exhibition and the accompanying bilingual catalogue (published by the Benaki Museum) present a total of 44 of those places of worship in Greater Athens. The publication features texts by Greek and foreign historians, anthropologists, philosophers, religiologists, political scientists and curators. |
| Problems which aims to tackle (max 1000 characters) | The project does not stop at the level of the foreign migrants’ and refugees’ arrival and survival or their ‘forwarding’ to their final destination; it extends radically to delve into the area of a primordial experience which remains invisible as it brings together people from diverse origins and backgrounds when they are forced to turn what little and precarious they find and collect into places and ways, into states of worship.The artist had to gain the trust of religious groups to be allowed to visit some of these places of worships, and document the rites, prayers and other events that are organised. |
| Target groups (max 500 characters)-short description of target population-expected coverage of the programme in terms of the number of persons reached | Migrant and refugees in and around Athens |
| Elements of innovation (max 500 characters) OPTIONAL | The unique collection of anthropological material with its eloquent social, political but also aesthetic connotations is innovative in the sense of the various relationships that were sought and cultivated before it could be recorded in photographs. The project shifts beyond the level of the foreign migrants’ and refugees’ arrival and survival or their ‘forwarding’ to their final destination; it extends radically to delve into the area of a primordial experience which remains invisible as it brings together people from diverse origins and backgrounds when they are forced to turn what little and precarious they find and collect into places and ways, into states of worship. |
| Results achieved(max 1000 characters) | Peaceful, moving and full of empathy, these images are a real eye-opener for most Athenians, who are often oblivious of the sheer amount of different cultures and social groups that have made their city their home |
| How could this intervention be improved (max 500 characters) |  |

| GP transferability  |
| --- |
| Prerequisites for the adoption / implementation of GP (what are the specific elements or conditions that must be present to allow the implementation of the GP; Would this action work well in another European context? What local / national conditions should be met to allow the transfer?) (max 700 characters) | The specific action is fully transferable to other countries. In a country like Greece, where a powerful Church actively lobbies against religious and cultural diversity, and rising far-right groups seek to oppress immigrants and other minorities, to observe any religious belief other than Orthodox Christianity is often in itself an act of resistance. Similar attitudes are also observed to other European countries, as lately negative religion thoughts have been raised at higher political level. |
| Resources needed (Please specify the amount of funding/financial resources used and/or the human resources required to set up and to run the practice) (max 500 characters) | For the setup of such services, the funding should include:1. cost of accommodation
2. cost of transportation
3. staff salaries

 d)advertisement/publicity |