

About us

Pervolarides is a community initiative that exists for more than 5 years in Thessaloniki. During this time, we are growing and becoming involved in projects that support an increasing number of people who, because of loss of income are struggling to survive and who experience socioeconomic exclusion due to the inability to secure their basic needs and appropriate housing. In this sad reality where economic market rules regulate and degrade our daily life and our interpersonal relationships, we come together to create a community that generates an alternative paradigm of solidarity, cooperation, community participation and collective action. We wish to create a prototype of inclusion through social synergies that reflect the needs of our community today and of the society we dream for our children.

Starting with food and the relations that form throughout its cycle (from seeding and cultivation, to crop collection, processing and cooking, to re-processing of food waste and composting), we have over the years developed the following activities:

Community cooking where the main objective is to prepare food for homeless and people in need. Locals and refugees come together to meet their neighbours, to taste and learn new recipes and to share their love for food and for helping others. Community cooking also provides the basis for further activities that promote altruism and social integration.

Food waste reuse where we collect products close to their expiring date as well as fruits, vegetables and fish that otherwise would be dumped. These products are thereafter cooked into hot meals that are distributed to homeless people and poor families.

Re-processing food into sauces, marmalade or compost and forming a “cooperative chain” for collecting, re-processing and re-distributing food that otherwise would go wasted, to people that cannot afford it. Nothing goes wasted!

Beekeeping which is a traditionally cooperative process that teaches us how to work together with the bee populations to produce organic honey, while we support the natural regeneration process by nourishing nature’s pollinators.

Solidarity olive collection where every November, unemployed and volunteers together we gather the yearly production from olive trees that are donated to our cause and we distribute the olive oil to families with extremely low or no income.

Urban gardening where we will seek to create food as well as to share methods for food cultivation and processing of organic household waste into gardening compost/fertilizer. Through the cultivation of urban gardens, we wish to regenerate not just the depleted soil of our neighbourhoods, but also our community relations. Cultivation of food enables us to plant the seeds for the “cultivation” of solidarity and social cooperation.

CSA and development of direct links between producers and consumers through a Community Supported Agriculture scheme which facilitates access to cheap, locally produced organic food while ensuring that producers are guaranteed an ongoing demand for their production at a fair price.

Employability and vocational inclusion created through training activities and workshops (food cultivation, processing, beekeeping, etc.) that facilitate the development of vocational skills and the creation of new employment possibilities.

Social networking between like-minded people and local groups with common concerns and interests as well as with communities beyond Greece, so we can support each other and share our ideas, knowledge and good practices. Our needs and our dreams unite us, no matter where we are and where we come from.

What we do

We act where social protection is missing and support people in need by creating foundations for social mobilisation and cooperation through solidarity actions. We aim at social empowerment by generating community relations, by mobilising those unemployed and through the creation of synergies and integration between people irrespective of their social and cultural background.

We make no distinctions between people and there are no “beneficiaries”. We believe that each person brings their own, unique contribution, like water drops come together to create rivers and seas. Our social space is a point of reference for social innovation and community entrepreneurship, a place where needs, ideas and collective actions are uniting people as a dynamic and creative community. Pervolarides is a meeting place for everyone that wants to offer their free time, talent and skills to the community and to people in need.

- ❖ Every Friday, a joined group of locals and refugees cook together and prepare approx. 100 portions of hot food that is distributed to homeless and families/individuals.
For 2018, an estimated 4000 hot meals were prepared and distributed.





❖ **Food waste reuse:** For our cooking project and tomato sauce/marmalade/pickles processing, we rely on donations from shops and on our network of supporters, mainly contributing beans, flour, chickpeas, rice, pasta and also vegetables and fruits. For 2018, an estimated quantity of 10 tonnes of food was donated for our projects.

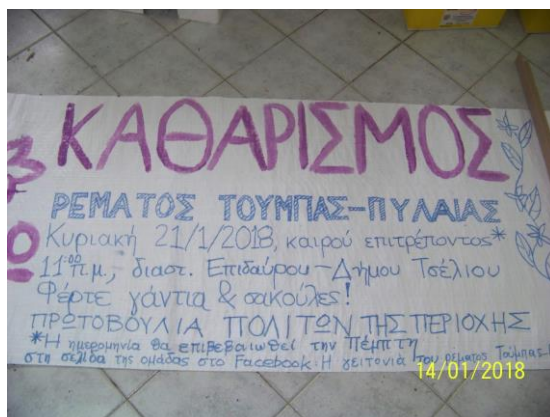


❖ **Beekeeping:** So far we have trained 10 people in the art of beekeeping and the construction of bee-homes although we face practical issues such as not having easy access to land and vehicle to move the beehives.





❖ **Community building activities:** During 2018 we organized several cleaning events/garbage removal in our nearby forest. We also organized 10 community fests, where locals and refugees cooked and ate together and an urban gardening project with our own food waste composting.





ΣΤΟ ΚΙΟΣΚΙ

στην συμβολή
των οδών
Αιακού και Σεργίων



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 1η Απρίλη

11:00-12:00: Εργαστήρια
κομποστοποίησης και μελισσοκομίας
11:30-12:00: Περιαστική καλλιέργεια
(φύτευση οπωροκηπευτικών)
12:00-13:00: Ζωντανή μουσική
13:00-13:00: Συνέλευση γνωριμίας και
συνέχειας

ΜΙΑ ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΡΕΜΑ

ΦΕΡΝΟΥΜΕ ΜΑΖΙ ΜΑΣ

ΛΟΥΛΟΥΔΙΑ
ΕΡΓΑΛΕΙΑ ΚΗΠΟΥΡΙΚΗΣ
ΤΟ ΧΑΜΟΓΕΛΟ ΜΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΔΙΑΘΕΣΗ ΜΑΣ
ΓΙΑ ΕΝΕΡΓΗ
ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ!!!!

Η ΓΕΙΤΟΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΡΕΜΑΤΟΣ
ΤΟΥΜΠΑΣ - ΠΥΛΑΙΑΣ

FB Η γειτονιά του ρέματος Τούμπας-Πυλαίας





As part of our interaction with like-minded projects outside Greece, we visited Berlin and Nurnberg in May 2018 where we got in contact with various organizations and had an [interview](#) with Radio Z from Nurnberg. Furthermore, we took part in a [documentary film](#) “Antidrastirio” for national TV ET3 and were [interviewed](#) for “Neos Kosmos” newspaper from Melbourne.

Contact us at pervolaridesthessaloniki@gmail.com and follow our activities on:

[Facebook / Περβολάρηδες Θεσσαλονίκης-Pervolarides of Thessaloniki](#)