

# The children learn how to accept diversity.



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# The story.

Children - refugees and beneficiaries of the HELIOS Project living in Heraklion participated in the creative space activity for children and adults called "The Hub Heraklion" which took place on Saturday, April 2, 2022. The effort involved children aged 5 to 9 years of Greek and Afghan origin. Under the dominating theme "**All different, all equal**", the aim of the event was for children to engage in activities that help them get familiarized with diversity, appreciate it, and recognize it as an integral part of a society.

Through music theater activities, the team of "The hub Heraklion" gave the children the opportunity to get to know and process the aspects that compose a person's diversity. In addition, through real and tangible examples, the team explained that diversity should not be discouraging, on the contrary, it must be approached positively as an indispensable part of our every day lives.

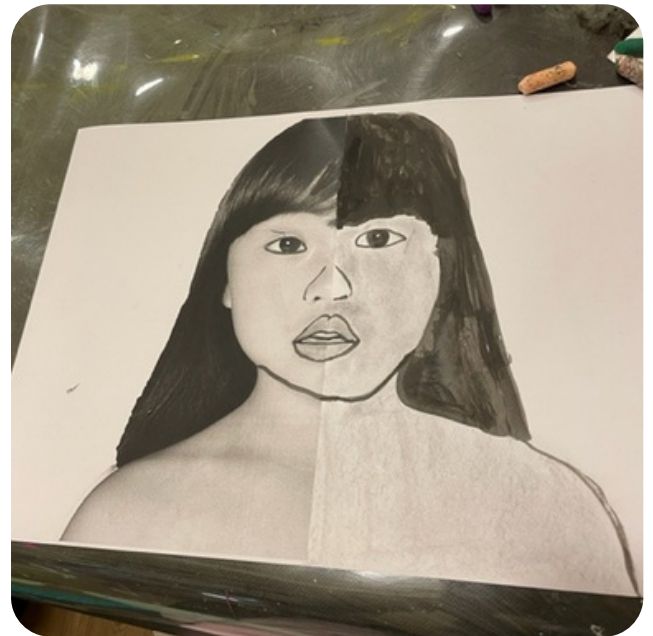
Through videos and pictures, the children "met" musicians, dancers and other artists with disabilities who never stopped practicing their art. They also listened to Michael Jackson's "Black and White", a song promoting love and acceptance for all people regardless of skin color. The main messages prevailing in this section of the activity were, "I was born on earth, my religion is love, we are all equal."



Experiential activities accompanied by music and art events followed, during which the children, through crafts and painting, touched upon the concept of diversity.

The crafts depicted people with different hair, skin and eye colors. Nevertheless, they all depicted the same red heart with the message "We are all different, but our hearts are always in the same place."

The HELIOS project, implemented by IOM Greece and funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, aims to integrate refugees into Greek society through activities that encourage and, at the same time, enhance the interaction of the beneficiaries with the host community, with the ultimate goal for refugees to become active and independent members of Greek society.



*PLOIGOS is the implementing partner of HELIOS Project in Crete. The project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and is funded by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum.*